

REFLECT:
(20 minutes minimum)



9. When Paul prays, he expects God to do something. When we pray, we often don't seem to expect God to actually do anything. So, we pray "guide the hands of the doctors" but we don't ask God to heal. What lessons about prayer can we learn from Paul's prayer for the Ephesians and put into practice this week?

10. Discuss the difference between "knowing God" and "knowing about God." Use everyday relationships to illustrate the difference. How do we truly get to know God more?

11. Paul says the church is the body of Christ (v.23). What are the practical implications of that concept?

12. What are you doing in your life to nurture the "spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him" (v.17)?

- Daily time with God
- Consistent prayer life
- Studying the Bible
- Being careful about my thoughts
- Submitting everything to God
- Surrounding myself with spiritual encouragers

And how can we as a group help each other to do these things?



October 4, 2009

Ephesians #3

**OPEN THE EYES OF MY
HEART, LORD**

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

We're looking tonight at one of Paul's prayers for the Ephesians. Consider as we talk what Paul might pray for our congregation.



OPEN:
(2 minutes)

1. The best James Bond ever was:

- Sean Connery
- George Lazenby
- Roger Moore
- Timothy Dalton
- Pierce Brosnan
- Daniel Craig
- Don't know; I've never seen a James Bond movie

2. If you could ask God any question, serious or silly, what would you ask?





Read Ephesians 1:15-23

3. **Paul often prays for spiritual wisdom for others. What is spiritual wisdom? How do we receive it?**

4. What does Paul mean by “hope”? Is hope wishful thinking? Upon what is our hope based?

5. What does it mean that Jesus is “far above every ruler and authority...and every title given: (v. 21)? What implications does this have in today’s world?

6. **Paul says we should grow in our knowledge of God (v.17). What things would tell you that you aren’t growing in that way? What kinds of things can we do to grow in that knowledge?**

7. How would you use Paul’s words in this prayer (1:15-23) to encourage a fellow believer who was struggling with problems in their life?

8. How would having a better understanding of the power of God (v. 19) help us live our lives better as Christians?

Worth Repeating:

A Christian without a prayer life is like a beautiful sports car without oil in the engine.