

In Christ - Wisdom and Revelation

Today we are looking at the path to the spirit of wisdom and revelation! I'm going to get right into it this morning....

Ephesians 1:15-17 (NKJV)

15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him

These are the verses that follow up that really long sentence from v3-14 which teaches about our spiritual blessings, God choosing us before the foundations of the earth, Jesus redeeming us, having purpose in living for Him, praising Him, and trusting Him.

Therefore, as a result of all those things, and after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints.....WHOA.....let's pause right there!

As the Ephesians were taught about their position in Christ, all that Jesus has purchased and provided for them, all that is available to them through the work on the cross, we see something happen, the effect on their lives.....what is that?

Faith in Jesus.....and love for all the saints.....heart check time, how is your faith in Jesus and how is your love for all the saints? Can you say that you have applied the scriptures to your life and allowed the Holy Spirit to grow your faith and your love? Because if you haven't need not read any further!

What is your faith in this morning? We say faith and immediately our minds go to Jesus because we've been trained that Jesus is the correct answer. Right?

What did you learn about today? Jesus!

How are you saved? Jesus!

Who is your best friend? Jesus!

What is your faith in? Jesus!

We've been trained that way. The word faith sets off our spiritual alarm. You hear "faith" and you know you need to switch to your spiritual answer list. Here's what faith means....your belief not based on proof, your confidence or trust in a person or thing.

What do you believe? Who is your confidence in? Yes, the right answer is Jesus but is He truly who you believe in.....is He truly who your confidence is in?

Because I think if we are being honest with ourselves (maybe the person we lie to the most), most people have more belief and confidence in themselves than they do Jesus.

Your prayer life is a good measurement for this. When something happens, what is the first thing that you do? Turn to self, friends, or Jesus. Your first step is most often going to be the thing you have the most believe or confidence in.....

Psalm 118:8 (NKJV)

8 It is better to trust in the Lord
Than to put confidence in man.

Sure it's better. But it's not just better, it should be first. Why is it so hard to do? I don't think it's a lack of opportunities.....right? We have opportunities to have faith in Jesus every single day! Every moment.....

We need to be growing in our faith....as we grow in it, we will have more belief and confidence in Him. How do we do this.....the Word of God. There's not enough feeding on the Word of God in the lives of believers today....

God's Word is our spiritual food. Another thing we "know" but maybe don't really do. As you grow, there should be progress where you are becoming more mature, progressing in your faith as you go from the simplicity of the gospel to the depths of God's mysteries!

Hebrews 5:12-14 (NIV)

12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Church.....it takes more than sitting here on a Sunday morning to become spiritually mature. Maturity comes with growth and growth comes with feeding. The issue is not just that people stay on the milk for too long.....the problem is that people get off the milk and never grow to the point of needing solid food!

The milk of God's Word is the elementary truths, people hear them, believe them, and think their work is done. Now I'll go eat solid food once per week on Sunday or maybe a couple times a week I'll scarf something down. How do you expect to grow????

You should be teachers by now but you aren't because you haven't progressed to maturity, your growth has been stunted because you aren't feeding yourself.....

One of my pet peeves is people saying they are not being fed at a church....the first thing I want to know is why aren't you feeding yourself? Because that is usually the reality of the situation. As we continue to feed on God's Word, spiritual maturity will come, and as we move from milk to meat our faith in Jesus will increase.....but that's not it.....continue to eat meat and sometimes you still need that glass of milk too!

Paul had heard about the Ephesians' faith in Jesus, do people hear of your faith in Jesus?

He also heard of their love for ALL the saints....ok, now we're in trouble! ALL the saints? I have to love them ALL?

John 13:34-35 (NKJV)

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

This is more evidence of spiritual maturity.....when you grow to love one another as Jesus has loved YOU! How has He loved you?

1 John 3:16 (NKJV)

16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

Sacrificial love.....see when Jesus laid down His life for us, took off something, He gave up something, for the sake of others. We are told that this is a true expression of love.

Agape love is having affection, good will, benevolence for others. It's giving of ourselves, taking something off, giving something up, for the sake of someone else. Sacrificial love.....

Jesus said by this kind of love, all will know that you are His disciple. Not by the phenomenal prayers, not by the outspoken faith, not by the working of miracles, but by your sacrificial love for others. WOW.....do people see that in you? If they don't, they aren't seeing Jesus.....

Frightening thought.....

The great commandment is to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. That's a love for all people.

What Paul is talking about in Ephesians and Jesus in John 13 is loving the saints....other believers! Church if we can't even get that down, if we can't love all the saints, how will we ever love all people?

If we can't love those who are like minded, how can we love those who think differently from us?

We must be loving sacrificially within the church. Giving of ourselves, our time, our resources, our finances, our prayers!

Someone right now is thinking “yeah” and then picturing a list of what people should be doing for you....if that’s you this morning then you are missing the point! YOU, do YOUR part. Are YOU sacrificially loving?

If you are, that’s great. Don’t expect a thing in return, it’s not supposed to be dependant on if others are doing it for you....

If you aren’t, then why not? It’s a reflection of your faith. Get in the Word! Put your feet in action...

We must grow in our faith in Jesus and our love for all the saints. These have to be priorities in our lives. If they aren’t, then what are we doing? Trusting in self, loving self, wow.....sounds nothing like Jesus. But there’s hope for you, give it all to Jesus this morning!

Paul hears of the Ephesians faith in Jesus, love for all the saints. And because of this, because of their spiritual maturity, he constantly thanks God for them and prays for them.

Ephesians 1:16 (NKJV)

16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

Paul planted this church in Ephesus. He invested years there training them up and teaching them these fundamentals of the faith and he gets word of their faith in Jesus, love for all the saints and doesn’t cease giving thanks for them and praying for them.

See Paul doesn’t stop being thankful for these people because of their continued spiritual growth. What he hears of is a body of believers that continues to advance the kingdom of God. Faith.....increasing. Love.....increasing.

They don't' stop, he’s not stopping. He is asking God to give them more. Faith? CHECK. Love? CHECK. Father, give them more. They have the foundation, it has been laid but it’s also cured, ready to be built upon!

When a house is being built they start with the foundation. It’s simple, plain looking, but necessary for the integrity of the rest of the house that is to be built. The foundation is pretty much the same....concrete. Whether a basement or piers, at it’s basic level the foundation is consistent. But you can’t just pour it one day then the next start piling the load on it.....

Depending on the level of its maturity, it may give (not solid yet) or it may crack (not fully cured).

You can't build on it too soon.....But there comes a point where it's matured, it's ready. How foolish would it be to just leave it. It's a nice foundation, it looks solid, fully mature. All the time, energy, finances invested.....but I'm just gonna leave it like that.

From the road most people can't even tell that it's there! You've got to build on it. There comes a time when it's ready. How's your foundation? Is it still being laid? Is it ready to be built upon? Or is it going to sit there and go to waste?

Here is what comes next.....

Ephesians 1:17 (NKJV)

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him

God is the One that grants the spirit of wisdom and revelation. Once the foundation is laid, the Builder can build.....

The spirit of wisdom and revelation.....this is something we pray for. This and the following verses we will cover next week are awesome scriptures to pray over your life. But they have a foundation. They are in the knowledge of Him.

In Christ, in our knowledge of Christ, the Father may grant the spirit of wisdom and revelation. Great things to desire, if the foundation is ready....

The spirit of wisdom speaks of the application of knowledge.....but not just knowledge, the knowledge of God's will, His desires for your life. Wisdom is the know how to apply God's truths to your daily life. It's the ability to be a doer of the Word not just knowing it.

What good is the knowledge if we have no way to use it? You can read all the books in the world but that knowledge doesn't do much if you can't apply it when it's needed. God can give us the spirit of wisdom.

This is the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He brings something more than understanding. He shows us the things of the spirit! Things that we can't otherwise understand.....revelation!

1 Corinthians 2:9-13 (NKJV)

9 But as it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,

Nor have entered into the heart of man

The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of

God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

See the Holy Spirit teaches us how to apply knowledge according to God's will. This is wisdom. But He also gives us revelation. When something is revealed, this means something that was hidden or covered up becomes visible.....something is manifested that was previously kept secret!

People ask me often how to hear God. Sometimes the answer is be quiet for a minute. Are you listening? I promise the Holy Spirit is speaking.....

Do you want to know how to handle a situation? Have faith in Jesus, not in self. Love people, get your heart right (most of our issues involve others), get in God's Word, and listen. The spirit of wisdom and revelation are in the knowledge of Him.

God will grant wisdom and revelation to you. But you have to be ready for it. You have to prepare.

Believers must grow in their knowledge of God. When we know Him personally, that is salvation. When we know Him increasingly, that is sanctification. As we increase in our knowledge of Jesus, our spiritual lives become more satisfying and we become more spiritually mature.

The more spiritually mature we become, the more wisdom and revelation the Spirit can reveal to us. Paul prays for it for his church. Pray for this for your life. Ask God to give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus.

As we know Him more, the Spirit will reveal more.....

Grow in faith

Love all the saints

Spirit of wisdom and revelation