

Turned on by Prayer

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 1:15-18.

B. Paul turns to discuss prayer and the Scripture regarding maturing believers.

II. The reason why the Apostle prayed.

A. Love convinced the saints that their faith was true.

B. If faith has not resulted in someone becoming a loving person, it is not true faith. Faith is revealed by the concerns that it awakens for the needy.

C. The knowledge of doctrine is never enough—if truth has not reached the heart, it is worthless.

III. Whom Paul prays to: the God of our Lord Jesus, the God of glory.

A. Paul prays to the God of Jesus because this is how Jesus modeled prayer.

B. The God of glory means the God who produces glory. When one prays to God for understanding, one asks Him to make the truth glorious.

IV. For what Paul prays.

A. He prays for a spirit of revelation.

B. They already have the Holy Spirit, but Paul prays for a special ministry of the Holy Spirit. (James 4:2)

C. Truth finally leads to an understanding of the person of God. Our goal is to know God—this is eternal life. (John 17)

V. The instrument by which prayer occurs: the opening of the eyes of the heart.

A. He prays that the believer might know the hope of his calling, the riches of his present inheritance among the saints, and the exceeding greatness of God's power.

B. The believer will come to know these things as the eyes of the heart are enlightened.

C. The whole man must respond to the truth of God. (Luke 24)

VI. Pray for others that their hearts might be changed by the truth around them.

Application questions:

1. Why is love so integral to evaluating the believer's status before God?

2. How is the whole person involved in the truth of God?

3. How has your love towards others grown cold? What can you do this week to make these areas right? Explain.
