

Enlightened Eyes

by Wayne Goff

Paul's prayer for the Ephesians in chapter one reads, "...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, **the eyes of your understanding being enlightened**; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power..." (vv. 17-19). Paul prayed that the Ephesians would have **enlightened eyes**. My prayer for all of us is that we would have enlightened eyes, too.

Enlightened eyes see things that others do not see. In this text, God is giving us "the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him" as the **means** of that enlightenment. Today God's revelation is fulfilled and complete, so that the Holy Spirit enlightens our eyes through the knowledge of the Scriptures. Additionally, **wisdom** may be prayed for so that this knowledge might be used properly. God gladly gives us wisdom when we desire it and ask for it (James 1:5).

Do you **desire** to have your "eyes" of understanding enlightened? If you do, then you already know to **read** the Scriptures habitually, for therein is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16). Having read the Scriptures, you **meditate** on them day and night (Psalm 1:2). Having meditated on the Scriptures, you also learn to "**rightly divide the word of truth**" (2 Tim. 2:15). Finally, having done all of that, you make a personal application of them (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

More specifically, in our Ephesian text, Paul and God desire that your eyes may be enlightened so that you may know:

1. **What is the hope of His calling.** If you do not have the hope of eternal life, then you will not remain faithful throughout your lifetime. Satan is always striving to place doubt in your mind about going to heaven. God's Word removes that doubt and strengthens that conviction as part of the enlightening of the eyes!
2. **What are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.** Does Paul mean for us to comprehend *what God gets* from His scheme of redemption? Or does Paul want us to comprehend the riches of *our future glory*? I have always taught that God wants us to know and appreciate *what He has gotten* out of the eternal plan of salvation. But we undoubtedly should strive to comprehend the greatness of our eternal reward as well! In order to do this, consider Revelation 20-21 as a starter. Meditate on the glories of heaven, and you will do more to make your calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10).
3. **What is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.** We need to be reminded constantly that God is working in us both to will and to do His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13). Our eternal security is **absolute** from God's standpoint. Nothing can prevent us from being saved, except ourselves! Read Romans 8:31-39 to appreciate this concept. Read also John 10:27-28 for another example of God's power to keep us saved. Yes, we must "*hear*" the Shepherd's voice and "*follow*" Him. Yes, we must "trust and obey" His will! But with God's help we can become more spiritually-minded, have a greater enlightenment of our spiritual eyes, and rest assured of the promised rest that is before us. The real question remains: "**How much do you desire to have your spiritual vision enlightened?**" Enough to seek and find?

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