

## **EPHESIANS 1:15-23 Study (NLT) "POWER!" AUGUST 1, 2010**

**Vineyard Church • Great Falls, Montana**

• **1:15-16 Every church has a reputation.** Of one they are an amazing church, growing, full of the Holy Spirit and good works. Of another, that they have lost their way/ lost their faith/they no longer preach the Bible. Of another, that they are pretty much old people and the church will be empty in a few years. Of another that they are a warm, accepting community ... that they fight ...that they come down hard on people that don't walk the straight and narrow... they are old fashioned... they so seek the Holy Spirit that they are weird...they help the poor...they are a pretty good church, people are saved and blessed and are a blessing to the community

• Paul had gotten a good report about the church in Ephesus... that they had strong \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_for other Christians everywhere. Paul has never stopped \_\_\_\_\_God for what He has accomplished among them.

**FAITH:** PISTEUO in the Greek. It means "to be convinced of something." In Scripture, faith has two parts: (1) To be convinced that something is true. (2) To change one's life to conform to what is true. Even demons believe that Jesus is the Son of God, Savior, and Lord, but they do not follow Him. James 2:19

**JESUS:** Jesus is the most radical person who ever walked this earth. People either love him or hate him. Jesus is God in our face. He is the object of our faith—that is what we commit our life to. We speak His Name! Jesus is God born as man. Jesus gave his life on the cross. Jesus is alive now. Jesus is creator (John 1-1-3), Lord over all the creation. He has all authority in heaven and on earth. (Matthew 28:20) • He forgives our sins and takes away their consequences. We are healed by Jesus' finished work. Jesus destroyed the power of death and emptied hell. We go to heaven because of Jesus. We are Father God's friend because of Jesus. Jesus walks us through the valley of the shadow of death and will appear one day in the sky to take us to the Father's house. Jesus successfully destroyed the works of the devil. (I John 3:8) We speak his name over evil to run it off. At the name of Jesus every knee must bow and every tongue give praise—even his enemies. • When God is called, "Jesus" people get blessed or get uncomfortable. They rejoice or they get angry. A person can no longer be a person who lives in the world and says he believes in god -whatever anyone means by god. Every person will have to stand before Jesus and give account of their life - one thing most of all - whether they love him. If they have rejected Him, they will be cast into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth (resentful remorse),

• Jesus requires us to live for him even as he lived for us. We will not be ashamed of Him. We will not be intimidated into silence about Him. We will tell the world about Him and let the chips fall where they may—with grace. He is our Lord and Savior and Friend.

• **1:17-18 REVELATION:** If we don't know God, no other knowledge matters. Paul, the spiritual father of these people, sees that they are hungry and thirsty to know God and His ways. So he tells them the focus of his prayers. He is asking God, the

glorious \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Lord Jesus Christ, to give them \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom as apposed to the wisdom of mankind and \_\_\_\_\_ (an ability to grasp) so that they may \_\_\_\_\_ in their knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_. All knowledge comes from the Creator - knowledge of physics, chemistry, biology, sociology, psychology, spirituality, and whatever else there is. Paul asks the Father in the name of the "Beloved One" Jesus that these people's hearts will be \_\_\_\_\_with light, that they will have inner illumination—the bright Morning Star - shining in their hearts. "Jesus, the true light, illumines every person." John 1:9 That they will be enabled to move out the world's darkness into the sunshine of the Kingdom of God that co-exists in this present darkness. This light will help them understand the wonderful \_\_\_\_\_ (in a futureless world) the Father of Jesus, now our father, has \_\_\_\_\_ to those whom He has \_\_\_\_\_ because He foreknew that they would say "yes." (Romans 8:29) Paul wants them to know the glorious \_\_\_\_\_ the Father has for them--- the same inheritance Jesus has. Romans 8:16-17

**WISDOM:** SOPHIA in the Greek. It is three things put together. (1) Knowledge of facts. (2) Life experience involving these facts. (3) Valuing what one knows so much that the person lives it out. Two kinds of wisdom are contrasted here. (1) The wisdom of the world - of chemistry, physics, psychology, practical matters. (2) Spiritual wisdom - wisdom about how the human heart operates and spiritual beings such as God and devils. Such wisdom is a gift of the Holy Spirit. I Corinthians 2:6-16 Worldly wisdom rejects the wisdom of God, such as the cross. I Corinthians 1:18-19

**UNDERSTANDING:** APOKALUTHIS. "Revelation, disclosure." Someone tells you things you could come to know no other way. The last book of the Bible is called "The Revelation of (by & through) Jesus Christ.

**KNOWLEDGE:** EPIGNOSEI. "To know exactly, completely, through and through." So to know God this way is to know His character and His ways that comes through constant exposure to Him and wanting to know Him. Jeremiah 29: 14

**INHERITANCE:** Parents share what they have with their children. In the best of families the children understand that the resources of the family are available to all the members of the family. Inheritance is not necessarily something that one gets when the parents die. So it is with us. Father God lives forever and now those who "belong to Christ" (Ephesians 1:6) share all that belongs to the Father. (Romans 8:14-16) What is there that we would need and delight in that He does not own? "Everything belongs to you...the whole world and life and death, the present and the future. Everything belongs to you and you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God." I Corinthians 3:21-23 So ask! John 16:23-24

• **1:19-23 Real power in the real world.** People tend to be enamored by power of money, of medicine, of science, armies. What the Holy Spirit, speaking through Paul, wants us to grasp down deep inside where we live and be grasped by it... is the

incredible greatness of God's \_\_\_\_\_ in those who  
\_\_\_\_\_ Him enough to stake their lives and happiness on Him.  
This is the same mighty power that \_\_\_\_\_ Christ from the  
\_\_\_\_\_ (no human power can do that) ...that \_\_\_\_\_ him  
in the place of honor at God's right \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
\_\_\_\_\_ realms. (Our destiny too.) He is far  
\_\_\_\_\_ any \_\_\_\_\_ or authority or \_\_\_\_\_ or  
\_\_\_\_\_ or anything else in \_\_\_\_\_ world and in the  
world to \_\_\_\_\_. And God has put \_\_\_\_\_ things  
under the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, and He gave him this  
authority for the sake of His \_\_\_\_\_ (us), which is his  
\_\_\_\_\_, his living presence in the world.

**POWER:** DUNAMIS in the Greek. Words derived from this are dynamo, dynamic. This is power like electricity coming from a hydroelectric dam. This is the word used here. The other word for power in the Greek is EXOUSIA meaning "authority, the right to exercise power." So a policeman has exousia, his badge which allows him to carry a gun (dunamis). As Christians we have the exousia to tap all the resources (the dunamis) of God by our faith.

**What Does This Scripture Say To You?** \_\_\_\_\_