

## ***Read The Bank Book (Part 1) – Ephesians 1:15-23***

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### **Introduction**

Paul had a great desire for the Ephesian Christians to understand what great wealth they had in Christ. In the prison prayers of Paul (Eph. 1:15–23; 3:14–21; Phil. 1:9–11; Col. 1:9–12), we discover the blessings he wanted his converts to enjoy. In none of these prayers does Paul request material things. His emphasis is on the spiritual and or Christian character. He does not ask God to give them what they do not have, but rather prays that God will reveal to them what they already have.

### **I. Enlightenment & Wisdom**

- a. Where does this enlightenment come from?
  - i. Before we study the four requests of Paul's prayer we need to study two important aspects of his prayer – enlightenment & wisdom.
  - ii. Enlightenment comes from the Holy Spirit. He is the one that gives us a spirit of wisdom and revelation (v17).
  - iii. 1 Corinthians 2:9-16 tells us that it is through the Spirit we can know the mind of Christ and know those things feely given to us by God.
  - iv. The Spirit taught Paul from the Word, and then Paul taught the Christians. The truth is found in the Word of God (John 17:8).
  - v. How does the Spirit teach Christians? He compares "spiritual things with spiritual" (1 Corinthians 2:13). It is done through the bible as we meditate, think, listen, and apply.
  - vi. Philippians 2:12-13 - For the Spirit to give us wisdom, revelation (v17), and enlightenment (v18) God must work in us before He can work through us. This too is done by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God! God's divine energy is released in our lives through His inspired Word. The same Word that spoke the universe into being can release divine power in our lives (Hebrews 4:11-13)! But we have some responsibilities...
    1. We must *appreciate the Word* as it really is: inspired, authoritative, and infallible.
    2. We must *appropriate the Word* – "receive it."
    3. We must *apply the Word*; for it only works in those that "believe." When we trust God's Word and act on it, then God's power is released in our lives.
  - vii. Ephesians 3:14-21 – The Holy Spirit also gives us the power (the enablement) to practice the truth.
- b. Enlightenment comes to the heart of the Christian (1:18).
  - i. Literally this verse reads, "The eyes of your heart being enlightened." The inability to see and understand spiritual things is not the fault of the intelligence but of the heart. The eyes of the heart must be opened by the Spirit of God.