



Ephesians 3

The Spirit of Revelation, Hope & Power



TEXT: EPHESIANS 1:15-23

Paul's First Great Prayer asks

1. That God would give us SPIRITUAL WISDOM + INSIGHT so that we might KNOW Him better.
2. That our hearts would be flooded with LIGHT, so we'd fully grasp the great HOPE of our calling.
3. That we'd UNDERSTAND the incredible RESURRECTION POWER and KINGDOM AUTHORITY we now stand in.

→ *PAUSE: What would / could your life be like if you walked in the fullness of that? What would church be like? What would your ministry be like? At first glance, what are you lacking? Which one of those three immediately appeals?*

What if we really had:

1. Deep, real spiritual wisdom, revelation + insightful understanding to inspire, ignite, dictate relationship with Jesus
2. Confident hope, every day, all the time ... that positive, optimistic, bigger picture
3. All the power we need to do all He's called us to do – Some of which seems daunting or even impossible at times – But do we really know resources we have?

THE MESSAGE

We can live in the REALITY / FULLNESS of Ephesians 1:3-14 ... or we can REVERT to type.

- * Many Christians carry on LIVING, THINKING, RESPONDING just the same as they did before they were saved ... and so Paul prays ...
 - * Paul doesn't ask God to give them what they DO NOT HAVE, but rather to help them grow in what they ALREADY HAVE.
- *How fully are you living in the new reality? How much has really changed since you became a follower of Jesus? In what ways do you still live, think or respond just the same? Where do you 'revert to type'? What still needs to change? Do you already have what you think you need? How could you grow into it?*

1. SPIRITUAL WISDOM & REVELATION (v17)

¹⁷*asking God ... to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God.*

- * A RICHER, STRONGER, MORE POWERFUL LIFE is available to those who REALLY KNOW HIM.
- * God is KNOWABLE; intimacy is ATTAINABLE. He desires to REVEAL Himself in GREATER MEASURE.
- * REVELATION = The UNCOVERING of what appears HIDDEN.

Warren Wiersbe: "It's not enough to know God only as Saviour. We must get to know him as a father, friend, guide, + the better we know him, the more satisfying our spiritual lives will be."

→ *What is God to you? Saviour? Lord? Master? Friend? Guide? Father? Where do you need revelation / insight?*

HOW DO WE PRESS INTO THAT?

- a) We must be a READING people (Psalm 1119:105,130)
- b) We must be a LISTENING people (Ephesians 4:11)
- c) We must be an OPEN people (Jeremiah 33:3)
- d) We must be a SIMPLE people → Revelation takes complex + makes it simple, old things + makes them new, impossible → accessible, unreachable → brings them close
→ *Are you a reader? Or a listener? To whom do you listen and why?*

[Jamie's recommendations: #Struggles: Following Jesus in a Selfie-Centred World by Craig Groeshcel, The Grave Robber by Mark Batterson & Life Overflowing by TD Jakes]
→ *Are you open? Are you teachable? What are the dangers of an 'unteachable spirit?' Are there are things you need to learn and 'unlearn' to stop you reverting to type? → Are you prone to keeping it simple or over-complicating? Are there dangers to both?*

2. CONFIDENT HOPE (v18)

¹⁸*I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called*

Greek word translated 'enlightened' or 'flooded with light' = PHOTIZO, root word for photography. PICTURE: Pitch black room + someone turns on torch. Instantly darkness is dispelled + everything takes on a completely different perspective = ENLIGHTENED

- * N.B. He HAS GIVEN is PAST tense ... Hope relates to things FUTURE, but has been given in the PAST.
- * When we were LOST, we were HOPE-LESS (Ephesians 2:12), but in Jesus we have LIVING HOPE (1 Peter 1:3-4).

Hope isn't WISHFUL THINKING, but CONFIDENT EXPECTATION.

→ *What's the difference between wishful thinking and confident expectation? What does your hope usually look like and why?*

- * Not based on UNKNOWNNS, but KNOWNS.
- * Not based on WHIMS or CIRCUMSTANCES or FEELINGS but on GOD'S WORD.
- * Not based on UNFOUNDED OPTIMISM, but strong RESURRECTION REALITY.
- * Your life should be DOMINATED BY, RECOGNISED BY, KNOWN FOR confident hope (Romans 15:13).

→ *What's the difference between optimism and hope? Should Christians always be optimistic? What causes pessimism? Is that a good thing?*

→ *Are you full of hope? Is it a spiritual force that dominates your life? Are you recognised by it or known for it by those around you? How do you become more hopeful?*

→ *Are there any areas in your life right now that seem hope-less or lacking in confident expectation? Care to share and pray into that?*

3. RESURRECTION POWER + KINGDOM AUTHORITY (v19-23)

- * This verse doesn't employ UNDERSTATEMENT ... uses FIVE different Greek words for POWER.

→ *Try looking this passage up in a few different translations so you really catch the flavour of His 'resurrection power.'*

- * Christ is OVER ALL and that authority flows through the HEAD down to the BODY.
- * The ENEMY is under His FEET and WE are His FEET.

→ *This is wonderful in theory, but is it true in practice / in your life? How could you live a more 'power-packed' life? Who's under whose feet?*