Daily Devotion #164

**A Spiritually Enlightened Mind**

**Ephesians 1:18-19 (NASB)** *“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.”*

There are many things in life to want - cars, trucks, houses, clothes and a whole host of things such as a good paying job, a good education, a nice family, a spouse, to be physically fit, healthy children, etc., even a job that is liked and exciting to go to every day.

But when we look into God’s word, the Apostle Paul didn’t pray for any of those things for the Ephesian church. He prayed for three things that most people don’t think about as follows:

First, he prays that the believers will have hearts that are enlightened, meaning that the only way a person can fully understand and appreciate what God has done is to have their minds open to the truth. So Paul prays that the people will hear and respond to God’s call.

Secondly, Paul prays that the church will know and embrace the calling of God on their lives meaning that they will know the wonderful truths about their election for salvation from the foundation of the world, and that they will know that God chose them and adopted them into His family - that He forgave them of the sin they committed before Him - that they will appreciate and embrace the inheritance that God has provided for them in eternity and that they are sealed by the Holy Spirit, never to be lost in eternity to Satan and his work.

Thirdly, Paul prays that that the people will appreciate the power of God that works in them to save them and keep them from perishing.

That’s quite different from the prayers of most people. Mostly, prayer time in churches involve requests to God to meet physical needs of some sort, whether for the person themselves or a family member or friend. It’s not wrong to pray for these things; God delights to hear from us with any of our concerns. But Paul knew that what was really needed for the believers, and for us as well, was to have a heart that was fully able to see what God has done for us.

Beloved, could we take Paul’s prayer as a challenge? Can you imagine the change in the church if the people were to focus on these three things? When the truths of God are the focus, life and all that we don’t have or get seems to be so unimportant. The issues we face daily become very small in comparison to what God has done for us and blessed us with.

The truth is, we all have the power and capability to live the life Paul prayed for. Not by our own power or strength, but by God’s power and strength. That’s exactly why Paul phrased his prayer the way he did. We need God! We need His strength working in and through us.

Wouldn’t life be better for all of us individually and as a church if we began to pray this prayer for ourselves and others in the church? Can you imagine being a part of a church that fully embraces these truths? That would be the church to be a part of. Size wouldn’t matter. Number of attendees wouldn’t matter. Budgets wouldn’t matter. God would be the focus. That would be awesome.

So, use this prayer as a pattern for your prayers as much as you may use the Lord’s prayer as a pattern. Life will take on a whole new meaning. I promise you that.