

Ephesians 1:15-23

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians

Points to Consider

1. The Source
2. The Prayer
3. The Proof

The Source

Eph 1:15-17 - Paul knew that they had faith in _____ and love for the saints.

Col 1:3-5 - Paul's prayer was similar for the Christians living in Colossae.

James 1:16-17 *Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.* NKJV

God is the _____ of every good and perfect gift.

Eph 1:3 - The gifts or blessings come _____ and are found in Jesus Christ.

Eph 1:22-23 - God made Jesus the _____ of the church.

The Prayer

Eph 1:17-18 - Paul prayed that the Ephesians would have wisdom and _____.

Acts 17:10-11 *Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.* NKJV

We are not going to understand Scriptures without an open mind and an _____ to search for truth.

Col 2:1-10

James 3:13-18 - James talks about an earthly wisdom and a _____ wisdom.

James 1:5-8 - We get heavenly wisdom through _____.

1 Cor 2:1-8 *And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.* NKJV

Paul did not speak the wisdom of this earth but the wisdom of God.

Eph 1:18 ... that you may know what is the hope of His calling...

Acts 24:14-16 *But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets. 15 I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust. 16 This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.* NKJV

Hope gives us _____ to stand for God even in hostile circumstances. (2 Cor 3:12)
Hope helps us _____ to have a good conscience.

Rom 5:1-5 *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.* NKJV

We are to _____ in hope.
Our hope will _____ disappoint us because the love of God has been poured in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Rom 8:24-25 *For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.* NKJV

Hope allows us to wait eagerly with _____.

Rom 15:13 *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* NKJV

The God of hope fills us with joy and _____.

Heb 6:11-12 *And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

Hope helps us to be _____, gives us assurance, gives us perseverance, prevents us from becoming spiritually sluggish, and gives us the strength to imitate those who have already inherited the promises through faith and patience.

Heb 6:17-20 *Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have **strong consolation**, who have fled for **refuge** to lay hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, 20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

Hope **anchors** firmly into the presence of God Himself.

1 John 3:2-3 *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.* NKJV

Hope causes us to _____ ourselves so we can be pure like Him.

Eph 1:18 ...what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...

Eph 1:18 *and that you will know how rich and glorious are the blessings God has promised his holy people.* NCV

Paul often put words together to help the reader understand how great something really is. Here Paul uses the words “_____” and “glorious”.

2 Cor 4:17-18 *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.* NKJV

Here Paul describes the inheritance as _____ more exceeding.

2 Cor 1:8-9 *For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life.* NKJV

The word exceeding in 2 Cor 4:17 is the same word that is translated beyond measure. Paul is saying the inheritance is beyond, beyond measure.

Phil 3:7-14 - Paul clearly understood the value of the inheritance. He was willing to give up _____ to realize the prize that God had waiting for him.

2 Tim 4:6-8 *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.* NKJV

Paul was looking forward to his _____ of righteousness.

Eph 1:19 *...and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power...*

God wants us to know the _____ greatness of God’s power.
God’s power is directed toward _____ who believe.

Acts 4:5-12; Acts 4:18-22

It was the power of God that gave the apostles the power to stand up to the same people who killed Jesus.

Eph 3:20-21 *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.* NKJV

God can do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think, according to His power that works in _____.

The Proof

Eph 1:20-21 *...which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.* NKJV

The ultimate proof of God’s power, that is currently working in us, is that He:

1. Raised Jesus from the dead.
2. Seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.
3. Put Him over all things.

Phil 2:9-13 *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.* NKJV

God has exalted Jesus over all people and will cause every person that has ever lived to _____
down to Him.

The power of the resurrection is the power of God that works in us!