

**Intro:** The biggest broken promise in Church? "I'll pray for you!"

We say it...and we mean it...but then we forget. The next time we see them we think...Oh, no! I forgot. Paul didn't fall into that trap. He doesn't say, "I'm GOING to pray for you." He says, "I HAVE prayed for you!" Vs 15-16  
He said it over and over: Ephesians; Philippians, Romans, Colossians, Thessalonians,  
Turn with me to: EPHESIANS 1:15-23 pg 827

Not only does Paul teach us that we should pray, He also teaches us WHAT we are to pray for. 4 SPECIFIC ITEMS  
These are the kinds of things WE should be praying for when we pray for the people in our life.

KNOW HIM, KNOW HOPE, KNOW HEAVEN, KNOW HELP

**1. KNOW HIM BETTER: Pray For People to Come To Know God Better Ch 1:17**

Different words for "Knowledge" in the NT.

Paul uses the most comprehensive one here, it is a word that talks about *full knowledge, comprehension, participation in and identification with* the thing that you "know".

VS 17: "Know him better" We would say, "I pray that you really *GET IT!*" With all of the implications and nuances and understanding...that you not just know ABOUT God..but that you comprehend and participate with Him completely. A particular knowledge of HIM!

That kind of knowledge is ONLY going to come from the Holy Spirit. Apart from the Spirit of God at work...CAN'T KNOW  
1Cor 2:14 "The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."

So, Paul says, He is praying and Asking God to give the Ephesians the Holy Spirit: The Spirit of wisdom and revelation

- Wisdom: *Spiritual understanding, or, the ability to see life Gods way! And, to see spiritually!*
  1. What is important in life? "Don't worry about what you eat or drink, or wear...Father knows"
  2. How do you lead? "If anyone wants to be First...last: First shall be last, last shall be first."
  3. Who do you serve? "No man can serve two masters!" God is first...or something else!
- Revelation: Lit =*To disclose something, to bring it out into the light...to reveal*  
Carries with it the concept of having someone show you something that is otherwise unknowable to you  
Illus: Greek plays: To "pull back the curtain"  
"I'm praying that God will show Himself to you...and Help you understand what you see!"

**APPLIC:** Here is a KEY way to pray for people in your life.

*Pray for them to have the ability to understand spiritual matters. That the Spirit of God helps them to see life Gods way...and that He REVEALS to them the things they need to know!*

1. Pray for God to Give them the Spirit so that they can understand spiritual things
2. Pray for them to be spiritually discerning and spiritually sensitive to what God has to say to them!
3. Pray that they will truly understand and see HIM...the way He is...not the way they want Him to be!

**2. KNOW HOPE YOU HAVE: Pray For Them to Know The Hope They Have Been Called To in Christ! Vs 18**

I pray that "the eyes of your heart will be enlightened" so you can see the HOPE that is yours in Christ  
That hope is lived out in two different ways in our life:

- Hope for ETERNAL life: Luke 10:25: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"  
Jesus said, I pray that you might have life, and have it more abundantly  
That is what is called a perennial question: People have been asking it forever...All places, times, cultures  
What is the path to life after this one? What do I need to do?  
Paul says, "Listen, this is what I am praying for you...I am praying you understand where true hope is found!"
- Hope for a TRANSFORMED life:  
Joh 17:3 "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."  
Secondly, he says, more than just what comes after this life, and the hope we have then,  
I want you to know of the hope that you can have right now!  
The hope that we have is not just a hope for the future...after we die, when we are gone  
Paul wants us to know the HOPE that we have TODAY!  
Col 1:27 "Christ in you, the hope of Glory!"

**Applic:** 1. Is that a hope that you have today? Just yesterday I did a funeral service...and I could stand and Read

1 Thess "We do not grieve like the rest of men who have no hope."

2. Do you have the confidence, the "hope" that your life is being transformed? Phil He who began good work in you  
Col 1:27 "Christ IN you, the hope of glory! When we know Him, His spirit is changing us from the inside out

**3. KNOW HEAVEN: Pray That They Know What Is Waiting In Heaven For Them.**

Vs 18b

Paul calls it in vs 18 *"the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints."*

God is saying through Paul, I have something wonderful waiting for you!

What I have done for you in the past, and what I Am doing for you in the present is wonderful

But, because you are my child, I have an amazing inheritance waiting for you in the future!

**3 Tenses of Salvation**

- |            |                 |   |
|------------|-----------------|---|
| • Past:    | Justification:  | We are saved from the PENALTY of Sin      |
| • Present: | Sanctification: | We are being saved from the POWER of Sin  |
| • Future:  | Glorification:  | We will be saved from the PRESENCE of Sin |

Paul is saying, Listen up. I am praying for God to open your eyes so that you truly "Get it!"

1 Cor 2:9 "1Co 2:9 *"However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"'"*

1Jo 3:2 *Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope purifies himself...*

*Paul is telling us, Listen, I want you to get a mental, spiritual picture of what God has for you in the future. When you have that it serves to motivate you to love, Him, serve Him and honor Him!*

**4. KNOW HELP: Pray They Will Know The Strength and Help God Provides To Them.**

Vs 19

There is one more thing, Paul says that he wants the Ephesian church, and you and I to spiritually understand!

I want you to fully understand the spiritual Power that God has available to those who know Him

I think when he begins to talk about what God has poured out on us, he struggles to express himself.

Does something unusual...he starts to pile up the words! 4 of them!

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|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Might, Power, Strength, Energy | Root Words for: | Mega, Dynamic, Energy! (Strength) |
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Listen, Paul says, I pray that you will understand that the same power that God exerted when He raised Jesus from the dead is available "toward" us!

Illus: Whatever it was that God did on the third morning...When the sun broke through the clouds and night began to flee When the darkness ran away and the stone rolled back. Whatever it was that God did that morning that reached into that cold tomb and touch that dead, beaten, mangled, broken body and breathed back into it the breath of life...and caused Him to LIVE AGAIN That power is available to you today!

Listen to me...have you got some dead things in your life that need to live again?

Maybe it's a relationship      Maybe it is health

Maybe it is hope      Maybe it is future

Maybe it is finances

Everything and Everyone has told you...It's dead...Give it up...It's gone...

Don't you believe them!

When the God of Heaven, the One that raised Jesus from the dead is present...It's not over until HE says its over!

**CONCL:**

I want to challenge you to pray differently this week. When someone says...Pray for me...I need...

Tell them, I will...I will pray for you and your specific situation

And, I will pray:

1. Know HIM better...eyes open...wisdom and spiritual insight...Help you see Him..what He wants..not just what YOU want
2. Know Hope...REAL Hope...Hope for life with Him...and Hope for transformed life until you are with Him
3. Know Heaven...and the Inheritance He has waiting...whatever you have, lose, lost, missing, never had...when with HIM
4. Know His Power Help...Mega, Dynamic, Energetic, SPIRITUAL power...

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Life Giving     | Tomb Breaking |
| Resurrection    | Life changing |
| Devil Defeating | Power         |

At work...TOWARD YOU...and All you need...Because you KNOW HIM!