

Chosen in Grace

Knowing God – Ephesians 1:15–23

Knowing God

*"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so **that you may know him better**. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order **that you may know** the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe."*

Ephesians 1:17–19

Do you know *about* God or truly *know* God?

We exist to glorify God by guiding people into a growing _____ with Jesus Christ.

*"To know Christ is to know his benefits."
Philip Melanchthon*

To Know God is to know...

Inspiring _____

*"...that you may know the **hope** to which he has called you..."*

Ephesians 1:18

Inherited _____

*"...that you may know... the **riches** of his glorious inheritance in his people..."*

Ephesians 1:18

Incomparable _____

*"...that you may know... his incomparably great **power** for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms..."*

Ephesians 1:19

*Dynamis (power): capability or potential
Energeia (energy): effective or operational power
Kratos (mighty): power expressed under control
Ichys (strength): bodily strength, muscular force*

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Questions based on Sermon from April 30, 2023

Getting to Know Me –

1. Who is the most powerful person you know or have known? What was it about them that made you think they were powerful?
2. Would you rather get stuck in a traffic jam with someone who really knows you or with a new person who does not know you at all? Why?

Digging Deeper

3. What new insight or information did you learn about “Knowing God” from hearing Pastor Phil’s sermon this past Sunday?
4. Read Ephesians 1:17-19a and Philippians 3:10-11. How do these verses encourage you to know God? What is the difference between truly *knowing* someone and just knowing *about* them?
5. What are some things you know really well? How did you get to the point where you were confident in what you knew? How would your faith be increased by truly knowing God?
6. Read Ephesians 1:18-21. How would you currently describe your experience of God’s hope, riches, and power? How does your experience match up or contrast with Paul’s writings in these verses?

7. In Ephesians 1:19, Paul deploys four different Greek words for power, which each have different emphases: power, energy, might and strength. What do you think is the significance of each word here?
8. How have you seen God’s power at work in your life? How do you want to see God’s power at work in your life? What keeps you from running on full power?
9. Read Ephesians 1:22-23. 1 Peter 3:21-22 also affirms that “*Jesus Christ... has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.*” What authority does God give to Christ? What is Christ’s role with the church? How, then, should we respond?

Where Do I Go from Here?

Spend time this week marinating in Ephesians 1:15-23, reading it over a few times. Ask God to help you understand his purpose for Paul’s writing these words and for his Spirit to apply them in your life.

Take the following steps in your private time with God this week:

1. Pray that God would give you the Spirit of Wisdom.
2. Pray that God would clearly reveal to you how much he wants you to know his heart.
3. Pray that you would grasp the inspiring hope, inherited riches and incomparable power which God offers you.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we really want to know you. We ask that you enlighten our hearts that we would gain wisdom, insight and understanding of your love for us. Help us to take hold of the hope, inheritance and power which we have as your church body so that we may be witnesses of your love and true salvation through Christ. Amen.

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“...that you may know... the **riches** of his glorious inheritance in his people...”

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“...that you may know... his incomparably great **power** for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms...”

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