

Clear Eyes, Full Hearts, Let's Pray Ephesians 1:15-23

Prayer Prompters

Verses 15-16, "Ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers."

Prayer Points

First Prayer: A deeper experience with God

Verse 17: "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better."

Second Prayer: A deeper appreciation of his benefits

Verses 18-19, "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, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe."

Verses 19-23, "That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

TAKE FIVE

Take five minutes five days to pray for five others. Before you pray, read over your sermon notes from the previous Sunday and align your prayers with the text we studied.

Monday. Our spiritual enemy does not want you to be a Catalyst. He'll make you think you're too busy for prayer. He'll make you think it's not practical. He'll make you think you're not qualified for it. What are the reasons you've neglected to pray for others? Confess these to God and ask him to help you become a Catalyst.

Tuesday. We discovered Paul was prompted to pray upon seeing how God was working among the Ephesians (1:15-16). Do you pray for others only when you're fearful about their circumstances or only when you're frustrated about their choices, or do you look for the ways God is working in their lives? Think of five people and reflect on the ways God is *working* in their lives.

Wednesday. Paul prayed two prayers in Ephesians 1:17-19. The first request (verse 17) was for a deeper experience with God. In verse 17, what is the difference between wisdom and revelation? Pray for five others to have both wisdom and revelation.

Thursday. Paul prayed two prayers in Ephesians 1:17-19. The second request (verse 18) was that "the eyes of your heart may be enlightened." (This is the Bible verse behind the Paul Baloche song, "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord.") Pray for five people to see God with their heart regardless of the circumstances.

Friday. Once "the eyes of your heart" are opened (Ephesians 1:18), Paul said you will know three things: "the *hope* to which he has called you, the *riches* of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great *power* for us who believe" (Eph 1:18-19a). Pray for five others to have these benefits.