

Identity –VS- Wedentity

Ephesians 1:17-23

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.” Ephesians 1:17

TO PRAY PRAYERS WITH ETERNAL IMPACT WE MUST:

1. **KEEP ASKING**

2. **CLEARLY PICTURE WHO WE'RE PRAYING TO.**

The God of Jesus... the same God that Jesus prayed to is the God that we pray to!

3. **KNOW WHAT WE'RE PRAYING FOR**

Learn to pray in specific ways for people to better know Christ.

To know Him personally is *salvation*.

To know Him increasingly is *sanctification*.

To know Him perfectly is *glorification*.

“The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord.” Isaiah 11:2

Pray for God to reveal to Christians what they **already have**.

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people...”

Ephesians 1:18

“And Elisha prayed, ‘O Lord, open his eyes so that he may see.’”

2 Kings 6:17

Learn to develop your “spiritual senses”

“They see, but they don't really see. They hear, but they don't really understand.” Matthew 13:13 (NCV)

TO GROW IN CHRIST, PRAY THAT YOU AND OTHERS WILL SEE 3 SPECIFIC THINGS:

1. SEE THE **HOPE** OF GOD'S CALLING.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13 (NIV)

“We also have joy with our troubles, because we know that these troubles produce patience. And patience produces character, and character produces hope.” Romans 5:3-4 (NCV)

Spiritual growth means moving from thinking my problems are *destroying* me to seeing that my problems are *developing* me.

2. SEE THE RICHES OF **GOD'S** INHERITANCE.

“...the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people...” Ephesians 1:18

Not *our* inheritance... *God's* inheritance.

Not an inheritance that we *own*... an inheritance that we *are*!

3. SEE THE **POWER** AVAILABLE TO GOD'S CHILDREN.

“and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength, 20 which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.” Ephesians 1:19-23