

Open the Eyes of our Hearts

Ephesians 1:17-18a

...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened...

I. Intro

- A. The Father of GLORY will give you GREAT gifts!
- B. These gifts are clearly for use in the mission of the church
- C. Also, so that we can grow to know God as we make Him known!

II. Text

- A. The God of our Lord Jesus Christ
- B. May give you
- C. The Spirit of wisdom
- D. The Spirit of revelation in the knowledge of him
- E. Having the eyes of your heart enlightened.

III. Point

- A. The Spirit brings gifts
 1. Spiritual Gifts are brought to each believer for the task God has laid before them.
 2. The fruit of the Spirit:
 - a) Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
 - b) Against such things there is no law???: we are to exemplify these gifts no matter the circumstances or conditions, they cannot be limited or controlled by law
 3. The Gifts of the Spirit, use this fruit to accomplish the task God has given to the church:
 - a) Romans 12:6-8 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.
 - b) 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.
 4. Others gifts are mentioned as well, but know that this is by the power of God to do this work!
- B. Spiritual wisdom brings understanding
 1. Wisdom, revelation, knowledge
 - a) Wisdom: gained through experience (the proper use of knowledge)
 - b) Revelation: gained through things unfolding before you
 - c) Knowledge: gained through intentionally gathering of information.
 2. Knowledge is part of it
 3. Wisdom is part of it
 4. Revelation is part of it.

- a) Greek: Apocalypses: Literally means to lay bare or reveal completely
 - b) The revelation is specifically pointing to KNOWING CHRIST completely.
 - c) That sounds like a lot...and it is.
- 5. All this leads to enlightenment, UNDERSTANDING!
- C. Spiritual growth comes from a spiritual source
 - 1. You will not grow spiritually by feeding the flesh!
 - 2. Enlightenment, at its core is simple
 - 3. Enlightenment in its fullness is overwhelming!
 - 4. OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART!
 - a) We have said this as a Christian culture for generations, let us now examine it closely
 - b) Eye's are how we see: beauty, danger, color...we take it all in.
 - (1) Things that our eyes experience cannot be described to the point of understanding to someone who has never seen.
 - (2) To describe the color blue to someone without vision is a task that will remain unfinished
 - c) The Heart is not referencing the organ beating in your chest, but rather it is a reference to the core of a person, that which makes the person...
 - d) So, at the core of who you are, you can experience the fullness of God in ways that can only be experienced personally.
 - 5. Open yourself to the Love, Truth, and Joy of serving the Lord.
 - 6. Open yourself to the Peace, Presence, and Power of the Lord.
 - 7. Allow yourself to experience all that there is of God!

IV. Close

- A. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths.
- B. Only God can OPEN the EYES of the blind,
- C. Only God can open the Eyes of blinded hearts
- D. So we pray for God to do His work
 - 1. in our church
 - 2. Through our church
 - 3. In our community
 - 4. And globally