



Going Deeper Questions

- Week Three -

These questions cover Ephesians 1:15-23, Please read that passage out loud.

1. Let's focus on **Ephesians 1:15-16** ¹⁵**For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people,** ¹⁶**I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.** Here we observe Paul choosing to express gratitude for the believers in Ephesus. We can choose to grumble about or have gratitude towards the people in our lives. Which do you generally choose? What is the long term affect of grumbling about someone? What is the affect of choosing gratitude? Mention someone in your life you are grateful for.
2. Now read **Ephesians 1:17** ¹⁷**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.** So, Paul is praying that we would have both wisdom and revelation, knowing that they will help us know God more fully. Wisdom is acquired from being around wise people and absorbing wise concepts from God's Word. Revelation is defined as supernatural disclosure of a previously unknown fact. Wisdom is the acquiring of sound judgement; revelation involves hearing from God. In your life currently, are you pressing in to acquire wisdom? If you really needed to hear from God, what would you do? Most importantly, compared to this same time last year, do you know God more fully?
3. Now read **Ephesians 1:18** ¹⁸**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. You are called to hope. In the sermon, I said, Your heart will overflow with vibrant living hope when you truly understand who you are in Christ and the glorious inheritance waiting for you.** Do you think there is a connection between knowing who you are in Christ and living with hope right now? Do you live more often with hope or frustration or anxiety?

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4. Let's continue: **Ephesians 1:18** ¹⁸**I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know... his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength** ²⁰**he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far 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.** What do you make of this scripture?

What do you find confusing?

This passage ultimately points us to Christ, but first it reveals that there is power for we who believe. In the sermon I mentioned this power might be experienced as anything from will power and power over temptation, to seeing God perform miracles in our lives. Imagine, the same power that raised Christ from the dead, working in us. What has been your experience with God's power? Be honest, does this verse make you uncomfortable? Would you like to experience more of God's power? How do you think that could happen?

5. The end of this passage can be somewhat confusing; it says, **Ephesians 1:22-23** ²²**And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,** ²³**which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.** What do you think it means when Paul says the church is his body **the fullness of him who fills everything in every way**?

One of the takeaways from this scripture I included in point four of the sermon, The Church is the body of Christ, we are called to fulfill his mission in the world. How would you concisely describe the mission that Christ gave to us?

Are you engaged in fulfilling that mission? How might you get more intentional about your role in fulfilling the mission of Christ?