

HOLY SPIRIT: THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM

“I...do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him” (Ephesians 1:15-17).

The spirit of wisdom was at the top of Paul’s prayer list for the Ephesian church. The spirit of wisdom is necessary to increase in the knowledge of God. It is an attitude of spirit that seeks to know God through His Word. The spirit of wisdom is the first step to spiritual growth. It grows with faith, but faith won’t grow without the wisdom to seek growth. The spirit of wisdom is a disposition to understand everything God has given us in Christ. This includes a spiritually enlightened mind (18). We often forget that the new spirit a person receives at regeneration is capable of growth. Our spirit grows as we yield to the Holy Spirit in us. The more we desire the filling of the Holy Spirit, the more our human spirit grows. Jesus prayed the Father would give us the “Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive” (John 15:17). The spirit of wisdom seeks the “Spirit of truth” rather than the spirit of the world. “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been given to us by God” (I Corinthians 2:12). The Holy Spirit teaches us in our spirit (13). What the Holy teaches us must be spiritually discerned (14). The Holy Spirit gives spiritual discernment to those who will receive it. That is what Paul prayed for the Ephesian church. “He that is spiritual judges (discerns) all things” (15). Paul is really praying for the saints to have that desire. Without desire, none of this happens. We will grow not further than our desires take us.