

# THE FATHER OF GLORY!

In chapter 1:17–23 and chapter 3:14–21, Paul prays two prayers for the Ephesians that apply to all Christians in all centuries and that we should pray.

God wants us to grow into maturity in Christ and for Jesus to be able to work through us in all his fullness. God is the Father of glory and we are his children, created for his glory. Adam and Eve lost that glory in paradise, but Jesus came to restore it. Jesus prayed in John 17:22, *“I have given them the glory that you gave me.”* In 2 Corinthians 4:6–7, Paul says that God has shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God and we have this treasure in earthen vessels. Jesus came to bring many sons and daughters to glory (Hebrews 2:10). Paul prays for the church that God would give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that they may know God, his glory and his power more and more.

**1. Paul prays that we would come to know God and his love through the Spirit of wisdom and revelation.** Knowing God is the highest knowledge there is. Paul was a man of great learning, but he considered all earthly knowledge as rubbish compared to knowing God. *“What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ,”* (Philippians 3:8). It is possible to know the Bible but not know God. The Pharisees knew the Bible by heart, yet they killed the truth: Jesus. Reinhard Bonnke writes: *“Getting to know the greatest of all loves – the love of God – is the greatest of all secrets. If you know that, you have found the answer to the question as to the meaning of life.”* Paul says his greatest goal is to get to know Jesus and the power of his resurrection more and more (Philippians 3:10). Knowledge of God is only obtained at the university of the Holy Spirit.

**2. Paul prays that we would experience all the riches of God's glory.** God has called us and created us for his glory. He has given us his glory. We are to reveal his glory. When Jesus performed his first miracle, we read: He revealed his glory (John 2:11). *“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you”* (Isaiah 60:1–2).

The glory of God overshadowed the people of Israel for 40 years in the desert. They were supernaturally protected, supernaturally provided for, supernaturally healthy and their shoes and clothes did not wear out. Pastor John Kilpatrick told of how, in the Pensacola Revival, the glory of God once filled the room so powerfully that many were unable to stand. One man's hand grew back, which he had lost in the Iraq War when a grenade had exploded in his hand. Everyone saw it. In God's glory, all things are possible. Jesus healed those with leprosy. That means that not only was the disease stopped, but the maimed were healed and limbs replaced (Matthew 15:30). Jesus wants to fill his temple, the church, with his glory. The glory of the last temple (the church) is to be greater than the glory of the first temple. The church of the end times is to see greater signs and wonders than the church at the beginning.

**3. Paul prays that we would activate through faith the incomparably great power that is already in us.** This power is available to us through faith. God wants his power to be revealed through us. It is the same power that God exerted when he raised his Son Jesus from the dead. That power still brings the dead back to life today, and not only the spiritually dead. Jesus said: Heal the sick, cleanse those with leprosy, raise the dead, cast out demons (Matthew 10:8). Paul says in Romans 15:19 that he brought the gospel to the nations through what he said and did, in the power of signs and wonders and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We should all regularly pray these prayers of Paul's for ourselves and others. In these last days, God wants to do greater signs and wonders than ever before. Through us, God's love and power are to be made known in the world so that many more will be saved and come to know God.

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