

Far Above; Ephesians 1:15-23

- I. Knowledge of Him
 - A. Ephesians 1:15–17; 15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,
 - B. Spirit of wisdom
 1. Google - The quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment
 2. Merriam-Webster
 - a) Accumulated philosophic or scientific learning (knowledge)
 - b) Ability to discern inner qualities or relationships (insight)
 - c) Good sense (judgement)
 - C. Spirit of revelation - to unveil, uncover, or reveal
 1. Some say that Paul is asking God to give the Ephesians a miraculous give of the Spirit.
 2. There is no article “the” in front of “spirit” like there is in front of “Father”
 3. There is really no way of knowing if Paul meant a gift from The Holy Spirit, or personality trait
 - D. Knowledge
 1. To discern something clearly and distinctly, or as true and valid; often with a personal acquaintance the necessitates a reaction
 2. Personal recognition
 3. A complete knowledge of God
 - E. The knowledge, insight, and judgement (wisdom) that unveils, uncovers, or reveals (revelation) the Father so that we recognize Him personally (knowledge)
- II. Hearts Enlightened
 - A. Ephesians 1:18–19; 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might
 - B. Enlightened is not the metaphor for knowledge as we might think
 - C. The idea is to make visibly clear, recognizable
 - D. The Hope
 1. 1 Peter 1:13; Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
 2. Colossians 1:3–5; 3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,
 3. A confident expectation of a future event
 4. We need to visibly recognize our salvation through the work of Jesus
 - E. The Riches of His inheritance
 1. The Greek indicates that this is God’s inheritance, not ours
 2. “The apostle is thinking of the church as God’s people-God’s inheritance. The prayer would then be for a deeper understanding of what it means to e God’s possession. The focus is upon the ‘state’ of the believers as God’s people rather than on the details of the blessings that that inheritance includes” Arthur G. Patzia

3. While we are thinking about our inheritance, our salvation, our future heavenly home and body, God is thinking about us, the church
4. This is important for two reasons
 - a) This shows how important the body of Christ, the church is to God's plan
 - b) The premillennial thought is based on the church being "Plan B"; since the Israelites rejected the Christ, God had to develop another plan
 - c) But the church (we) is His inheritance!

III. His immeasurable greatness of His power

- A. Toward us who believe
- B. God has made our salvation visibly recognizable
- C. God has shown us how important we are to Him (and others)
- D. Now He shows us the power at work on our behalf
- E. The power that raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at the His right hand
- F. Psalm 110:1; The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."
- G. Acts 7:54–57; 54 Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. 55 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." 57 But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.
- H. Sitting, standing, being the right hand man has always been a seat of power
- I. Let's not forget that Jesus is the Word, and God spoke (used words, the Word) the world into existence

IV. Raised from the Dead

- A. Ephesians 1:20–23; 20 that 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 rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.
- B. Far above all rule, above every name
 1. Jesus seated by Father is representative of His ongoing ministry, to intercede for the saints
 2. Romans 8:34; Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
 3. Hebrews 9:24; For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.
- C. Now I want us to look at this comparison
 1. Ephesians 2:5–6; 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and **raised us up** with him and **seated us with him in the heavenly places** in Christ Jesus,
- D. Head over all things to the church
 1. Galatians 3:27–29; 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.
 2. Philippians 2:9–11; 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should

bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- V. Far Above
 - A. Our Knowledge through the spirit of wisdom and revelation
 - B. Our Enlightened in our hope and in His inheritance
 - C. His Power through raising and exalting Jesus, the Head of the Church