



Empowering People to Change the World

The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation

Steve Holt

Road Declaration...

Born for War

- What a powerful week! Thanks to all of you who took time to go to Centennial Hall and encourage our County Commissioners for their "Open Up Colorado" Declaration!
- Op-Ed in the Gazette
- This is Holy Week coming up. Join us for Good Friday service at 1:00pm on Friday. "Each one invite one" - Invite a friend to Easter; there will be three services.

Story: We have been studying just how much Christ has given us - that we are adopted, predestinated, and graced with salvation and a glorious future in Christ. Yet many of us still can't trust Christ with the basics of our lives.

It is like the man who went to the frozen St. Lawrence River in Canada. Unsure as to whether the ice would hold him, he gingerly placed his hands on the ice...then he got down on his hands and knees to see if the ice would hold...he then carefully and slowly moved out upon the ice. He then heard a noise behind him as he looked to see a large horse drawn carriage coming down the same road. And upon reaching the river, it never stopped or even slowed down, but bolted across the river and past him. If only he had known that the ice was that thick.

For many of us, we have been living with a fragile faith that has yet to accept and trust Christ to hold us, guide us, and bless us. Christ is strong enough!

So, Paul now leads us into this prayer for the purposes and plans for God to be realized in our lives...

Verses 15-16

- “Therefore” means it is there for something! He is beginning a prayer.
- This is one of two prayers in Ephesians. The other is in chapter 3. This prayer is foundational to the other.
- Really, the foundation of the Christian adventure can be summed up with the two points that Paul makes here:

1) Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ—trust in Him

- Faith...trust, not just Jesus as our Savior, but as our Lord!
- This is a process of learning! Sanctification is the journey of realizing experientially, in your heart, what you know to be true intellectually.

2) Love for all of the saints—bloodstained allies

- We don't need “allies” until we know we are in a war.
- This is often where our faith falters! Loving our fellowman. Some of you still carry unforgiveness toward people who have hurt you. Let go of the past, forgive with your heart, and let God take over your future.
 - The cross is a picture of the Christian life. Vertical “faith and love” and horizontal “love for others.”
 - Calvin (not the guy who made the jeans) says: “Observe here, that under faith and love, Paul sums up the whole perfection of Christians.”

- I am sure that Paul had some things he could have brought correction, but this is the attitude of the prayer of faith: gratitude and thanksgiving.

Verses 17-23

One of the great prayers of the Bible: praying for a spirit of wisdom and revelation.

Paul is Praying for three things:

- 1) Greater knowledge of God - knowing Him truly with our heart and mind
- 2) To know the hope of His calling
- 3) To experience God's exceeding power

Verse 17

- Ex. I once met the great baseball pitcher, Nolan Ryan...I sized him up; he looked so normal...I knew a lot about him (more strikeouts than any pitcher in history), but I didn't know him!

#1 To know God, we must be given a “spirit of wisdom and revelation.”

- We must ask God to impart something that we don't naturally have. We need revelation; something supernatural, not just intellectual.
- Usually the word *gnosis* would be used, which means “intellectual knowledge.”
- But Paul uses *epi-gnosis*, which means “a real deep knowledge, a thorough knowledge,” Experiential knowledge, not just intellectual knowledge only.

- I think of epi-gnosis as a head on fire for God + a heart on fire for God.
- The prayer is for a supernatural insight, revelation to know God from heart to heart.
- This is not just intellectual knowledge, but an unveiling of insight into God's plans and purposes.
- Paul said in Philippians that he counted all the stuff he was known for: his intellect, his religious success, etc. He counted as "dung" for the knowledge of Christ. In other words, we can never exhaust the knowledge and wisdom of Christ in our lives!

Philippians 3:10-12

"That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me."

- This is what Paul is searching for:
 - "I really don't fully understand grace yet."
 - "I don't understand all that I can about salvation yet!"
 - "I am still growing in my wisdom of obedience."
 - "I am still growing in these things!"
- For the rest of our lives, we will be studying and growing in all these areas. We are all learning and growing in the knowledge of Christ.

- Really “knowing” someone means there is a mutual exchange. Is there real communication happening between you and God?
- Study and knowing God: All inspiration without perspiration is just fluff...but all perspiration without inspiration is BO! We must have both: hard study (perspiration) and inspiration (the work of the Spirit) is insight and revelation!

Ex. Look at Solomon, King David's son, the wisest man who ever lived. He prayed, “God, give me a listening heart...a heart that yearns for you...wisdom.” God imparted this wisdom to him! And God gave it to him!

- If you study Solomon in the Old Testament: he understood photosynthesis, plants and animals, building...his dad was a shepherd! God gave him revelation.

We know and love God simultaneously! We must train our hearts and minds together. We want to have hearts and heads on fire!

- Look at **Psalm 119** sometime! The heart and head cannot be disconnected:
 - “Give me understanding that I might observe all of Your commandments.”
 - “May the Word revive my heart.”
 - “Make me to go into the ways of Your Word, that which I delight.”

Verse 18

#2 To know the hope of His calling, we must be given a “spirit of wisdom and revelation.”

It is not good enough to know what you are to do with your life: called to be a mother or father, called to be a businessman, called to be a pastor...but to know the hope of that calling!

- This is not about your vocation, but this “hope” by which God uses your vocation to bring Himself glory through you.
- Your calling is an eternal calling! It is His calling. It is about the glory of God! God getting all the glory for your life on earth. It has to do with eternity!
- It is His inheritance, not your inheritance! It is His workings in your life. It is God working in your life that is being produced in you.

What are we saved for? That’s the big question. It is not what we are saved from - hell, darkness, slavery - but rather, why did Jesus save you?

- We are saved FOR something. You were given life on this planet, in this state, in this city, for a purpose.
- This is related to the hope of our calling. We are called TO something!
- Our heart, the eyes of our heart, must be enlightened in order to grasp this hope. Hope really is supernatural.
- Hope is what keeps us going each day. No hope...no joy!
- What is our hope?
 - 1) To Be. That we are being conformed to His image! Whether you are a computer programmer or housewife or secretary...this is not an earthly hope! You are being transformed!
 - 2) To Do. You are called to make an impact, starting in your own family and then in the outside world.

- Ex. At the Wedding Feast in Canaan, Mary came to Jesus and told Him that the wine had run out. Jesus then prayed over the wine, and it was changed. The **Maître d'** came and was astounded! He said that he knew something about this world...that most people give us the best wine now, and later when everyone's looped, they bring out the worst. But you have saved the best for last.
- The world tricks you. For the un-follower, it is getting worse and worse because sin is breaking you down.
- But for the Jesus follower, with Christ, it is going to get better and better! You are moving from life to life. We will meet these saints in heaven!

Verses 19-23

#3 To experience His great power, we must be given a “spirit of wisdom and revelation.”

- We have been and will be resurrected just like Christ was resurrected!
- The prepositions are stacked on each other to describe just what happened when Christ was raised from the dead.
- Jesus was killed physically, but not spiritually. He was dead for three days! But in three days, all the genes and chromosomes came back to life...the new engine within.
- Jesus was given a “spirit drive.” He was full of the Spirit, and He could pass through walls now.
- When Adam sinned, the light went out. The spirit died in Adam. The resurrection is the opposite. The flesh died, and the Spirit rose Jesus from the fleshly death.

- This physical frame is just a space suit. This incredible power is within us. Grant is in His tomb. Buddha is in a pot somewhere. Mohammed is in an urn. There is no tomb for Jesus!
- This mortality will put on immortality! We have something to so look forward to! We are elected, predestined, and adopted for God's plan...before the foundation of the world.

Verse 21

It is far above any other power on the earth. You have nothing to fear! All spirits, angels, any power is subject to your walk with God.

- Ex. When the mandates from Polis come down, you don't need to fear him. He's a puppet of God. God's using him to empower you, wake you up!
- You were born for war. You were born to fight

Verses 22-23

The wealth and power of the Church!

- We are a city on a hill in this city!
- What God could do if every one of us in this room were released into: 1) full revelation of God; 2) hope of His calling; and 3) experiential understanding into the power of God.
- What an impact the church is to have when Christ is the Head.
- Ex. Staff retreat last week... We are a city on a hill in this city!

- Study to know God more fully! Study for insight.
Study your wife! Study your husband! Study God!
This is a powerful church:
 - A church that is equipping families
 - A church that is equipping our kids
 - A church that is equipping our youth
 - A church that is equipping our single
Moms and Dads
 - Join us here at The Road! Join the great
adventure!

- What is your hope? Do you have hope in Christ? Do
you really know Him? If you were to die tonight, would
you be with Christ?