

More Than Meets the Eye

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1 Growing Faith Produces

NKJV Ephesians 1:15 “*Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,*

16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

From ***Our Identity In Christ*** vs 1-14, the focus now shifts from what God has done for us to the apostle’s prayer so we understand what those blessings mean.

The emphasis is not just identity, but spiritual insight, hope, divine power, and that Jesus has supreme authority.

Ephesians 1:17 “*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.*”

Asking God to help us *see* what we already *have* in Christ is first. Often our need is not more blessings, but just seeing and appreciating what blessings God has already given.

2 God Wants Us to See

Ephesians 1:18 “*The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.*”

His prayer mentions *faith* in Christ and *love* for others—these two are *always* connected.

Faith without love is *cold* and *love* without faith is *empty*. If we truly understand the love of Jesus, we will start to love those we did *not* love before. *That* is the *fruit* we should see—*caring for* and *praying for* others in the church and anywhere.

Ephesians 1:19 “*And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.*”

It is a reminder of the divine power of God—that it is *unlimited, incomparable, beyond* any power on earth.

God’s divine power includes saving us from the wrath to come and is available to all who are willing to believe no matter what country or culture or situation they are in.

Anyone and everyone just needs to *believe* and *accept* that power of God by faith in Jesus.

The Christian life was never meant to be lived in human strength—Jesus is the *Vine* and we are the *branch*.

It is of major importance that we remain *in Him* and be connected *to Him*—*by our faith in Him*—in order to John 15:5 “*bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing*” spiritually right or helpful or lasting.

Knowing Scripture is more than gaining information. We can *know facts* about Jesus without really *knowing Him*—*who* He is and *what* He is willing and waiting to do for us by our faith and trust in His divine power.

It is a close and personal relationship with Him—constantly.

Our eyes see the *material* world, but our spiritual vision must be enlightened to see the *eternal truth* of God’s Word.

The apostle prayed for God to open our spiritual vision to see the “*exceeding greatness of God’s power*”—the divine power every believer in Jesus has available to them by faith in Him.

3 Incomparable Power

Ephesians 1:20 “*Which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*

21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.”

It is the mighty power that raised Jesus from the dead. It was a dramatic demonstration of God’s sovereignty and ability to do anything.

Death can seem so final and Satan thought he had won—the stone was in place and sealed and soldiers stood guard. Yet on the third day Jesus rose to life and left the tomb.

That same *resurrection power* of God will work for every believer in Jesus today, and it will bring us to victory over sin; from unscriptural attitudes; restore broken relationships; and accomplish what otherwise would seem impossible.

There is **hope** beyond disappointments; there is **hope** in the most difficult of circumstances; and there is **hope** beyond this life on earth.

God just asks us to trust Him. We don't have to understand everything He is doing—but we do have to trust the One who does understand.

There is always *more than meets the eye* when God is writing the story.

NIV 2 Corinthians 4:17 “*For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*”

18 *So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*”

Satan tries to blur our vision so that the problem looks bigger and more difficult than any power on earth to correct it.

We often see *obstacles* instead of seeing *opportunities*—opportunities to pray and place the matter before God for His intervention and solution.

No matter what is taking place in our life today—God has already written the *last chapter*—He knows the beginning and the end of everything taking place on earth.

Three times Jesus says AV Revelation 22:13 “*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*”

We are promised not only a marvelous inheritance, but as a believer in Jesus, we are

God's treasured possession and we identify with him.

The Creator of the universe sees His redeemed *people* as His valued treasure—that should change how we see and value *Him!*

Jesus not only came out of the tomb, but the Father Ephesians 1:20 “*seated Him at His right hand, 21 far above all.*” That position represents *victory, honor, authority, and power.*

No government is stronger; no demon is greater; no political leader more powerful; and no predicament beyond His control.

Everything centers on Jesus and under His authority. Because *He* lives God's true church will *survive* and *continue* until He returns.

4 Lord Over Everything

Ephesians 1:22 “*And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,*

23 *which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*”

The apostle's prayer should be our prayer—“*Lord, change how I see things; help me to see hope instead of despair; blessings instead lack; and strength instead of weakness.*”

Help me, Lord, to change my perspective to see victory and deliverance by trusting in your divine power that brought Your Son back to life.

5 Bible Examples

Joseph looked like a *forgotten prisoner*—but God was preparing a **Prime Minister**; David looked like a *shepherd boy*—but God saw **Israel's king**;

Gideon looked like the *weakest man*—but God called him a **mighty warrior**; Peter *denied Christ* three times—but God saw the **Preacher of Pentecost**;

Saul of Tarsus looked like the *enemy*—but God saw a **Prolific writer of New Testament Scripture!**

We too often judge by appearances, but God sees *more than our eyes can see*—He looks at the heart.

We see the *present*—God sees the *future*; We see the *problem*—God sees His *purpose*; We see the *obstacle*—God sees the *opportunity*; We see the *cross*—God sees the *tomb empty*.

As God worked with each one to change them from **Dark to Different**; God will work with us to change us from **Dark to Different** and to be what He wants us to be—His *light* in a *dark* world.

What is seen on the *outside* does not tell the whole story—with God, there is always **More Than Meets the Eye!**

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