

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING, part 1  
(Ephesians 1:15-18)

- I. Its CHARACTER (Eph. 1:15-16)
  - A. The prayer was INFORMED (1:15)
    - 1. The OBJECT of their faith
      - a. They had FORSAKEN Diana
      - b. They had believed in the LORD JESUS
    - 2. The EVIDENCE of their faith: their LOVE for ALL the saints (cf. John 13:35)
  - B. The prayer was INTERCESSORY (1:16)
    - 1. It was CONTINUING
    - 2. It was THANKFUL
- II. Its CONTENT (Eph. 1:17-23)
  - A. Introduced with REVERENCE (1:17a)
    - 1. To the GOD of our LORD JESUS CHRIST (cf. Matt. 27:46; John 20:17)
    - 2. To the FATHER of GLORY

B. Included REQUESTS (1:17*b*-18*a*)

1. That God would give them “a spirit of WISDOM and of REVELATION” (cf. James 1:5)
2. That God would give them ENLIGHTENED EYES (cf. 1 Cor. 2:9-14)—an understanding so thorough that it CHANGES the way we THINK, FEEL, and ACT

C Anticipated RESULTS (1:18*b*)

1. That they would understand “the HOPE of His CALLING”
  - a. Not that they might be SAVED
  - b. But that they might understand what their salvation MEANS
2. That they would understand “the RICHES of the GLORY His INHERITANCE in the SAINTS”
3. That they would understand the “GREATNESS of His POWER”