

# **A Prayer For The Faithful**

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In Ephesians 1:15-19, Paul offers a prayer for faithful saints. Let us, therefore, consider this passage, in order to understand its truths and apply its principles to our lives.

**Having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints.** Faith and love are intertwined in the lives of true believers (2 Cor. 8:7; Col. 1:3-4; 1 Thess. 1:2-3; 2 Thess. 1:3; Phile. 4-5).

**I do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers.** Like the apostle Paul, let us be thankful for the faithful devotion of fellow-Christians (Rom. 1:8; Col. 1:3-4; 1 Thess. 1:2-3; 3:9-10; 2 Thess. 1:3-4; 2:13).

**May (God) give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.** As manifested by the Messiah, the spirit of wisdom is coupled with a proper understanding and application of the divine word (Isaiah 11:1-5). True understanding cannot exist apart from revelation and knowledge (1 Cor. 14:6-12)

**I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened.** Physically, the eyes represent the organ of sight; symbolically, they denote mental comprehension or spiritual understanding (Matt. 6:22-23; Luke 11:33-36). Physically, the heart is a vital organ, the blood pump of the body; symbolically, it represents the seat of spiritual and mental life (Prov. 4:23; Luke 6:45). The Greek word translated “enlightened” means to shine or give light, to cause some essential transcendent truth to be made manifest (John 1:9; Heb. 6:4).

**So that you will know what is the hope of His calling.** Biblically speaking, hope is the combination of desire and expectation. Originating in the character of God Himself, hope represents the believer’s confident assurance of unseen and future realities (Rom. 8:18-25; Heb. 6:17-20). God calls sinners to humbly accept his offer of salvation. While the wise, mighty and noble often reject divine wisdom, faithful disciples endeavor to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of their calling (1 Cor. 1:26-31; 2 Thess. 1:11-12).

**What are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.** Spiritual riches found in Christ Jesus are beyond compare; therefore, let us be storing up the treasure of a good foundation for the future (Rom. 11:33-36; 1 Tim. 6:17-19). Kingly majesty attaches to those things which belong to God. Similar blessedness belongs to the faithful, both now and in the future (2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 3:20-21). While the believer’s inheritance is beyond compare, it is based upon a faithful and obedient response to the message of Truth (Acts 20:28-32; 1 Peter 1:3-5).

**I pray you will know the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.** God constantly surpasses man’s expectations (Eph. 3:20-21). His glory excelleth (2 Cor. 3:10); so also His grace (2 Cor. 9:14; Eph. 2:7), His power (Eph. 1:19) and His love (Eph. 3:19). Realizing

that the preaching of the cross is a demonstration of God's power (1 Cor. 1:18; 2:4-5), let us not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16-17).

### **Conclusion**

Note that the aforementioned blessings are found exclusively in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:3-5). This glorious and rich inheritance is made available "in the saints;" his power is manifest "toward us who believe" (Eph. 1:18-19). Have you been baptized into Christ? Have you clothed yourselves in Christ (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-29)?