

***Vision: Our Spiritual  
Perspective in Christ***

*PASTOR MIKE YODER • EPHESIANS 1:15–23*



*For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people,*

*I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.*

**Ephesians 1:16**

*I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.*

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people,*

**Ephesians 1:18**



*and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength*

*He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms,*

*far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.*



*And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church,*

*which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything  
in every way.*







# Paul's Prayer

## Motivation (1:15,16)





Many Christians are troubled by the command to pray without ceasing. They think that this means the Christian must pray all the time, and so they turn prayer into some kind of a vague perpetual God-consciousness, which it is not.

Tom Julien

**Prayer is communication with God; communication requires thought. No one can pray constantly. To pray without ceasing means to pray without quitting.**

**Tom Julien**

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

# Paul's Prayer Petition

(1:17–19a)





*A better knowledge of 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*

*I want to know Christ — yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death,*

**Philippians 3:10**

*and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.*

**Philippians 3:11**

*We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.*

*No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.*

**1 Corinthians 2:7**



*None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*

*However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” — the things God has prepared for those who love Him —*

*these are the things God has revealed to us by His Spirit.  
The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.*

*Enlightened spiritual eyes*



*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the Gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*



*For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord,  
and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.*

*For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.*

Our certain hope



Many of our problems are the result of spiritual nearsightedness. We see only the immediate, and it is often not very pretty.



# Our rich inheritance





Our available power



**God's call looks backwards. God's inheritance looks forward. God's power looks at the present.**

# Paul's Prayer Inspiration

(1:19b-23)



*The exaltation of Christ*





*The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand until I  
make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”*



*The subjection of Christ*



**The church is the fullness of Christ not because it fills Him, but because He fills it. The church is His 'body' (He directs it); the church is His 'fullness' (He fills it).**

**John Stott**

Local congregations are concrete, visible expressions of that new relationship which believers have with the Lord Jesus. (They are) earthly manifestations of that heavenly gathering around the risen Christ.

*Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?”*



**In Christ we see the  
magnificence of God  
and His power for us.**

