

# REVELATION, KNOWLEDGE

## AND

# UNDERSTANDING

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## INTRODUCTION

It has been said that revelation and knowledge would be the “fuel” for the end-time movement. None are as paramount. It is the seedbed of the prayer movement. Paul understood the importance of gaining revelation knowledge and understanding (**Romans 10:1-2**). It is the very thing that keeps us moving and from growing stale. It was once said, “while wisdom keeps us grounded, revelation keeps us advancing”. May God breathe on His church a spirit of wisdom and revelation, opening our eyes to behold His very nature.

“...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. I pray that the eyes of your heart (**understanding**-KJV) may be *enlightened*, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.”

It is Paul’s prayer that their eyes be conducive to the revelation and light of God.

Paul prays fervently for the church that they may:

1. **Know** the hope of His calling.
2. **Know** the riches of His glory of His inheritance in the saints.
3. **Know** the surpassing greatness of His power toward us.

His prayer was directive and focused on the church of Ephesus, focused that they might **KNOW!** His longing for them to be secure in themselves and in the Lord, the One they were serving. There are three words in this passage that I want to highlight:

# REVELATION

God is far above the wisdom and knowledge of this world. He is absolutely holy and is invisible to the view of physical, finite minds. Although people, on their own, can never create truth about the One creator, God has graciously unveiled and manifested Himself to mankind. He can be seen through the heavens as well as the expanse, which both are telling of His glory and the work of His hands (**Psalm 19:1**).

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

**Romans 1:20**

## 4. Revelation knowledge; an essential element in our walk with God.

4.a. It paves a way for us in obedience before the Lord Jesus.

**Romans 16:25**

*"Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to the obedience of faith..."*

**Romans 16:25**

4.b. Paul writes it was his prayer that the church be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding (**Colossians 1:9**).

WHY??? The reason is in the following verse- (v.10) "so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

c.) It was David's cry that God would open his eyes (*unveil revelation*) to "behold" wonderful things from His law (**Psalm 119:18**).

## 2.) Revelation through creation

5. God has established in the heart of every person His existence and presence.

The great philosopher Immanuel Kant once said, "two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe... the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me."

Some turn away from this reality, suppressing the truth (**Romans 1:18**), while others believe and advance in God's purpose for their life. For those who decide the latter, God will deepen their realm and capacity of ongoing revelation. Therefore, it is not God's choosing of revealing, but rather our receiving.

b.) Nature and creation reveal God's glory and character (Psalm 19).

## 6. What does it really mean?

**\*Revelation** in the Greek is the word "*apokalupsis*" (602) meaning "disclosure, be revealed, to lighten". This word depicts the progressive and immediate unveiling of the otherwise unknown and unknowable God to His church.

a.) The word *apokalupsis* actually derives from the root word "*krupto*" meaning "to cover, conceal, keep secret". Therefore, it is evident that the word (revelation) denotes a concealing as well as an unveiling and uncovering. **Proverbs 25:2** says "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter". It pleases God to hide and conceal His nature for the simple fact of His children finding Him.

## 7. Eyes to see and ears to hear

a.) Acts 4 and Revelation 4

**Acts 4:20**- "...for we cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard". The apostles had seen and heard the risen Christ as a reality. Their revelation led to restlessness, even in the midst of persecution and high pressure.

Revelation 4 speaks of the unending praise occurring in heaven. They do not rest because God's revelation does not end. The unending revelation is sourcing the unresting. The perpetual glory and holiness of God is so vast, causing them to sing day and night.

5.) **Mysteries revealed-** **Job 12:22** and **Daniel 2:47** says that "God is a revealer of mysteries".

8. It is evident in many ways to many people of God throughout the word, one in particular is in **Matthew 16**- the account when Jesus questioned the disciples as to "whom do men say that I am"? Peter's response was the right one- Christ, son of the Living God! Verse 17 calls him blessed, because He

experienced the revelation of the Father in heaven.

b.) God makes Himself known through revelatory acts such as deliverance to His people (**Isaiah 66:14**), bringing judgment on the wicked (**Psalms 95:10**). He also reveals Himself through the spoken word (**Ezekiel 20:11**) and promises like those given to David (**2 Samuel 7:21**). Thus, God reveals Himself in law and promise.

**6.) Revelation: fuel for sharing the gospel-** Revelation was highly important to the Apostle Paul, that He might preach the gospel in the fashion he did.

a.) **Galatians 1:16-** "...to reveal His son to me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles..." Paul was able to present a gospel of power by the revelation of Jesus Christ. It was the fuel for his passion and zeal of the lost generation. It was what led him to pen his very affections to the churches of the day.

"...that by **revelation** there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote in brief. And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit."  
**Ephesians 3:3-5**

**7.) Christ revealed-** The Old Testament dimly revealed the message of salvation through its sacrifices and ceremonies. The full measure and final revelation of God has occurred in Jesus Christ.

"God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world".  
**Hebrews 1:1-2**

a.) This verse makes clear the message of God's fullness revealed through Christ. What was seen dimly in the Old Covenant, has now been made clear through His Son!

## UNDERSTANDING

Understanding is a key in our walk with the Lord. In its severity, it is clear that Proverbs' intent is to disperse understanding to the reader/ listener.

### **9. In all your getting...- Proverbs 4:7**

\***Understanding** in the Greek is *dianoia* (1271) meaning "deep thought". One of the root words in the Greek is *ginosko* (1097) meaning "to be taking in knowledge, to come to know, recognize, understand". In other words, Paul was praying for the church of Ephesus to know, have revelation and understanding. It was because of "darkened understanding" that led to the Gentiles' sensuality and practice of immorality.

9.a. God is asking His people the same question that Philip asked the Ethiopian eunuch, "Do you **understand** what you are reading?" (**Acts 8:30**). The "understanding" here is the Greek word *ginosko*, as we reviewed earlier, denoting "to know, recognize". Understanding void is likened unto the man fishing who had no bait. He had great intentions, but no bite.

**2.) May the eyes of your understanding be enlightened...**- Paul was praying a sincere and deep heartfelt prayer for the church of Ephesus (Eph 1:18). The word for understanding here is the Greek word *dianoia* meaning "deep thought" or "intellect, mind".

a.) Paul was urging them through prayer to look beyond themselves into the deeper things of God. Jesus, after His resurrection opened the minds of His beloved to "understand" the scriptures (**Luke 24:45**).

**3.) Understanding to the simple-** **Psalm 119:130** says- "The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth **understanding** unto the simple."

a.) Some versions actually say "the unfolding of Your word", rendering the idea of revelation and unveiling. The Hebrew word (*pethach*-6608) for "entrance" simply means "opening, disclosure". It derives from the root word *pathach* (6605) meaning "to open; open wide". This meaning is almost identical to the word revelation.

**4.) Understanding is the path to the prize-** knowledge. **Proverbs 2:3** tells us to lift our voice for understanding. That if we seek her as precious silver, we will then discover the knowledge of God. **Daniel 2:21** tells us that "God gives knowledge to men of understanding".

# KNOWLEDGE

He is a God of divine knowledge (**1 Samuel 2:3**) and longs for His people to be conducive units of knowledge.

"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!"

**Romans 11:33**

Like a sponge absorbs liquids, God has designed us to absorb knowledge of Him and everything He is. We will never attain such a full knowledge here on the earth, however it should be our ambition to get a head start for eternity.

"For the earth will be full of the **knowledge** of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." **Isaiah 11:9**

"...many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase" **Daniel 12:4(b)**

Merriam Webster defines knowledge as "the fact or condition of knowing something with familiarity gained through experience or association; the fact or condition of being aware of something".

**1.) The greatest truth** that a person can learn through experience is truth about Christ. It is God's ultimate desire that we know Him for who He is. **The plan for everyone in life is this: KNOW CHRIST.**

- a.) **\*Know** in the Hebrew is yada (3045) meaning "knowledge, perceive, understand". It is the root word for the very word, "knowledge". It is to know by observing and reflecting (thinking) and to know by experiencing. Consequently, yada is used in synonymous parallelism with "hear" (**Ex. 3:7**), "see" (**Gen. 18:21**), and perceive (**Job 28:7**). Yada in the intensive and causative stems is used to express a particular concept of revelation. In the Greek, the word "know" means "to see, primarily signifying "to perceive or see" as in divine knowledge (**Matthew 6:8, 32; John 6:6, 64; 8:14; 11:42; 13:11; 2 Cor. 11:31; 2 Peter 2:9**) or in the case of human knowledge, from human observation (**1 Thess. 1:4, 5; 2:1**). In the N.T. *ginosko* (root word for knowledge, know, etc...) frequently indicates a relationship between the person "knowing" and the object known.

**9.b. To know God is to have an intimate experiential knowledge of Him.** Positively, "to know" God is paralleled to fear Him (**1 Kings 8:43**), to serve (**1 Chronicles 28:9**), and to trust (**Isaiah 43:10**).

**9.c. Paul's greatest goal in life-** Paul stated in Philippians 3:8, 10 that it was his ambition in life to know Christ (and the power of His resurrection). He counts everything as loss to the

comparison of knowing Him.

**2.) Destroyed for lack of knowledge-** The word for knowledge in **Hosea 4:6** ("My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge") is *daath* meaning "to know, etc...". It derives from the root word *yada*, as stated above. Essentially, we see that true knowledge not only grows us in the will of God, but also sustains and keeps us from destruction.

- a.) Romans 1:28 gives a clear explanation of the refusal of knowledge. "Just as they did not see fit to acknowledge (retain knowledge) God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind..."

**3.) Know and be free- John 8:32** tells us to **know** the truth, and the truth shall make you free. Truth is a man and that man's name is Jesus! The Greek word used here is the same word used in **John 14:6** ("I am the way, the truth and the life"). In other words, this passage is saying, KNOW JESUS and you will know freedom!

- a.) According to **Proverbs 24:5**, knowledge is the very thing that increases power, while stored up by the wise (**Proverbs 10:14**). God is rewarding the diligent with freedom fighting agent- knowledge.

**4.) To grow in the knowledge of God-** His knowledge is designed to grow in our hearts and minds, expanding to the fullness that He wills. **Colossians 1:10** states clearly that it is His will that we "increase in the knowledge of God".

10. It is acquired only as God shows (reveals) Himself to man- in nature and conscience (**Psalm 19; Romans 1:19-20**); in history or providence (**Deut. 6:20-25; Daniel 2:21**); and especially in the word (**Psalm 119; Revelation 1:1-3**).

## **WOMAN AT THE WELL**

7. There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink."

8. For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

9. Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

10. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would

have given you living water."

Verse 10 gives us insight into the heart of this story. Jesus said "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water". In other words, if you would've had revelation of it, you'd stepped into a whole new dimension than you know. He was referring to two facets of revelation here; revelation of:

11.who you are (*gift of the believer*) and

12.who God is (*knowing God*).

This tells us that God's system begins with KNOWING, on to ASKING, then to RECEIVING.