

“COME UP, GROW UP, & GET TO WORK! - Pt. 2”

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TEXT: Ephesians 1:15-23

INTRO: Last Sunday we begin a new series of messages on the theme, **“Come Up, Grow Up, & Get to Work!”** – a series focusing on these three main themes from the book of Ephesians. You must *Come Up* (Eph. 2:4-6) to *Grow Up*, and you must *Grow Up* to effectively *Get to Work*. This morning let’s work our way through Paul’s inspired, anointed prayer that we can pray for ourselves, our loved ones and our church family.

CHALLENGE: Pray this prayer daily for the next 30 days!

PAUL’S INSPIRED & ANOINTED PRAYER (1:15-23)

I. Paul’s Commitment to Pray for Other Believers (Ephesians 1:15-16).

- A. In response to Paul hearing of the believers’ faith in Christ and love for each other, he regularly prays for them (vv. 15-16).
1. Is word of your faith in Jesus and love for one another getting out?
 2. Do you pray for your fellow believers in Christ?
- B. Paul didn’t cease to give God thanks for these believers – for their faith and love.
1. Do you regularly give God thanks for others?
- C. Paul makes mention of these believers regularly in his prayers.
1. Not all praying has to be long in duration.
 2. Don’t underestimate consistent brief prayers!
 3. Who do you regularly **“make mention of”** in your prayers? Please include me and Jubilee!

II. THE CONTENT OF PAUL’S PRAYER (vv. 17-23).

“Paul prays more for God to reveal to them what they already have than he prays for God to give them what they don’t have!”

- A. Paul prayed for God to give them the spirit of wisdom & revelation in the knowledge of Him (v. 17).
1. This wisdom and revelation has its source in God, not the world or your own intellect or reasoning.
 2. Wisdom is the understanding to properly apply the truth coming from the spirit of revelation.
- B. Paul prayed for the eyes of their understanding to be enlightened (v. 18) [exposes the world’s darkness].
1. That they would know the hope of His calling.
 - a. God has a hopeful calling for your life!
 2. That they would know the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.
 - a. You are God’s inheritance and Christ is your inheritance (Rom. 8:16-17)!
- C. Paul prayed that they would know the exceeding greatness of His power toward believers (v. 19).
1. It’s God’s mighty power that rose Christ from the dead and will raise you from the dead (vv. 19b-20a)!
 2. It’s God’s mighty power that seated Christ at His right hand – the place of supreme authority over all (vv. 20b-22a), and allows us to share in that delegated authority as we abide in Christ (2:4-6; 6:10-13; Matt. 28:18-19; Rom. 5:17).
 3. It’s God’s mighty power that gave Christ the name above every name and gave us access to use that name (Phil. 2:9-11)!
 4. It’s God’s might power that put all things under Christ’s feet and gave Him to be head over the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all (vv. 22-23) and allows us to share in that victory (Lk. 10:19; 1Cor. 12:12-27; Jn. 1:16; Col. 2:9-10).

CONCLUSION: Do you hear the call to **“Come Up!”**?