

What three things does Paul pray for us to know so we will know God better?

1:18 "... you may know the _____ to which He has _____ you ..."

"the _____ of His glorious _____ in the saints

1:19a "and His incomparably great _____ for those of us who believe."

What kind of power?

1:19-21 "That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which he exerted **IN CHRIST** whom He raised from the dead and _____ Him in the heavenly realms far above all rule and _____, power and dominion and every _____ that can be given, not Only in the _____ age but also in the age to _____."

When God speaks of an example of His power He chose the resurrection. Why do you think He chose that and not other displays of His power like creation, the flood or the exodus?

***If we're to pray for us to know God better why is it so important for us to know,**

a) more about our hope? [Rom. 5:2; Col. 3:4; Eph. 5:27]

b) more about the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints? [Col. 2:1-10; Rom. 8:12-17]

c) more of His incomparably great power? [Eph. 2:1-10; John 15:1-8]

Jan 21/24 follow up

"How Grace Shapes Our Prayers"

Ephesians 1:15-23

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you may know Him better." (Ephesians 1:17)

Before Paul gives thanks and prays for the Ephesians, he reviews the amazing grace of God through Christ in vv.3-14. Paul's excitement for the gracious new work God was doing in Jews and Gentiles was the background to his rich prayer in 1:15-23. If you and I are more mindful of God's extraordinary grace in all of our lives together, how would that shape our prayers? And don't we want our prayers to be God-centered, speaking God's very words and thoughts back to Him for each other?

Grace: The Foundation for Prayer **(1:3-14)**

Let's review 1:3-14.

Paul begins this letter with a huge thanks to God. For what?

1:3 "Praise/Blessed be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has _____ us in the _____ realms with every _____ blessing **IN CHRIST**."

What are some of those blessings?

1:4 "For He _____ us **IN HIM** _____ the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.

1:5 "In _____ He predestined us to be _____ as His sons through **THROUGH JESUS CHRIST**, in accordance with His _____ and _____"

What was God's reason for doing this?

1:6 "To the praise of His _____ grace, which He

Has freely given us **IN THE ONE** He loves.”

***Since this is true for you, it is also true for every believer. How should that change the way we think of one another, treat one another, talk about one another and pray for one another?**

What other spiritual blessings does Paul thank God for?

1:7 “**IN HIM** we have _____ through his blood
And _____ of sins in accordance with the
_____ of God’s grace.”

1:9 “He made known to us the _____ of His will
according to His good _____ which He
purposed **IN CHRIST**

1:11 “**IN HIM** we were also chosen having been
_____ according to the _____
of Him who works out everything in conformity with the
purpose of His will.

Why does he do this?

1:12 “in order that we who were the first to hope **IN CHRIST**
might be for the praise of His _____.”

One more very important spiritual blessing:

1:13 “And you also were included **IN CHRIST** when you heard
The Word of truth the gospel of your salvation. Having
Believed you were _____ **IN HIM** with a seal,
The promised _____.”

And what does that do for us?

1:14 “who is a deposit _____ our inheritance
Until the redemption of those who are God’s possession
– [reason?] for the praise of His _____.”

Praying According to Grace (1:15-23)

Now Paul’s ready to pray! How do we know this is what fuels his praying?

1:15 “For _____ reason, ever since I heard about your _____
In the Lord Jesus and your _____ for all the saints

Because Paul understood that anyone who comes to faith is a work of God’s grace, whenever he hears of anyone growing in that grace what does he do?

1:16 “I have not stopped giving _____ for you,
Remembering you in my _____.”

***Every sign of spiritual growth is cause to thank God. Yet what is it that so often prevents us from thanking God for His people?**

So what exactly does Paul pray for as a result of being thankful to God for His work in His children?

1:17a “I _____ asking that the God of our Lord Jesus
Christ the glorious Father may give you a spirit of wisdom
and revelation

Why?

1:17b “so that you can _____ Him _____.”

The Greek text for 1:17 does not explicitly say “the Spirit”, only ‘a spirit’. Some translations put “the Spirit” and others say ‘a spirit’. What are some pros and cons of each reading?

A spirit -

The Spirit -

Not surprisingly we find Paul praying for spiritual growth – that believers might know God more through the Spirit’s understanding. How does the Spirit do this?

1:18 “. . . that the eyes of your _____ may be enlightened
In order that you may know . . . [three things]