

# Life Verses: An Appeal to Go Deeper with God

Ephesians 1:15-23

*Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.*

## MAIN IDEAS

1. The Report
  - a. Faith
  - b. Love
2. The Request
  - a. Spiritual Wisdom and Insight
  - b. Truth Would Penetrate Their Hearts
  - c. Know God's Power
3. The Reality

In Paul's appeal to the Ephesian church to continue to grow and go deeper in their relationship with God, why does it hinge on being "in Christ"?

What is the faith Paul speaks of in verse 15? Is it different from saving faith? If so, how?

How are we God's "rich and glorious inheritance"?

How are wisdom and knowledge different? How are these connected to love for others?

Why does Paul want the Ephesians to understand and "know God's power"?

Why is it for believers' benefit that Jesus is head over the church?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

Why do we tend to follow our hearts even though we know they're wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9)? How do we align our hearts and minds when they don't agree?

Why does it matter what we do as a church? Share a story of when you saw the church show its love for believers and it affected those outside the church.

How has God's power already worked in your life? Is there an aspect of your life where you don't believe or trust God is at work? What will you do to take steps toward believing His power is at work?

***Meditate on Ephesians 1 this week. Write out all of the things God has done for believers and why He did them. Pray over the list with praise and thanksgiving.***

## REPRODUCE

If the church is not ours or exist for us, what is our role to our brothers and sisters and the communities around us?

How can we encourage each other to grow in spiritual wisdom and insight? Pray Paul's prayer for each other this week.

## KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Acts 20:28-32
- Hebrews 11:1-3
- Galatians 5:1-6
- John 14:26
- John 16:13
- Jeremiah 17:9