



The Completeness of the Spirit

Colossians 1:6,8 -- ...the gospel, which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth.... And he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

Introduction

1. People often become spiritually depressed and disenchanted with the church for not providing what is necessary for their spiritual growth.
2. Actually, God makes provision for this both in congregational Bible studies and in the daily study a Christian should be doing in their personal time.
3. A negative approach to compensate by the church, however, is seen in having classes that show where other faiths are wrong. This is necessary at times, but a full diet of this gives the impression that the church is trying to lift itself up only by putting others down.
4. The truest sense of spiritual growth is simply that, making one's spirit grow by studying the positive directions the Word of God can take us. Paul demonstrates this point in his letter to the church at Colossae.

Colossians 1:9-14; Text & Commentary

9. *For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,*
 - a. The reason for Paul's prayer is not only what has proceeded, but refers to verse 10 with a view to helping the Colossians walk properly.
 - b. What Paul had heard is from verse 4: The Colossian's faith and their love for all the saints.
 - c. "Ask" is in the middle voice and may indicate that Paul is only asking what God has given him a right to ask of Him. Like Herod had entitled Salome to ask for up to half his kingdom.
 - d. *epignosis* is the complete knowledge of God's will. Thus it is not improper for one to ask of God to know all that God's wants us to.
 - e. Spiritual Wisdom is the proper application of that knowledge. One must not only perceive things, but also do so to the extent of being able to put them to use.
 - f. Spiritual Understanding is taken as to when it is best to apply that knowledge against an error or in a certain circumstance. Note Ephesians 4:29 where the word (knowledge) of edification (wisdom) is applied only to the need of the moment (understanding).
10. *So that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*
 - a. Full knowledge of God's will help's one walk in full worthiness.
 - b. Full worthiness is to please God in all respects. Note Matthew 28:20 where a disciple is one who is taught to observe all that Jesus commanded.
 - c. Observing all the commandments properly (wisely & understandingly) makes every good work bear fruit.
 - d. And every good tree continues to grow. When it stops growing it dies. (Compare 2 Peter 1:8 with what needs to be added to one's faith)
11. *Strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously*
 - a. God does not give us personal power, but we are strengthened with all the power of the knowledge of His will. Example: As the gospel is the power of God to save.

- b. If the power of God is not in your life, look to the empty spaces in your knowledge of God and His will.
 - c. This knowledge is infused with all the might of God's glory. *kratos* is might put into action as opposed to *ischus*, which is strength, whether put into action or not.
 - d. It helps us attain *hupomone*; the perseverance and endurance to contend with hindrances, persecutions, and temptations and to overcome. It also helps us with *makrothumia*, the ability to hold out long against being provoked.
 - e. It empowers us to do all this, not hang-dog-faced, but joyously.
12. *Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.*
- a. This knowledge of God and of His will as we apply it qualifies (or literally makes us fit) to share in the inheritance with the saints.
 - b. For this we should be giving continuous thanks. It makes us different than those in the world around us.
13. *For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,*
- a. With the evolving of this process, this is actually what transpires. From the power of darkness we are transferred into the power of light, because we are fit to have a lot in it. We are acceptable to God as true sons, having overcome the world and the world in us, and allowed the kingdom of God to rule in our hearts.
 - b. Side note: Past tenses are used to show that the kingdom of the Son has already come. It is not a premillennial hope, but a present reality. This happens now to us, by our own efforts with the help of God. It is not a reward waiting for us in the great by and by.
14. *In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*
- a. In the Son we are ransomed from this power of darkness, that is, redeemed or released by payment. He has bought us with the price of His own blood to put us into a greater service to our loving Father.
 - b. Coupled with this is the forgiveness, or remission (sending away), of our sins. While the world must wallow in its depression and the weight of all its unworthiness and frustration of accomplishing anything, the Christian is released from his blackened consciousness and freed to pursue the greater good with a complete sense of purpose and well-being.

BENEFITS OF FULL KNOWLEDGE

- Wisdom to Properly Apply**
- Understanding to know when**
- Pleasing to God in All Respects**
- Good work bearing fruit**
- Increasing**
- Strengthened**
- Attain Steadfastness & Patience**
- With Joy**
- Share in Inheritance with Saints**
- Deliverance & Transference**
- Redemption & Forgiveness**