

## 'that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened'

From the Matthew Henry Commentary: (emph. mine)

Now what is it that Paul prays for in behalf of the Ephesians? Not that they might be freed from persecution; nor that they might possess the riches, honours, or pleasures of the world; but the great thing he prays for is the illumination of their understandings, and that their knowledge might increase and abound: he means it of a practical and experimental knowledge.

We have the revelation of the Spirit in the word: but will that avail us, if we have not the wisdom of the Spirit in the heart? If the same Spirit who inspired the sacred scriptures do not take the veil from off our hearts, and enable us to understand and improve them, we shall be never the better

Observe, Those who have their eyes opened, and have some understanding in the things of God, have need to be more and more enlightened, and to have their knowledge more clear, and distinct, and experimental. Christians should not think it enough to have warm affections, but they should labour to have clear understandings; they should be ambitious of being knowing Christians, and judicious Christians.

## Riches (G4149) ΠΛΟΥΤΟΣ (plutos)

1Tim 6:17 - Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything *for our enjoyment*..

Rom 6:4 - Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

Psalms 50:10 - for every animal of the forest is mine, and the **cattle on a thousand hills**.

## Hope (G1680) ἘΛΠΙΣ (elpis)

Several usages of 'hope' in the NT (from Vines)

- (1) Act 23:6, "the hope and resurrection of the dead;"
- (2) Act 26:6, 7, "the hope of the promise (i.e., the fulfillment of the promise) made unto the fathers;"
- (3) Gal 5:5, "the hope of righteousness
- (4) Tts 2:13, "the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ;
- (5) 1Th 5:8, "the hope of salvation,"
- (6) Tts 1:2, 3:7, "the hope of eternal life,"
- (7) Act 28:20, "the hope of Israel," i.e., the expectation of the coming of the Messiah.

1Th 1:3; it is "an anchor of the soul," staying it amidst the storms of this life

..indeed, some of the earliest Christian art was the common image of an anchor

**Synonyms: confidence, expectancy, that which can be trusted in,**

## **Biblical examples of our 'riches' –**

**The knowledge of God, joy, peace, health and longevity, material abundance (in due season)...**

Prov 13:22 - ..but the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.

Psalms 145: 15,16 - The eyes of all look expectantly to You, And You give them their food in due season. 16 You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing.

## **Word Study → Eph 1:18-19**

"I pray also 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 the saints, 19 and his **incomparably great power** for us who believe."

**Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1** is a foundational prayer at AHOP. We desire to more and more add meat and substance to our prayers.

Many of us, when we first encounter this passage are not much moved by the three things Paul requests for us.

It is a wonderful thing to grow in understanding of how great a hope, how great the riches, and how great a power God has for us. As we do, this prayer of the Apostle grows more and more in urgency and weight as we pray it for ourselves and for others.

# 56:7



Austin House of Prayer

**Synonyms: capacity, ability, potency, efficacy, strength, force, license**

## Power (G1411) ΔΥΝΑΜΙΣ (dunamis)

Luke 4:36 - All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!"

Luke 24:49 - I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Jer 32:17 - Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too difficult for you.