

November 25, 2018

“Pray with Power”
Ephesians 1:15-19

Ice Breaker:

Recite for the group the prayer you said as a child at bedtime or mealtime.

Share with the group a treasure you discovered.

Study Questions: (READ Ephesians 1:15-19)

1. What insight, principle or observation did you find to be most fresh, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.
2. Give thanks to God by sharing a ‘faith in God’ story or ‘love for others’ story that you have observed.
3. What does the phrase “for this reason” in verse 15 referring to?
4. What specific things did Paul pray that the Ephesians would come to know?
 - a. Verse 17
 - b. Verse 18
 - c. Verse 18
 - d. Verse 19
5. Which of these things do you want for yourself or other people in your life? Why?
6. What are you doing to acquire spiritual wisdom in this area?
7. Paul prayed for the believers in Ephesus to know God better. Describe the process of knowing God better.

Pray for each other using Paul’s model. Let’s pray tonight without asking God for help in circumstances (absolutely nothing wrong with that, but not tonight). Give thanks, praise and pray spiritual strength and power for each other.

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Think about a recent time you stopped and prayed for someone. What did you ask for? Did you pray for God's healing? Did you ask that God would provide a job for them or perhaps deliver them from some adversity or negative circumstance? Those are certainly fine things to ask God for, even Jesus in teaching His disciples instructed us to pray for material things. But it's interesting that in Ephesians and most of Paul's letters he doesn't pray for God to change the circumstances. Do you want to pray with power? What would our prayers sound like if we prayed for spiritual knowledge, wisdom, hope and power?

1. Give thanks for other people's faith and love. (verses 15,16)
2. Pray for spiritual things. (verses 17-19)
 - a. Pray to gain deeper knowledge of God. (verse 17)
 - b. Pray the Spirit would make His Word come alive with God's wisdom (verses 17,18)
 - c. Pray we would realize our worth in God's eyes: His inheritance (verse 18)
 - d. Pray to tap into God's power through our weakness (verse 19)

Next Step

Think of a friend, family member, neighbor, someone at work for whom God's Spirit is nudging you to pray. Pray something like this:

God I thank you for _____. I have seen their faith in this way. I have seen their love for others in this way. May you open their eyes even more to see you in new and fresh ways. May they grow deeper in their knowledge of you. Prompt them to open up God's word and may the Spirit of God open up the eyes of their heart to crisp insights about real living. May they understand the hope that is theirs in Christ. Ask that the Holy Spirit whisper into their heart just how very treasured they are to God. Ask God for them to live in peace in light of the resurrection power within them. Ask God for them to live in confidence, courage and optimism because of the hope that is within them. Ask God to give them self-control, and a determined obedience because they know how much you treasure them. Ask God to give them an increasing love for "all" the saints. Pray that they would experience every spiritual blessing God has for them in the unseen but vital spiritual realms when real life happens.