

Praying Like We Mean It!

Paul's Powerful Prayer

Ephesians 1:15-23



Makapu'u Lighthouse



Our 1st child - Mylia

Paul wants us not just to understand prayer, but
to experience it and to deeply appreciate it.

“For a healthy Christian life today it is of the utmost importance to follow Paul’s example and keep Christian praise and Christian prayer together. Yet many do not manage to preserve this balance. Some Christians seem to do little but pray for new spiritual blessings, apparently oblivious of the fact that God has already blessed them in Christ with every spiritual blessing. Others lay such emphasis on the undoubted truth that everything is already theirs in Christ, that they become complacent and appear to have no appetite to know or experience their Christian privileges more deeply. Both these groups must be declared unbalanced. They have created a polarization which Scripture will not tolerate. What Paul does in Ephesians 1, and therefore encourages us to copy, is both to keep praising God that in Christ all spiritual blessings are ours and to keep praying that we may know the fullness of what he has given us. If we keep together praise and prayer, benediction and petition, we are unlikely to lose our spiritual equilibrium.”

—John Stott

**1. Paul remembered
what he had heard of
the Ephesians.**

Ephesians 1:15-16

Thanksgiving:

- Their Strong Faith -
Conversion
- Their Unending Love -
Compassion

2. Paul's requests for what they needed.

Ephesians 1:17-23

To know the person of Christ (v. 17)

- “The God of our Lord Jesus Christ”
- “The Father of glory”
- “The Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him”

To know the perspective
of Christ (vv. 18-19a)

“So how is it then that we come to have this Spirit-taught assurance of spiritual things? As we read earlier, believers must take the time and effort to hike into the forest of God’s Word and harvest the logs of truth from that massive timberland. They must by reflection split the logs and stack them in the fireplace of their own heart while they pray for illumination from God to set the logs ablaze. The resulting fire will provide the light that directs their paths and the heat that fuels their passion for God.”

To know the perspective of Christ (vv. 18-19a)

- Hope (v. 18a)
- Richer Inheritance (v. 18b)
- Power (v. 19ff)

The Direction of this Power

v. 19

The Dimensions of this Power

v. 20-22

He raised Him
from the dead.

He seated Him at
His right hand.

He put all things
under His feet..

He gave Him as Head
over all things
to the church.

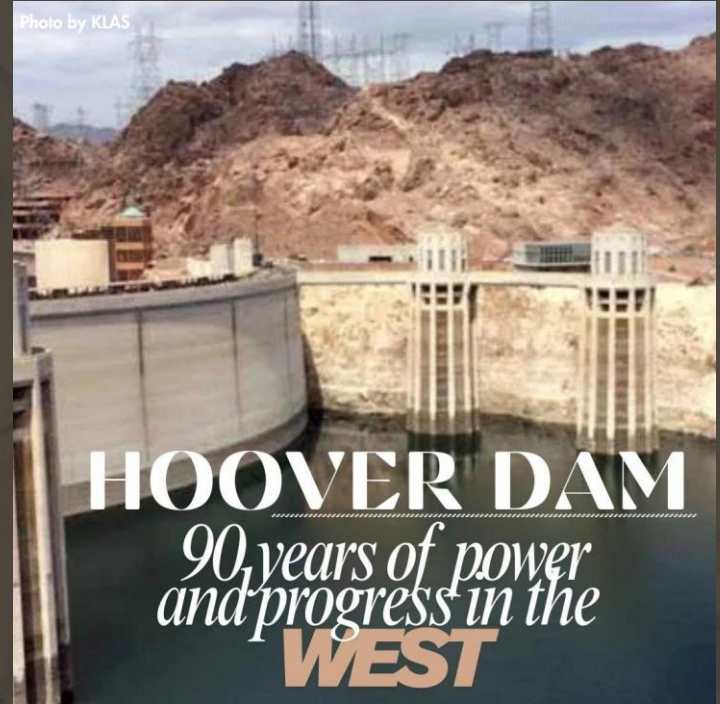
The Demonstration of this Power

v. 21

Jesus is OVER ALL of it!

Power doesn't come from knowing about
God; it comes from knowing God!

The Dilemma:
Why we don't walk
in this Power?



Take Home Questions:

How do you pray?

Do you pray like you mean it?

Do your prayers overflow with compassion for others?

For ALL the saints?

Do you thank God for them?

Do you know the person of Christ?

Are you praying that your eyes would be illuminated, so that you see life from God's perspective?

Throw the Switch

The way we throw the switch is prayer...
real prayer, humble prayer, dependent prayer.

Not praying to impress. Not praying to check a box.
But praying because we want to experientially know
Him... and because we want His power to be at work in
us and through us.

So, church, let's pray
like we mean it.