

THE PATH TO POWER

Ephesians 1.15-23

Last week, in kicking off the book of Ephesians, we observed how the Apostle Paul highlighted the accomplishments of Jesus Christ and how that has benefited those who are followers of Jesus. In the second part of chapter 1, Paul writes how he is thankful for the Ephesian Christians and prays for them.

PAUL’S PRAYER BRINGS OUT THREE IDEAS ABOUT GOD:

1. God wants to be **OUR FRIEND**. *...may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better ... v18*
2. God wants the **BEST FOR US**. *I pray 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 his holy people... v18*
3. God wants to **HELP US** experience the **BEST LIFE**. *[and]....his incomparably great power for us who believe. v19*

WE EXPERIENCE THE BEST LIFE THROUGH THE INCOMPARABLE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. THE SPIRIT...

- Enables us to be **HOPEFUL** and **JOYFUL** in difficult situations. *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15.13*
...join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God... 2 Timothy 1.8

- Enables us to **CHANGE OUR LIFE**.
For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1.7
By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. 1 Corinthians 6.14
- Enables us to **LOVE** and **FORGIVE** .
For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1.7
- Enables us to **PERFORM GOOD WORKS** .
With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. 2 Thessalonians 1:11
My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power ... 1 Corinthians 2.4

The big question: How do we access this power?

The answer: **REPENTANCE**

Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” Mark 1.14-15

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What is God saying to me?

What am I going to do about it?