

Paul's Prayer to Know God Better

Ephesians 1:15-23

Chosen by God

- We are adopted by God, heirs in His Kingdom
- Informed by God, His mysteries revealed
- Sealed by God, given the Holy Spirit

Paul's Prayer Request

For the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in order to know God better.

Reputation—faith and I _____

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

Ephesians 1:15-16

Request: Spirit of wisdom, d _____

*I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, **Ephesians 1:17***

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, **James 1:5-6***

Response—to know God better

*I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. **Ephesians 1:17***

Atheists willingly ignore and resist God

*The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. **Psalms 14:1-2***

**Ironically, the atheist identifies and a _____
the very God that they want to claim does not exist.
They do so, in order to not be accountable to God.**

Willful ignorance leads to condemnation.

*Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked. **Matthew 13:54***

*"Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" **Matthew 13:55-56***

And they took offense at him.

But Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor." And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Matthew 13:57-58

*A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." **John 9:24***

*He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" **John 9:25***

*Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" **John 9:26***

*He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" **John 9:27***

*Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." **John 9:28-29***

*The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. **John 9:30***

*We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." **John 9:31-33***

*Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." **John 9:39***

Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” **John 9:40**

Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains. **John 9:41**

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, **Ephesians 1:18**

Request—open the eyes of your heart, to be r_____ to God
This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. **Matthew 13:13**

**The inability to see and to hear spiritual things has nothing to do with your
intelligence—it has everything to do with your _____.**

“Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” **John 20:29**

Prayer Responses

Confident hope, glorious riches, and power

so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you,
Ephesians 1:17-18

1. We can know the h_____ to which He has called us

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **1 Peter 2:9**

remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. **Ephesians 2:12**

that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints **Ephesians 1:18**

2. We can know the r_____ that God has made available

Riches in Christ Jesus

- Joy
- Peace
- Grace
- Power to change
- Forgiveness
- Salvation
- Assurance
- Purpose

3. Knowing the p_____ of Christ

and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, **Ephesians 1:19-20**

far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. **Ephesians 1:21**

Paul says, I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. **Philippians 3:10-11**

“Seated at the right hand of God”

Jesus’ exalted position—Psalm 110:1, Hebrews 1:3, and Acts 7:55

and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, **Ephesians 1:19-20**

far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. **Ephesians 1:21**

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, **Ephesians 1:22**

And God placed all things under his f_____ and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. **Ephesians 1:22-23**

Key: love, discernment, acknowledges, receptive, heart, hope, riches, power, feet