

This morning we are going to continue in our journey through Ephesians, here are the verses we'll look at this morning:

Ephesians 1:15-17 *For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.*

In these verses we see Paul give us a glimpse of how he was praying for the folks in Ephesus. Paul spent years with these people, he knew them well. Next week we'll continue on in this prayer, but this morning we're just looking at the beginning of the prayer. It's interesting to see what Paul starts with as what is foundational in his heart for the spiritual growth of the Ephesians: **Verse 17** *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.*

Let's unpack some principles concerning Wisdom, Revelation, and Knowledge of Him:

Jesus is the source and foundation of true wisdom

Colossians 2:1-3 *For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

1 Corinthians 1:30 *But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 so that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord."*

Hale Pule Discussion Question:

Usually people compartmentalize "natural" wisdom and "spiritual" wisdom. How do you see those two interweave in the declaration: "Christ Himself, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."?

A spirit of wisdom teaches us to govern our lives for Kingdom opportunities

Colossians 4:5,6 *Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.*

Hale Pule Discussion Question:

What practical steps could you take to be wiser in your interactions with others, especially those who aren't Jesus Followers yet? If you're not a Jesus Follower yet, how do you think Jesus Followers could act with more wisdom as they interact with others that aren't Jesus Followers?

Trials stretch us and we need to seek God for wisdom so we can grow and mature

James 1:2-8 *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, ⁸being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

Hale Pule Discussion Question:

Why do you think the Father directed James to specifically connect needing divine wisdom in the context of trials? How can you put this principle into practice during the trials in your life?

**The Father calls us to press into His grace as the doorway of the revelation of Jesus -
it's a supernaturally natural journey**

1 Peter 1:13 *Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Hale Pule Discussion Question:

What would this verse look like if you intentionally put it into practice in your life? IE, prepare your mind for action - keep sober in spirit - fix your hope on the grace...

The wisdom and revelation of Jesus always brings us to the Knowledge of God. Not information about God, true knowledge of Him.

The Greek word used here for knowledge is epignosis. (Eh - Pee - know - cease) It means precise and correct knowledge. It goes deeper than awareness, it goes to the True Truth of the nature and character of God. It drives us deep into His word as the foundation of our wisdom and revelation that cultivates our knowledge of Him

We must not confuse zeal, passion, emotion, and/or excitement for epignosis.

Romans 10:2,3 *For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. ³For not knowing about God's*

righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

**Growing in epignosis brings maturity, stability,
and healthy community through His Body.**

Philippians 1:9-11 *And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; 11 having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

2 Peter 1:2-11 *Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. 5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.*

Ephesians 4:11-16 *And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

Hale Pule Discussion Question:

Describe ways your life is changing as you grow in true knowledge (epignosis) of God? If you aren't a Jesus Follower yet, how do you think

your life would change if you intentionally started growing in your relationship and knowledge of God as a result of becoming born again?

Let's close with another prayer from Paul:

Colossians 1:9-12 *For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.*