



A PRAYER FOR
ASCENDING WISDOM
Ephesians 1:15-23

THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM

Spirit

❖ “Spirit” as a disposition:

❖ 1 Corinthians 4:21; Galatians 6:1 – “*spirit of gentleness*”

❖ Romans 8:15 – “*spirit of bondage...spirit of adoption*”

❖ 2 Timothy 1:7 – “*spirit of fear...power...love...sound mind*”

❖ Prayer for a disposition, quality, or character marked by “*wisdom and revelation.*” – Psalm 1:2; 19:10; 40:8; 119:10-11, 15-16;
2 Timothy 2:15

THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM

Wisdom and Revelation

- ❖ Wisdom coming from revelation:
 - ❖ Revealed, but still blind – *2 Corinthians 4:3-4*
 - ❖ Revealed, and understood personally – *Ephesians 3:3-4; 5:17*
- ❖ Become more acquainted with the gospel message:
 - ❖ Grow in knowledge and wisdom – *2 Peter 3:18; 1 Corinthians 2:6; Colossians 1:9*
 - ❖ Not simply knowing facts, but comprehending – *Luke 2:46-47, 52; Acts 8:30-31*

THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM

In the Knowledge of Him

- ❖ The specific content of the “*spirit of wisdom and revelation.*”
- ❖ Knowledge – *epignōsis* – Not simply an intellectual grasp on truth, but the uniting with truth by the practice of it.
 - ❖ **2 Peter 1:3** – all things pertaining to life and godliness through the knowledge (*epignōsis*) of Him.
 - ❖ **1 John 2:3-6** – keep commandments, keep word, walk as He walked.

ASCENDING WISDOM

Knowing the Hope of His Calling

- ❖ Context of those being addressed – we/us vs. you – Gentiles without hope now have hope (**Ephesians 2:11-13**).
- ❖ There is hope in His calling – **Ephesians 1:18; 2 Thessalonians 2:14**
- ❖ State of living without hope – **1 Corinthians 15:19, 32b**
- ❖ State of living with hope – **1 Corinthians 15:32-34, 58; Romans 8:25; 1 Peter 3:13-15; Philippians 3:17-20a**

ASCENDING WISDOM

Knowing the Riches of the Glory of His Inheritance

- ❖ The inheritance – **1 Peter 1:3-4** – connection with Christ’s resurrection.
- ❖ Hope of a resurrection to a spiritual body –
1 Corinthians 15:19-23, 42-50
- ❖ The hope should lead to a life of purity – **1 John 3:1-3**
- ❖ Knowing the “*riches of the glory of His inheritance*” should translate in living like we belong somewhere else – **Philippians 3:20-4:1; 2 Peter 3:13**

ASCENDING WISDOM

Knowing the Exceeding Greatness of His Power

- ❖ This power is working toward/in us to reach the realization of the inheritance.
- ❖ “*According to*” – i.e. real demonstrations of the power in the past.
 - ❖ **Ephesians 1:20-23** – resurrection, ascension, and dominion of Christ.
 - ❖ **Ephesians 2:1-10** – our spiritual resurrection/salvation for good works in Christ.

ASCENDING WISDOM

Knowing the Exceeding Greatness of His Power

- ❖ This power is working toward/in us to reach the realization of the inheritance.
- ❖ “*toward us who believe*” – present active verb – i.e. it not only has worked, but is working in us as we believe.
 - ❖ **1 Peter 1:5** – kept by power of God through faith (cf. **Romans 1:16; 10:17**).
 - ❖ **2 Peter 1:2-4, 10-11** – partaking of the Divine nature.
 - ❖ **2 Peter 3:18** – knowing God’s power by growing in grace and knowledge.



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