

Ephesians 1:15-18

1:15

“For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,”

The opening verses 3-14 were a berakah praising God for what he had done in salvation.

This thanksgiving for the faith that the believers had in Christ is followed quickly by Paul’s request for the work of God in their lives to increase.

Colossians 1:3 is similar

1:16

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

1:17

“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.”

Here Paul is asking that the heights and glory of the opening Berakah may be realized and experienced at a greater level in their present lives.

“keep” is an insertion from “I have not stopped” in 1:16

Notice NAS translation:

5 For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints,

16 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

The Greek says:

ινα ο θεος του κυριου ημων Ιησου χριστου, ο πατηρ της δοξης
in order that the God of the Lord of us Jesus Christ the father of glory

δωη υμιν πνευμα σοφιας και αποκαλυψεως εν επιγνωσει αυτου
may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in a full knowledge of him

Give “**a spirit of wisdom and revelation**” because according to verse 1:8 he has “wisdom and understanding.”

It is through “spiritual wisdom and understanding” that we have “knowledge of his will” (Col.1:9) which leads to living a “life worthy of the Lord” and “bearing fruit in every good work.” (Col.1:10) This concept agrees with Romans 12:2.

Knowledge: This is more than the knowledge given to all men in Romans 1:21. This is the word επιγνωσει from επιγνωσις which means full discernment, acknowledgement,

recognition. It means to perceive, discern or recognize. Romans 12:2 uses the word δοκιμαζω which means to test to approve and is translated

1:18

“I pray also 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 the saints,”

□ **“Enlightened”** □ πεφωτισμενους is perfect passive and is translated “having been enlightened”. It means to enlighten, to illuminate, to give light and refers to the Holy Spirit’s ministry. The perfect tense means it is a continuous process and the passive means it is something done to you.

The “hope” is the hope of glory:

- Colossians 1:27
- 1 John 5:13
- Romans 5:2- hope of the glory of God