

Paul's Prison Prayers (Eph.1)

Prayer is keeping company with God
– it is friendship with the Almighty!



Paul's Prison Prayers (Eph.1)

Paul's prayer for the Colossians (Col.1:9,10)

- to be filled with knowledge of God's will
- to please God and bear fruit
- to be strengthened with God's power
- to have joy, patience and endurance

Paul's Prison Prayers (Eph.1)

¹⁵**For this reason**, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I 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. ¹⁸I 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, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms...

Eph.1:15-20 [NIV]

Paul's Prison Prayers (Eph.1)

- *God has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ (v.3)*
- *He chose us in him before the creation of the world (v.4)*
- *He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ (v.5)*
- *In [Christ] we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (v.7)*
- *He made known to us the mystery of his will (v.9)*
- *You also were included in Christ (v.13)*
- *Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit (v.13)*
- *The Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance (v.14)*

Paul's Prison Prayers (Eph.1)

“Divine illumination and human thought belong together. All our thinking is unproductive without the Spirit of truth; yet his enlightenment is not intended to save us the trouble of using our minds. It is precisely **as we ponder** what God has done in Christ that **the Spirit will open our eyes** to grasp its implications.”

John Stott

Paul's Prison Prayers (Eph.1)

- God has chosen us
- He has determined that we would be his children
- He has forgiven us
- He has made known to us his eternal plan and purposes through Christ
- We've been included in those plans
- He will bring everything under Christ's rule and authority
- We've been sealed in Christ, with the Holy Spirit
- He has guaranteed our inheritance

Paul's Prison Prayers (Eph.1)

1. *the hope to which he has called you, (v.18)*
2. *the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints (v.18)*
3. *his incomparably great power for us who believe (v.19)*

Paul's Prison Prayers (Eph.1)

1. The Hope of His Calling

*I pray... that you may know the hope to which
he has called you... (v.18)*

“... in which we know, love, obey and serve Christ, enjoy fellowship with him and with each other, and look beyond our present suffering to the glory which one day will be revealed.”

John Stott

Paul's Prison Prayers (Eph.1)

2. The Glory of His Inheritance

I pray... that you may know the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints (v.18)

Now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. (1 Jn.3:2)

Paul's Prison Prayers (Eph.1)

Because heaven is the home of redeemed humans, it will be thoroughly 'human' in its structure and activities. As one writer said: "Its joys and occupations must all be rational, moral, emotional, voluntary and active. There must be the exercise of all the faculties, the gratification of all tastes, the expression of all talents, the realization of all ideals..."

Paul's Prison Prayers (Eph.1)

You and your friends will rule the world and judge the angels. Together, friends will eat the fruit of the tree of life and be pillars in the temple of God. Together, we shall receive the morning star and be crowned with life, righteousness and glory. Most of all, together we shall fall on our faces at the foot of the throne and worship our Saviour forever.

Joni Eareckson 'Heaven, Your real Home'

Paul's Prison Prayers (Eph.1)

3. The Greatness of His Power

I pray... that you may know... his incomparably great power for us who believe (v.19)

“Perhaps we would think that the creation of the universe was the greatest display of might. But no! The New Testament teaches that **Christ's resurrection and ascension** required the greatest outflow of divine energy.”

William MacDonald (Believer's Bible Commentary)

Paul's Prison Prayers (Eph.1)

3. The Greatness of His Power

*'Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.
Put on the full armour of God...'* (Eph. 6:10,11)

'and pray in the Spirit...' (Eph. 6.18)

Paul's Prison Prayers (Eph.1)

Spiritual Ignorance?

- Do you know the hope of your calling?
- Do you know the inheritance that is yours in Christ?
- Are you experiencing his incomparably great power?

Paul's Prison Prayers (Eph.1)

*I pray also that the eyes of your heart
may be enlightened in order that you
may know...*

