

**PRAYER – 9**  
**AUGUST 3, 2016**

**1 THES. 5:16-18**

Paul was one who practiced prayer because he understood the place and power of prayer in a believers life. Notice how he sandwiched prayer between two other important exhortations. Rejoice evermore and in everything give thanks. Being joyful, prayerful and thankful was his recipe for success.

**FIRST EPHESIAN PRAYER – EPH. 1:15-23**

1. To know God. **EPH. 1:17**
  - A. There are different levels of knowledge.
  - B. To grow in our knowledge of God involves the Spirit opening our spiritual eyes.
  - C. **MT. 13:15-16** – We can know Him as Savior, we can know His Character, His Holiness, and His Father Heart.
2. To know our calling. **EPH. 1:18**
  - A. We have been called from a low calling to a high calling in Christ.
    - From darkness to light.
    - From death to life.
    - Bondage to liberty.
    - Labor to rest.
    - Turmoil to peace.
    - Not being a people to being a people of God.
3. To know His inheritance. **EPH. 1:18**
  - A. Patrick Henry said “I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one more thing I wish I could give them and that is faith in Jesus Christ. If they had that and I had not given them a single shilling, they would have been rich; and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world, they would be poor indeed.”
  - B. The world offers uncertain riches. **1 TIM. 6:17**
    - All this world has to offer can’t compare to the true riches we have in Christ.
  - C. Jesus offers true riches. **LUKE 16:11**
    - His riches are unsearchable. **EPH. 3:8**
    - The riches of His glory.
    - The riches of His wisdom.
    - The riches of His grace.
    - The riches of His mercy.
4. To know God’s power. **EPH. 1:19-20**
  - A. Power that is exceeding great.
  - B. Power that is given to believers.
  - C. Power that raised Christ from the dead.
  - D. Power that transcends and trumps all other powers.

**CONCLUSION:** Paul prayed for the Ephesians to know:

- God intimately.
- God’s calling on their lives.
- The riches of God’s inheritance.
- The power of God.

How is our knowledge of God, His calling, His riches and power. Eternal life is about knowing God and Jesus intimately. We too can pray for our Spiritual eyes to be enlightened so we can increase in our understanding of all that we have in Christ.