

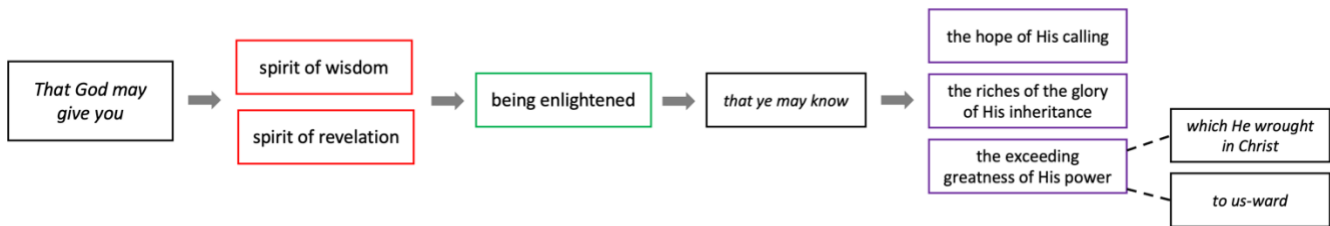


TITLE:

Ephesians 1.17-18 - Paul's Prayer - Knowledge, Understanding and Wisdom

INTRODUCTION:

- Ephesians 1:17-18 is part of the second section of the doctrinal content.
- This section contains one of the two prayers of Paul to the Ephesians.



PRAYER OF PAUL (1:17-18)

- Paul prayed to God the Father.
 - o He is addressed as the God of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - o He is addressed as the Father of Glory.
 - He didn't address God as "Lord" because the servant didn't have the privilege to make any petition for his lord.
 - In prayer, we have to see God as our Father and we are His children. Jesus Christ said: "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" - Luke 11:11-13
 - God is the Father of Glory. He is the Father whose characteristic is majesty and glory. He is our heavenly Father.
- He prayed that God may give the Ephesians the spirit of wisdom and the spirit of revelation.
 - o He prayed that God may give them the wisdom and revelation that only the Holy Spirit can give.
 - o Spirit of Wisdom:
 - There are:
 - Wisdom of the wise (1 Cor. 1:19).
 - Wisdom of this world (1 Cor. 1:20).
 - Wisdom of man (1 Cor. 2:4-5).
 - Fleshly wisdom (2 Cor. 1:12).
 - Earthly, sensual, devilish wisdom (Jam. 3:15)
 - These are not the wisdom that Paul was praying for in the Ephesians.
 - He is referring to the wisdom that the Holy Spirit gives.
 - James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.
 - Illustration:
 - United Nations defines food, clothing, and shelter as basic commodities for people to survive.
 - Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

- According to a 2021 Harvard study, spanking can affect a child's brain in ways similar to severe maltreatment. The American Academy of Pediatrics says that spanking is ineffective at teaching children responsibility and self-control, and can increase aggression in young children.
- Proverbs 23:13-14 Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. [14] Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.
- Spirit of Revelation:
 - Spirit of wisdom and revelation are two things that are associated with each other.
 - The word “revelation” (ἀποκαλύψεως - apokalypseōs) means disclosure of truth.
 - The “spirit of revelation” comes from the Holy Spirit through the Bible.
 - It refers to the revelation in the knowledge of him or in precise and correct knowledge of the Triune God and His will.
 - Solomon compares finding the knowledge of God to a person who diligently seeks silver and hidden treasures. Compare Pro. 2:3-5.
 - Wisdom is attained when Bible knowledge is implemented.
- The Holy Spirit gives wisdom and revelation when believers yield to Him.
 - This is why the church is important.
 - This is why serious biblical education is important.
 - This is why personal Bible study is important. E.g. Titus 2:3-5.
- Having the spirit of wisdom and revelation is having the eyes of our understanding enlightened. Those two are referring to the same thing.
 - An unsaved person doesn't receive the things of the Spirit of God because they are blind. Compare 1 Cor. 2:14 and 2 Cor. 4:4.
 - To get saved means to open our eyes. Compare Acts 26:18.
 - After salvation, our eyes of understanding should be continually enlightened.

KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING AND WISDOM

- The foundation of knowing the hope of His calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance, and the exceeding greatness of His power lies in having knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.
 - Paul's prayer is theologically rich. He knows what he asking for. He knows that it is impossible to know the hope of His calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance, and the exceeding greatness of His power without God giving the spirit of wisdom and revelation and without the enlightenment of our eyes.
 - Is this how you pray?