**Sermon Notes**

**“A Prayer for Enlightenment”**

**15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.**

**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.**

***“know” = epignosis*** *= “contact knowledge”, ”knowledge gained through first-hand relationship”*

**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, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe.**

Enlightened = *phōtizō = to illuminate, to shine upon*

 *That you may know…*

1. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
2. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
3. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*“Why don’t I experience this?”*

*1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19, Ephesians 4:30)*

*2) Living the Christian life in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Galatians 3:3)*

*3) Wrong \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of spiritual empowerment.*

**That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.**

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. What was the most significant insight the Holy Spirit impressed upon you from this message? How do you intend to respond to that leading?

2. Who can you pray for in your life this week using v. 15-23 as a template?

3. Between the hope of glory, the riches of God’s love for you, and the power of the Spirit, which do you feel you are most in need of right now in your life? Why?

4. How does the Christian understanding of enlightenment differ from the Buddhist understanding? (hint: where does the source of “revelation” reside?)

5. Do you experience the Spirit’s power in a consistent way? If not, what may be the source of your spiritual powerlessness? How can you make amends to your walk this week and begin tapping into the Spirit’s power?

6. How does the knowledge that you serve the One who is above every other power, dominion, authority, and name—in heaven and on earth—encourage and embolden you in your Christian walk?