

THAT YOU MAY KNOW

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Ephesians 1:15-18

Life is filled with so many uncertainties. We live with so many questions for which no one seems to have the answers. We don't know when the killing at our schools and universities will stop. We don't know when this financial downturn will reverse. We don't know who will become the next president of the United States of America. Will there be an embrace of change or more of the same? We go through life wondering and expecting the worst. Living with uncertainties will cause you to lose your equilibrium. Not knowing can worry you. Not knowing can tempt you to not take a risk and to live below where God wants you to be. All of us need something we can hold on to; something to which we can keep our grip. Paul wanted people to know who they were in Christ. He wanted you to know that life is tough but you don't have to handle it alone when you know God.

Not only did Paul write letters, he prayed for the people. **Ephesians 1:15-23, Colossians 1:9-12** He didn't ask God to bless them with material things. He didn't ask God to give them what they already had. Too many Christians are ignorant of what they already have because they have not studied the Word. If some of us would read the Bible, we could save ourselves a lot of frustration, worry, money, and time. What you need is already there. Every time you hear the Word going forth, you should sit on the edge of your seat in anticipation of what God has to say to you. Let the Holy Spirit minister to you through the Word. All you have to do is read the living Word of God. We shall prevail when we stand on the promises.

God has given us the opportunity of prayer not expecting us to just pray for ourselves. When we pray for others we partner with God. When we go to God on behalf of others, according to His will, we have what we asked. Do you believe it? It is the will of God that we prosper and be in good health. That's why you should pray that your neighbor prospers and is in good health. Pray for peace in your heart, in Iraq, in Israel, in your community, and in your neighbor's heart. If somebody didn't pray for you, where would you be? We know about intercession. **James 5:16** The fervent prayer of the righteous avails much. Each of us has the privilege and power to pray for others. Everybody needs somebody that will believe God with them. Paul let the people at Ephesus know that he was praying for them.

We have to give evidence of faith everyday of our lives; at work, at school, etc. You have to have faith. People need to see your faith manifest in God. Love for each other goes along with faith and love for God. **John 13:34** Throughout the Scriptures, faith and love goes hand in hand. It is impossible to be a Christian and not love one another. Jonathan Swift says we have just enough religion to make us hate but not enough to make us love one another. All of us came to God by grace so you can't point the finger at anyone else. In Ephesus, they loved all the saints with agape love.

Agape love is when you love others despite your will. Sometimes it is hard to love someone who isn't loving or loveable. Love loves the hell out of folks.

Paul asked God to give the people wisdom and revelation. We need to go deeper in God. We need to know Him. **I Corinthians 2:9** It is only when you have the Holy Spirit of God that you can have a deeper revelation. You don't have to fight anyone to come to know Jesus. Just pray for them and believe. It is only the Holy Spirit of God that breaks through. It is the Holy Spirit that stirs up the passion and power within you to do what is right. The enlightenment of the Spirit comes through the heart of God. In the Bible, the heart represents the inner man or woman. **Psalms 119:18** It is only when the eye of the heart is open that we can see. **Matthew 13:13** The eye of the heart has to be open by the Spirit of God and open to the Spirit of God. Some of us don't read the Bible because we don't understand the word. All you have to do is pray to God to help you understand. Then you have to patiently and readily wait to receive understanding.

The Ephesians knew God but Paul wanted them to know Him better. Paul was referring to a relationship that grows deeper everyday. Our relationship with God should always be in process. As Christians, we must walk and talk with God. We can't do that with just a surface relationship with God. You have to go beyond the surface to reap the benefits. "Everyday with Jesus is sweeter than the day before." That's what Lent is about. You are upset because you can't eat French fries and cake. Fasting is about going deeper. It is all about shutting in with Jesus so he can be shut in with you. That way you can go deeper in him. It is like a honeymoon. Your focus isn't anywhere else. **Romans 8:28** When you know who God is, you don't worry about the uncertainties of life. God wants to know if you know Him. Your business should be about getting in God's face.

Peace.

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