

Ephesians 1:15-23

“remembering you in my prayers” (v16)



For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 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, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 1:15-23

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

After all that God has done and promised to do
When I heard about you (he was kept informed – up to date with the news?) and particularly about
Your faith in the Lord Jesus (true faith having left the world's gods)
And its expression as love for his people (God's big family)
So much to be thankful for.



I have not stopped giving thanks for you,
remembering you in my prayers.

A thankful life (thanks to God for what he had done in them)

A Prayerful life – they were included

Prayers – plural – repetition - often?

What is prayer?

Conversation? with God

cf. Adam in the garden

Jesus in the upper room, and in Gethsemane

And for us – the Lord's prayer (topics to share in our conversation)

What about the place of silence?



Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

What about wrestling in prayer. Genesis 32:24?

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the glorious Father,

Who he prays to here

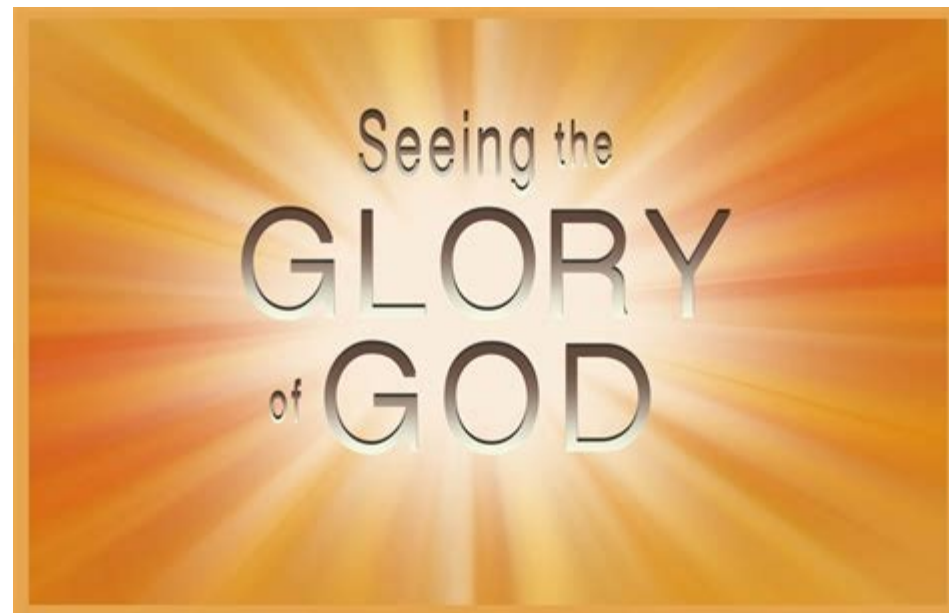
The Father - 1st person of the Trinity who is the Father of his
unique Son – given his full title

How do we know he is glorious?

Romans 1:20, Psalm 19:1 creation

His great acts and revelation in scripture - Exodus 33:19-21

His revelation in his Son - Hebrews 1;1-3



may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation,

Very precious gift from God

The Holy Spirit

But they had already received Him.

They need His working in them to confer his wisdom for living holy lives and his revelation work to know and understand this new relationship



so that you may know him better.

What you “know” of God now is real, but there is more that he wants to reveal. (fully know – in the Greek)
To know him is all about your relationship with him.



John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened

A heart with eyes!

The inner core of our beings need 'light' that comes to these 'eyes'. The senses we have to understand, value and love him



Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you,

The result is we know (understand and experience) hope
Not some vague feeling but to be assured of the glorious
destiny he has chosen (effectively called) for us.



*Titus 2:13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the
glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ,*

the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

The hope defined – riches!! vs, world valuations
Glorious inheritance – received from and with the
Lord Jesus – the heir
What is glory like?
In the saints – in the recipients and seen in them

*Psalm 33:12 Blessed is
the nation whose God is
the LORD, the people
whom he has chosen as
his heritage!*



and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Hope defined – there is more
Power beyond measure (it is his power!)
At work for and in all believers (us) an active faith
in the Lord Jesus, the Father and the Spirit.



That power is like the working of his mighty strength,

The incomparable power compared – it is like

Seen when demonstrated

The strength of his might (cf ch. 6:10 same phrase)

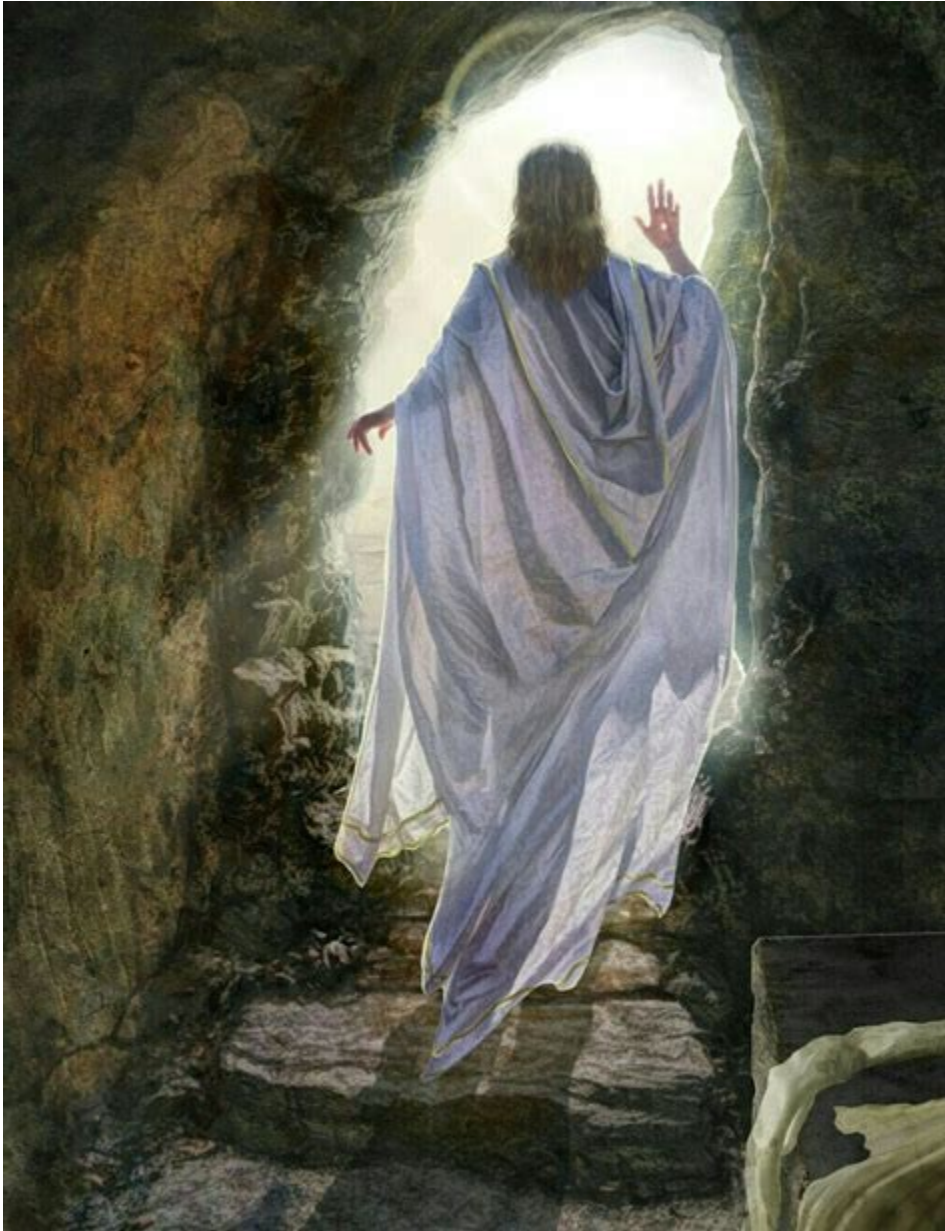
The store/power supply = strength

The working = might = God's active use of his power

What was the greatest demonstration of the working of his mighty strength?



which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead



The resurrection of Jesus was the culmination of the redemption and the affirmation that everything he set out to achieve had been accomplished
Romans 1:3-4

The resurrection of our Saviour from the dead required great power – and this power is now at work in us and for us.

and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

The power of God demonstrated
Placed the risen Saviour on the throne as the executor of
the Father's will in the highest place.



far above all rule and authority, power and dominion,
and every title that can be given,

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory

All other sub-authorities are under his rule.
God has the last word in all matters.

Jesus is there now interceding for us
1 John 2:1



not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

He is active now, but there is also an 'age-to-come'

He will be active and ruling then also

An eternal reign

Luke 1:33 - the angel Gabriel's description.



Revelation 22:3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.

And God placed all things under his feet

The Father has placed the responsibility of ruling and judgement under his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ



*Under
Everything
His Feet*

John 5:26-27

For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,

Given the role of headship in everything
For the blessing of the church (his people)
Working all things for good

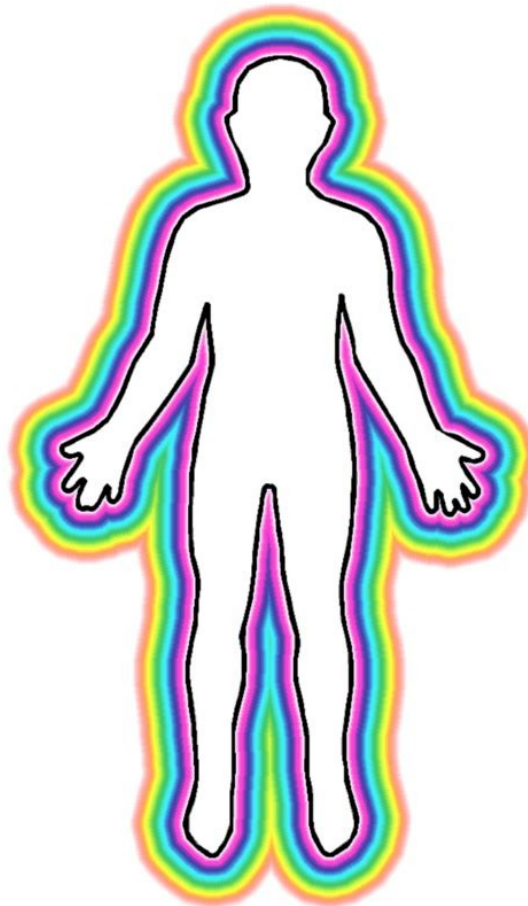


Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

The church - which is his body,

A creation image : a head and a body

An organic whole, united with him, directed by him
and working together as a united body



the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

The church expresses his fullness

Grace flows into us and through us

He is the continual source of life and blessing in us

cf. John 4



John 7:38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

Paul's prayer request for them is to know God as a daily living reality in the lives of all his people.

What is the chief end of man?

To glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

The church of the Lord Jesus is the focus of that work, consisting of all the redeemed, Jew and Gentile down the ages of those in heaven now and those on earth.

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.