



Metamorphosis – Keys to hearing God

Eph 1:15 *For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.*

1. Introduction

Paul moves on from praise to prayer

- **‘faith and love’ (v15):** these are the things we’re looking for. (We can perform amazing miracles but without love it counts for nothing. We can know great things but simple faith in a good God is the only solid foundation.)
- **‘God of our Lord Jesus Christ’ (v17):** Jehovah’s witnesses would use this to deny the deity of Christ.

‘<They> misconstrued it to mean that Christ was the created Son of God who prayed and worshipped his creator. They failed to distinguish between the subordination of the Son to the Father and the unity of essence of the Son and the Father.’ (John Stott)

“I and the father are one” (John 10:30) “The Word was God” (John 1:1)

2. Creating a heart that attracts wisdom & revelation

“..may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened”

Spirit of wisdom of revelation

Revelation – the disclosing of things unknown

Wisdom – the ability to apply revelation

Notice it's 'the spirit of' AND 'having the eyes of your hearts enlightened'-

POINT: Wisdom & revelation cannot be obtained merely by the mind (although they involve the mind) – they are deposited **in** the heart **by** the Holy Spirit.

1Cor. 2:14 *The **natural** person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

There is a wisdom of this world that is not from God – God's wisdom often looks foolish to us (eg the cross!)

What does a heart that attracts wisdom and revelation look like?

a/ Believe

– When God speaks we have to mix it with faith. Cynicism and unbelief do not attract more revelation!

Firstly believe that God is always speaking! He is the word of God – it's hard for Him not to have something to say. (Psalm 139:17, “How vast is the sum of them.”)

Stop asking God to speak to you and start believing that He is!! “My sheep hear my voice” (John 10:27)

b/ Humble

Psalm 25:9 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

Remember pride is not just arrogance – more often it manifests as self reliance and this **is like toxic soil** to wisdom & revelation.

True humility manifests as **radical dependence on God's voice** (Matt 4:4 "every word", John 5:19 "only what the Father does") and a **willingness to obey** even when it's tough (Luke 22:42 "Not my will.")

"When you can't hear His voice, trace your footsteps back to where you lost it."

c/ Tune in

– instead of demanding that God speak in the way that we want him to, humble believing hearts take it in whatever form he chooses! Scripture, dreams, visions, trances, angels, holy coincidence, still small voice.

"Intestinal malabsorption"- The inability of the intestine to absorb nutrients. (**Causes:** family history, surgery, excess alcohol. **Symptoms:** anaemia, malnutrition, muscle wasting)

"Much of my church has spiritual malabsorption"

d/ Pursue

Jer. 33:3 *Call to me (lit 'cry out') and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.*

Prov. 25:2 *It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.*

"God's not hiding things from you, he's hiding things for you!" (Bill Johnson)

e/ Discern – against Scripture AND Power.

1 Tim 3:16 *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.*

1 Cor 4:19-20 *But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power.²⁰ For the kingdom of God does not **consist in talk but in power.***

John 6:63 *It is the Spirit who gives **life**; the flesh is no help at all. The **words** that I have spoken to you are spirit and **life.***

3. Pursue the voice to the encounter

"may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him"

knowledge = epignosis: "full or exact knowledge with relationship to the object/person known"

This Spirit leads not to more information BUT to encounter!

Pharisees – many memorised the entire first 5 books of the bible and dedicated YEARS of their lives to it!

John 5:37-40 And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. **His voice you have never heard**, his form you have never seen, ³⁸ and **you do not have his word abiding in you**, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. ³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰ **yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.**

POINT: Every revelation that does not lead to encounter with the living God just makes me more religious.

4. Two key revelations

Paul prays for 2 primary revelations for the Ephesians.

“That you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...”

- a. The hope of the call (the riches of the inheritance)
- b. The power (we'll get to this next time!)

a. Know the hope of the call. You have been called...

- To belong to Jesus (Rom 1:6)
- Into fellowship with Jesus (1 Cor 1:9)
- Into guaranteed holiness! “you **shall be** holy because I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15)
- Into one body (no such thing as solo Christianity) (Col 3:15)
- To patient endurance in the face of suffering. (“When you are persecuted for your faith, before you lash out, remember that Christ both inspires us to endure suffering by his example AND empowers us to endure it by his Spirit.”) (1 Peter 2:21)
- Into eternal glory. (1 Thes 2:12)