

Introduction:

When looking at the challenges of our world, there are times when we pray, look around, and honestly wonder, “*Lord, where are You?*”

⁹ Have mercy on me, LORD, for I am in distress. Tears blur my eyes. My body and soul are withering away. ¹⁰ I am dying from grief; my years are shortened by sadness. Sin has drained my strength; I am wasting away from within. ¹¹ I am scorned by all my enemies and despised by my neighbors—even my friends are afraid to come near me. When they see me on the street, they run the other way. ¹² I am ignored as if I were dead, as if I were a broken pot. ¹³ I have heard the many rumors about me, and I am surrounded by terror. My enemies conspire against me, plotting to take my life.

Psalm 31:9-13

Definition of dejected = sad, depressed, and dispirited

Whether:

- Moses – “face down”
- Elijah – “asking to be killed”
- Esther – “completely overwhelmed”

In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence.

Hebrews 5:7

The context – Ephesus

- **A renowned city:** A multicultural port in modern-day Turkey driven by global trade, commerce, and entertainment.
- **Paul's history:** Paul heard about Ephesus on his first journey, visited briefly on his second, and stayed for three years on his third.
- **Cultural Environment:** The city was packed with idols, dominated by the Temple of Artemis, and filled with commerce, trade, multiculturalism, and entertainment.
- **The Lecture Hall Strategy:** After being kicked out of the synagogue, Paul rented a neutral lecture hall for three years, causing the Word of God to multiply dramatically.

The context leading up to Paul's prayer

Ephesians 1:3-14

- **The theological reminder:** Before praying, Paul reminds them that despite persecution and economic pressure:
 - They possess every spiritual blessing in heaven.
 - They are chosen, holy, and blameless in Christ.
 - They are adopted into Christ's family, redeemed by the blood of Jesus, and completely forgiven.
 - They have an eternal inheritance and a secure hope.
 - They have been sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Paul's prayer:

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ I pray 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 His holy people, ¹⁹ and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the Church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 1:15-23

1. Remember ____ you are and ____ God has done.
2. Grasp that there is a _____ and there is a _____.

Request #1: The 18-inch journey

Ephesians 1:17

- I pray a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may ____ Him better.

Request #2:

Ephesians 1:18

- Grasp a perspective of _____ through the lens of _____.

How?

and His incomparably great power for us who believe.

Ephesians 1:19a

Application:

- Write down verses 17-19.
- When you feel dejected, tell God about it first.
- Believe that prayer is the most powerful force in all creation.
- Choose the attitude that the power that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you.
- Remember there is One who is in control, positioned at the right hand of authority with God, with all things under His feet. You can pray with authority, power, and hope when you feel absolutely overwhelmed and dejected.

Discussion Questions:

1. In what areas of your life or in what circumstances have you recently felt "dejected" (sad, hopeless, or dispirited)? How did it impact your prayer life?
2. Of the three things Paul prays for believers to grasp (the Hope of His calling, His glorious Inheritance/your value, His great Power), which one do you struggle to believe the most when you are going through a hard time?
3. What specific step can you take this week to implement the "eighteen-inch journey" from your head to your heart using Ephesians 1:17-19?