

## **GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

**The very fact that the Bible exists is evidence that God wants us to know about Him and about all that was done for our salvation. For generations, authoritarian despotic rulers have tried to destroy the Bible. Even today, those who hate God also hate His Word. But - the Bible remains.**

**It is the most scrutinized, criticized, analyzed, and plagiarized book in human history. It has withstood attacks from every conceivable angle. And yet, the Bible remains.**

**It is light for the blind, hope for the discouraged, help for the weary, food for the starving, water for the thirsty, salvation for the lost, and life for the dead.**

**The complete Bible has been translated into 670 different languages and remains to be the most sought-after book in human history.**

**The Bible is the source book for all things Godly and holy. I always encourage people to remember this truth: If we had no Bible, we would have no source of**

truth about God and His plan for mankind. We would know nothing at all about Creation, or the call of Abraham, or the Prophets, or the Law, or the birth of Jesus, or the death and resurrection of Jesus, or the birth of the Christian church, or the gift of the Holy Spirit, or the mighty promises of God, or the hope of our resurrection, or our future in heaven or hell - and all the other wonderful stories of miracles.

The reason I am telling you these things is to make the point - and to remind you - that God wants people to know about Him, His Son, His Holy Spirit, and the wonderful plan of salvation.

Jesus told His Disciples in **Matthew 10:16** (ESV)-  
**“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.”**

Frankly, that directive has not changed, and we need to understand that we are still surrounded by ravenous wolves.

So, in consideration of our mandate to serve among wolves, it will benefit us to do some introspection about how we see ourselves as children of God.

Too many Christians seem to have an identity problem. Too many see themselves as the wolves see them and not as God sees them. Wolves always **(not sometimes, but always)** see their prey as their possession. They never consider the possibility of their prey escaping. They salivate in anticipation of their soon to be dinner.

In this comparative metaphor, Jesus wanted His followers to understand that the enemy is always present. (The wolves represent the spiritual powers of sin and the serpent represent superior intellect and cunning.) Jesus wanted His Disciples to understand that He was not sending them out as defenseless sheep but rather as sheep who possessed **wisdom** and **purity** - which are two of the most powerful weapons of defense in spiritual warfare.

In my main test today, Paul's prayer for the Ephesian believers reflects the mind and heart of God. It isn't the Lord's desire that His people struggle in their Christian living with no clear understanding of what God wants to do with their life.

## **Ephesians 1:17-23- KJV**

**<sup>17</sup> That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:**

**<sup>18</sup> The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,**

**<sup>19</sup> And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,**

**<sup>20</sup> Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,**

**<sup>21</sup> Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:**

**<sup>22</sup> And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,**

**<sup>23</sup> Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.**

**For the next few minutes, I want us to dissect Paul's earnest desire for these Ephesian Christians. I'm going to go phrase by phrase to describe this wonderful heartfelt expression of his concern for them - and how**

that same concern applies to us who are followers of Christ and who need the same instruction.

**1. <sup>17</sup> That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:**

**a. God is the giver - not men.**

**b. He gives the "Spirit of wisdom."**

**\*\* The wisdom God gives us always prepares us for spiritual warfare.**

**\*\* The wisdom God gives us always enables us to clearly see spiritual attacks.**

**\*\* The wisdom God gives us is always pure and always precise.**

**\*\* The wisdom God gives us enables us to know Him and to understand His will.**

**\*\* The wisdom God gives is coupled with revelation which opens His Word to our minds, and which confirms His will for our life.**

**Fools make a mockery of sin and fools deny God. But God's wisdom in us makes it possible for us to see beyond the natural, human, sinful veil and acknowledge God in His glory and power.**

**2. <sup>18</sup> The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,**

**a. I love the imagery of this verse that expresses the joy of our spiritual eyes opening to the revelation and understanding of God.**

**(Remember the joy in your heart when you finally understood that God loved you; that Jesus paid the price for your forgiveness; and that you could become a child of God?)**

**b. To be “enlightened” indicates that dimness and dullness has been overcome; that spiritual blindness has been cured; that what we could not understand before has now been made plain.**

**\*\* We would never understand His call on our life, and what it means to us and for us, without spiritual understanding.**

**\*\* We would never have a smidgen of knowledge about the hope of heaven and the glory of our inheritance as saints, without spiritual understanding.**

**\*\* Always remember: Wisdom and anointing comes from God - man doesn't have one thing to do**

with it. Which gloriously means that man can't do anything about it either.

c. The spiritual wisdom He gives us trumps any man-made religious dogma or idolatry.

**\*\* Man's wisdom always exalts man. God's gift of spiritual wisdom always exalts God.**

**3. <sup>19</sup> And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,**

a. We often only think about God's power in relationship to creation, judgment, or destruction. But we need to remember that He focuses His exceedingly great power on us who believe so that we can see spiritually and not just physically.

b. He wants us to see and understand what He has done for us through the sacrifice of His one and only Son, Jesus. He uses His glorious power to forbid the enemy's efforts to block our mind and our understanding to His miraculous work in us.

c. **“to us-ward, who believe,”** It is to those who will believe that this promise is made. Skeptics, unbelievers, doubters, and deniers have no access to the mighty works of God, aside from their own confession and repentance.

d. The glorious redemptive gift of salvation to us is made possible by the working of His mighty power. It is His mighty power which keeps the demonic hordes of hell from their assigned tasks against you. God purposes for your victory. He doesn't “set it and forget it!” He remains purposely involved in your life because you are an apple of His eye.

4. **<sup>20</sup> Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,**

a. The heart and soul of the Christian faith is found in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. His preaching was transforming, His compassion was unprecedented, and His miracles were spectacular. But it was the death and resurrection of Jesus that opened the Kingdom of God to all who will believe. (Aren't you glad you are a believer?)



**b. No angel could do for us what Jesus did for us. He alone paid the price for our redemption.**

**c. His example of obedience in the Garden of Gethsemane is breath-taking. He truly practiced what He preached!**

**d. No one could prohibit the resurrection of Jesus. The religious authorities tried to stop it by guarding the tomb so He could not escape. But God sent angels who rolled away the stone and opened the door of death.**

**e. People doubted then and people still may doubt but their doubts change nothing. We too, will enjoy the fruit of His resurrection when we will be delivered from the darkness of death. I love what Paul wrote in**

**Romans 8:11 - KJV**

**<sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.**

**5. <sup>21</sup> Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:**

a. During His earthly life, the devil tried to destroy Jesus so that God's plan would be thwarted. Satan wanted to kill Him at His birth. (Remember the story of Herod and his request to the wise men? Remember how he had all the little boys, who were under two years of age, killed.) All during Jesus' ministry, Satan tried several times to kill Him.

b. In fact, he put it in the hearts of wicked and sinful men to seek out ways that his evil scheme could be done. He gleefully celebrated the crucifixion of Jesus thinking that his nefarious plan was finally complete. But **BOY, WAS HE WRONG!**

c. It wasn't Satan's plan that was fulfilled - it was God's. In fact, if the devil would have had any idea about the reason for Jesus' death, **he would have done everything to prevent it.**

d. Even today, men and women still reject Jesus and deny the Biblical stories of His life, death, and resurrection. But they are too late, and their denials are ineffective against the Biblical truth.

e. Hundreds of millions of people have been, and are being, rescued from the bondage of sin by Jesus, whose name is above every name. He is the exalted One. He is the Redeemer. He is the Savior.

6. <sup>22</sup> And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,  
<sup>23</sup> Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

a. Pay attention to this verse. God has put **ALL** things under His feet. That means that His authority is **unsurpassed**! That means His power is **unmatched**! That means no one is superior to Him.

b. This verse also points out that Jesus is Head over all things in the church. He is the leader of His church.

- \*\* The Pope may lead a religion**
- \*\* Pastors may lead a congregation**
- \*\* appointed clergy may tend to the affairs of religious institutions**
- \*\* Presidents and professors may lead religious educational Theological Colleges and Seminaries**
- \*\* But - Jesus is the head of His church, which is His body, and He empowers His church (His Body)**

**with spiritual enablements unlike anything known to man.**

**c. In His church, He is celebrated and praised. He is not a memento or trinket; He is not just a symbol of salvation; He is not a visitor or guest. He is the Lord, the Head of His church.**

**d. It is by His power that we are even able to worship in purity and faith. He is not a snappy and disrespectful wise-crack, He is not a cute tune and a catchy lyric - He is the Lord, the Head of His church.**

**Don't fall into the pit of careless thought and only see Jesus as some sort of magical Houdini, whose main job is to help you out of your troubles.**

**As I prepare to close my message, I want to read the text again to be certain our focus is on Jesus for who He is.**

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<sup>23</sup> Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

**Remember, God wants you to know this Truth. He wants you to understand the totality of the ministry of Jesus. He wants you to know that it's not over until the King returns for His church. And then, our promised eternal life will begin.**

**Don't you feel like praising the Lord for the hope you have, and for the joy of your salvation, and for the abiding presence of Jesus, and for the promise of eternity.**