

## Bible Study 4 – Paul’s prayer for spiritual wisdom – Ephesians 1:15-23

Today we get to “listen in” as the Apostle Paul tells the church at Ephesus what he prays for them. This prayer isn’t what you might normally expect from a prayer. Although they live in a culture hostile to Christianity, Paul doesn’t pray for God to protect them. Although some of them may be sick or poor Paul doesn’t pray for healing or for financial stability. Although some of them may be wrestling with sadness or hurts Paul doesn’t pray for happiness for them. And just like getting a few wishes from a genie can show where your heart is, what you ask God for can tell you a lot about your heart and your priorities.

<b>The context</b>	Paul wrote Ephesians from Rome while in prison. Paul was a Jew (1:12) and was writing to Gentile believers (1:13). The letter begins with praise to God for a believer’s spiritual blessings “in Christ”. And history is heading towards bringing everything together in unity under the authority of Christ. The Holy Spirit is like a deposit that guarantees the redemption of our bodies.
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### **PART 1 Read & then write each section in your own words – Ephesians 1:15-23**

Thanksgiving (v.15-16)	
Petitions (v.17-19a)	
God’s power (v.19b-21)	
Christ’s dominion & authority (v.22-23)	

### **PART 2 Things I discovered in this passage**

1. *What does it teach about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit?*

2. *What does it teach about people?*

3. *Summarize a key verse in your own words.*

4. *In your opinion, what is the main point being taught in this passage?*

5. *Which other parts of the passage caught your attention?*

6. *v.15 says that Paul heard about their “faith” and “love”. In this context, what could be examples of their:*

- *“faith in the Lord Jesus”?*

- *“love for all God’s people”?*

7. *Which parts of the passage were difficult to understand? What questions come to your mind?*

God wants us to know Him better and to experience the hope of Christ’s return, that believers are His valuable inheritance, and that His great power is available for believers.



