

# **FINDING HELP WITH THE LORD**

## **Ephesians 1:15-23**

- We always need God's help in our lives, but especially during times of difficulty and distress.
- One of the primary ways we access God's help for our lives is through prayer.
- *How would I characterize my prayer life?*
- **Victorious Christians are people who have a strong prayer life.**
- "The power of prayer can never be overrated. They who cannot serve God by preaching need not regret. If a man can but pray, he can do anything. He who knows how to overcome with God in prayer has heaven and earth at his disposal." (Charles Spurgeon)
- **The Apostle Paul was a "prayer warrior" who prayed for his needs but also regularly prayed for others.**
- **Paul prayed in Ephesians 1:15-23 that Christians then and today would understand and experience the help and hope we have with the Lord.**

*Paul Prayed In Ephesians 1 That We Might Experience:*

### **GOD'S PRESENCE IN GREAT WAYS IN OUR LIVES**

- Paul had come to "know the Lord" on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:1-18), and he was constantly striving to get to know the Lord better.
- Paul - *"I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead."* (Philippians 3:10)
- Paul wanted other Christians to know the Lord in powerful and productive ways (Ephesians 1:15-18, Colossians 1:9-14).

*Paul's Prayer Reminds Us That We Need To:*

- **DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD**
  - Paul - *"Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, I have not stopped thanking God for you."* (Ephesians 1:15-16)
  - **We begin a relationship with the Lord when we receive Jesus as our Savior.**
  - ***When did I first enter into a relationship with Jesus, and how has that relationship transformed me?***

***We can tell that someone really "knows the Lord" by the:***

- **Faith They Exhibit In The Lord**
  - **Faith in the Lord enables us to live godly lives.**
  - Paul - *"The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* (Galatians 2:20)
  - **Faith in Jesus helps us to live victorious lives.**
  - *"Every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith."* (1 John 5:4)
  - **Faith is what enables us to experience God's presence, employ God's power, and live by God's promises.**

- **Love They Express To Others**
  - Jesus - *“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples.”* (John 13:35)
  - **Our love for others is expressed more than our actions than through our words.**
  - *“Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”* (1 John 3:18)
- **DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD**
  - Paul - *“I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to those He called - His holy people who are His rich and glorious inheritance.”* (Ephesians 1:16-18)
  - The Lord wants us to know and experience His:***
    - **Wisdom In Our Lives** - *“spiritual wisdom”*
      - *“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you.”* (James 1:5)
    - **Ways in Our Lives** - *“and insight”*
      - **The Lord wants us to know what He thinks, wants and desires for our lives.**
    - **Will In Our Lives** - *“so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to those He called”*
  - ***How can we get to know the Lord better?***
  - **We get to know the Lord better by spending time with Him, talking with Him, thinking about Him, serving Him and talking about Him with other Christians (i.e. Life Groups).**
  - ***What do I need to do to get to know the Lord better?***

***Paul Prayed In Ephesians 1 That We Might Experience:***

### **GOD’S POWER IN GREAT WAYS IN OUR LIVES**

- *“I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms. Now He is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else - not only in this world but also in the world to come.”* (Ephesians 1:19-21)

***The Bible Tells Us That The Lord’s Power Can:***

- **CANCEL OUR PAST**
  - *“Repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.”* (Acts 3:19)
  - *“There is no condemnation to those who belong to Christ Jesus.”* (Romans 8:1)
- **CHANGE OUR PERSONALITY**
  - *“Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and*

*patience...Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.” (Colossians 3:12-14)*

- **CONQUER OUR PROBLEMS**

- Paul - *“We think you ought to know . . . about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. And He did rescue us from mortal danger, and He will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in Him, and He will continue to rescue us.” (2 Corinthians 1:8-10)*
- **The Lord is bigger than our problems, and He will rescue us as we pray to Him and depend upon Him.**
- ***In what ways do I need to experience the Lord’s power in the coming days?***
- **God’s power He has given to us is a: 1) Demonstrated power – “that raised Christ from the dead”, 2) Dominating power – “He is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else”, and 3) Delegated power – “for us who believe Him.”**
- *“The greatest thing anyone can do for God and man is pray. It is not the only thing; but it is the chief thing. The great people of the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor yet those who can explain about prayer; but I mean these people who take time to pray.” (S. D. Gordon)*
- **Our ability to tap into God’s presence and power is dependent upon our ability and willingness to pray and submit our will and ways to the Lord Jesus.**
- *“God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made Him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is His body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with Himself.” (Ephesians 1:22-23)*

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

- **Why is it important to develop and deepen our relationship with the Lord?**
- **When did I first begin a relationship with Jesus, how has that relationship with Him transformed my life, and how can I get to know the Lord better?**
- **Why is it important to develop and deepen our relationship with the Lord?**
- **In what ways do I need to experience the Lord’s power in the coming days?**