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The Exceeding Greatness of His Power  
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Amen and good morning. It's good to be together. Turn to Ephesians chapter one. If you would like to follow along with the teaching notes, we have those available online on our Forerunner Church website. Go to [forerunnerchurch.com](http://forerunnerchurch.com) and follow along with the teaching notes if you'd like. This morning, we're gonna look at Ephesians chapter one. We're looking at mostly verse 19, but this apostolic prayer, verse 17-19. It's what we're gonna look at this morning. I'll read the verse and then we'll pray together. Ephesians 1:17, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, would give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you would know the hope of His calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints and the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe according to the working of His mighty power." Father, we love You, and we love Your Word, and we ask You, Lord, for that spirit of wisdom and revelation today. We ask for a fresh impartation today. We ask, Holy Spirit, that You would enlighten our understanding, that You would enlighten the eyes of our heart. That You would show us the riches and the beauty and the glory and the splendor of Jesus, that this people, this spiritual family would be alive on the inside, fascinated with You, Lord, loving You, worshipping You, praising You all of our days. Would You count us worthy of this call. We ask that You would visit us and speak to us, Lord. Help me to speak well of You and well of Your Son this morning. In Jesus' name, amen.

Well, if you've been around IHOPKC and Forerunner Church for a little bit, you've probably heard this prayer in Ephesians 1 many, many, many times. It's called an Apostolic prayer, and we have a whole bunch of them that we have, you know, identified in the New Testament. An apostolic prayer just means it's a prayer that the New Testament apostles, they prayed, and typically they prayed those prayers for the church. They prayed that the church, especially Paul would grow in her understanding and love for Christ and be enriched in the knowledge of God and all these sorts of things. So, that's what the apostolic prayers are.

And probably, in my estimation, at least, the chief apostolic prayer is this prayer right here, Ephesians 1:17-19. And if you've been ever down to our prayer room that's down there on Red Bridge Road, and I'd encourage everybody to go check that out. If you've been in that prayer room, you've probably heard this apostolic prayer prayed many, many, many, many, many, many times. And one of the problems with that is that for us as believers, we run this subtle danger of things becoming overly familiar. And it's almost like if you've been in the prayer room sometimes you'll hear the person pray this, and I don't know what they're thinking or feeling, but I've done this. You just kind of, you know, get up there, "I'm praying for the church in da da da da from Ephesians 1:17... Spirit of wisdom.... revelation.... amen." And we kind of use, you know, the Word and these verses as like the launching pad for what we really want to pray, and the verses really aren't that important, but you know, what we have to pray is super important, and what we have to say is super important. So, for me, that often becomes the case, and so recently I've just been convicted by the Holy Spirit, convicted by the Lord in this verse in verse

19 has just arrested my heart in a fresh way. And I mean, I've looked at this verse and prayed this verse hundreds, maybe more times in my life. And this is one of the things that I just love about the Lord. And what I love about the Word of God. You can read the same old verse a thousand times, and then on the thousand and 1st time, you just get that little swoosh of the Holy Spirit, that little awakening, that little stirring of "Wait, I've never thought of that before. This is fresh and new." And there's so much freshness and newness to be had in the Word of God and in the apostolic prayers.

And this phrase, it's in verse 19. Paul says that we would know the exceeding greatness of His power toward us. For whatever reason, again, I've heard that prayer, thought about that prayer, that little phrase, many, many times, but just for some reason, it is just touching my heart and gripping my heart in just a fresh way, and that's just what I'm gonna be sharing on this morning for us.

What does Paul mean in verse 19? What is he talking about? The exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe according to the working of His mighty power. The exceeding greatness of His power toward us means there exists presently, even right now in this room, for every believer, for every Christian, a power that is beyond our human ability and comprehension. And this power is working in us and through us to lead us into something. And the something that that power is ever present. It's there, it's accessible, it's available, it's often untapped and unused, but the power that the Holy Spirit wants to release in us and through us isn't just the power for signs and wonders and miracles.

I like thinking about the power of God, like in me, in you lies the power of the Holy Spirit where you never know what's gonna happen. You lay your hands on the sick, you lay your hands on the suffering, whatever, given an encouraging word and someone's life is transformed or reenergized or whatever, but that's not the power primarily that Paul is talking about here in verse 19. He's talking about an exceeding greatness of power to reveal the beauty of Jesus. And it's interesting that Paul, when he's praying for the church in Ephesus, he could have prayed for anything. He could have asked for anything. I mean, he is this great apostle, this mighty man, and he's going, "What I want to happen in your heart, church in Ephesus, what I want to happen in your heart, church, Forerunner Church across the nations," you know, whatever. "What I want to happen," this is the Lord, you know, he's writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He says, "What I want to happen is I want you to connect with the power of My Spirit that's available and accessible to you that will lead you into the deep things of God and reveal the beauty of My Son. I want you to connect with that more than anything else, actually."

More than the Lord maybe wants the outward stuff, and I mean, the outward stuff, the signs, the wonders, the miracles, those don't always transform the human heart by experiencing them or by doing them yourself. The power on the outside to deliver, to heal, to preach. I mean, I want that power. I'm not saying that's a bad power, but I'm saying that that doesn't always lead to the human heart delighting itself fully in God and walking in the first commandment reality. It doesn't always lead to that.

The early century that experienced the ministry of Jesus when He's walking on the earth and He's doing signs and wonders and miracles, the signs, wonders, and miracles did not always produce

on the inside, the fruit of intimacy with Christ. Largely people saw those signs and wonders and wrote them off and rejected Him later because of a whole bunch of things. There's this working power that's available, that's accessible to us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, but the thing is is that the Lord won't force our hearts and won't force our lives into intimacy with Him and into the unsearchable riches of the knowledge of God. The Lord won't make us do it. It's an invitation. That's why Paul is praying it for the church in Ephesians because it shouldn't be assumed that any Christian or believer is just automatically walking in it. You don't pray and ask for things that you already have. That would be silly. I mean, if you already have it, you don't have to pray and ask for it to still happen. And there are many, many things that have been given to us through the Gospel of Jesus Christ and that new birth reality that we don't have to pray and ask for anymore. For example, if you're a Christian, you don't have to pray and ask for the new birth. You've already experienced it. Now, we might pray for a greater understanding of it, a greater knowledge of it, but Paul is praying that the church in Ephesus, that we would pray and ask God, "Lord," verse 18, "Lord, let me understand, open the eyes of my heart, that I would be enlightened, that I would understand verse 19, that there is a working power in me, toward me from God. And I want to increase in my understanding of that power," and that's why we're talking about this this morning. This power, why does it exist? What is it for? How do we access it?

When this power, when this power of the Holy Spirit, this exceedingly great power touches our heart, there's this transaction that happens on the inside of the believer. This transaction, I cannot over exaggerate the importance of this transaction happening on the inside. It's when the Holy Spirit reveals the Person of Christ to us in a way that moves us. When we come in contact, when we come into the experience of seeing the beauty of Christ, what He's like, how He sounds, what He looks like, what He is doing, how He feels toward us, His people, there's something in us in this transaction with Holy Spirit that touches us on the inside and deeply satisfies the longing of the human heart.

And it's so rare, that experience, it's so important to us because the majority of the time, Christians don't always access that power that's working towards them to reveal the beauty of God. We're content most of the time with the outward things of our life just getting a little bit better. If things just get a little bit better and a little bit easier, than we're satisfied. And I love Paul, this man that goes, "I'm not satisfied with anything outwardly getting better or getting worse. As a matter of fact, I'm not going to determine my value, my goal, the purpose of my life. I'm not going to determine any of it by what's going on on the outside. And whether I'm helping lead a revival, planting a church, ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit, or I'm being beaten with rods, imprisoned, you know, shipwrecked, swimming in the sea," he goes, "None of my life, the purpose, the meaning of my life is not contingent upon those things a all." He goes, "There is an exceeding greatness of power towards me from Christ whom I personally know, and when He reveals God on the inside of me, my heart explodes with delight." He goes, "I don't want, my ultimate goal," as far as how he defines success, he goes, "I don't define success by things making sense and life getting easier in the outward. Whether the ministry grows or goes down, whether the tent-making business is up or down." He goes, Philippians 3, "I count it all loss. I could it all as rubbish for the upward call that is in Christ Jesus. I want to know Him. I want to know the power of His resurrection, the fellowship of His suffering. I want to be conformed to

His image; I just want to know Him. When my heart touches the beauty of God, something awakens in me, something comes alive in me, and life makes sense."

We're to make sense of life not through our outward circumstances, not through our relationships. Not through if we're being promoted or demoted. Not through our place on an org chart, not through our place and the eyes of the workplace of our boss or manager or whoever we report to. We're to make sense of our life through the upward call, the internal riches of experiencing the beauty of God. That's how we're to make sense of our life.

And the reason that, I believe, so many, including myself have such a difficult time, get hit with disillusionment, despair, discouragement, depression. We're living in one of the most medicated generations in all of human history is because I think, on the inside, the human being is longing for something that the world, even in ministry, even in the church, that cannot satisfy those things, those longings of the heart on the inside.

And Paul, when he prays for the church in Ephesus, and when we pray this prayer for the church in this city and across the nations of the earth, there is a great need to connect into the reality that there is an exceedingly great power that is working toward us to bring us into the experience and the revelation of the beauty of Christ Jesus. And only when we do that, I'll say that boldly. It's only when the believer does that that life makes sense, that it's all worth it. That Paul can look at all the sufferings of his life and say, "All of these sufferings, all the trails and tribulations and persecution I've endured, all of it just pales in comparison to what I've seen and experienced on the inside in God. He's bringing me into something." He's bringing us into something.

Do you know that the next generation that's coming up behind us, their capacity, the longing of their heart is so enlarged, it's so disrupted by the spirit of this age, and God is going to anoint a generation right before our eyes to touch the exceeding greatness of God's power toward us. And my heart would be that myself and all of you and the next generation and our children and our children's children, that we would all enter into the reality of this. That we would find that inner delight and satisfaction in the beauty of God, that when we look at the word of God, when we talk with the Holy Spirit, that there would be this exchange that would happen where we give God our ashes, we give God our despair, we give God our bitterness, our brokenness, our disappointments, we just lay it all out in front of Him. He gives us beauty for ashes. He gives us His beauty.

When God reveals God to the human heart, there is nothing like that transaction, and that transaction is the most rare transaction on the earth because to have that transaction process, you've got to be a born again Christian. You've got to believe that that transaction is possible and that it's valuable, and then you've got to slow down even for a few minutes, you've got to slow down and allow the Holy Spirit to take your heart into where you cannot go on your own. We'll talk about more about that in just a second.

The church in the earth, we're meant to live like this, the beauty of God and the riches of the knowledge of God is meant to be the fuel that sustains our heart. There is no other fuel. We can imagine there to be other fuel. We can imagine that things just going a little bit easier and people liking us more is the fuel that sustains our heart, but it really is not. It really is not because life, as

you know, is ups and downs. It's the Ferris wheel of favor. One minute you're at the top looking out across the world, and the next minute, you're at the bottom of the Ferris wheel near the strange carnival guy that's running the ride. And you're like, "I want to go back up now. I'm scared." You know?

It's all about Him. It's all about the beauty of Jesus. It's all about intimacy with God. This is what we're about. This is what we're to be about. This is what our whole spiritual family is to be about. That's why we have a day and night prayer room just down the road. Do you know the reason we have the prayer room isn't just so that we have a place to pray when we can't sleep at night, though that does exist? The reason we have a prayer room down the road isn't so that we get all of our prayers answered and then everything gets easier. The reason that we have a prayer room down the road isn't so that our ministries and marriages and families and businesses all get blessed. The main reason we have a prayer room is because there's a Man named Jesus who's so beautiful and powerful that when the angels and the saints in heaven see Him and look at Him, they can't shut up about how glorious He is. You can't talk them out of it. You can't stop them. You can't shut the meeting down. Like, "Hey, we gotta sweep off the sea of glass here. There's a lot of tears and spit and all sorts of things. We're just gonna pause the prayer." They're going, "No. You can't take me away from this beautiful Man. I don't want to leave. Please don't make me leave." And there's a cry within the human heart to be fascinated with that type of beauty and splendor and majesty that you don't have to leave, and for the last 20 years by the grace of God, there's been a prayer meeting that's been sustained through weak and broken people because Jesus is worthy and beautiful and we don't want to shut up about it. Because when you touch that beauty, when you touch the power of who He is, something's transformed on the inside. You go, "Oh, yeah, this is why You made me. It's for You. I was made for You."

The Lord began to confront this issue in my heart. This was probably two and a half years ago. He began to really hone in on this issue in my heart. And I'm sitting there, you know, in one of the prayer meetings. It's really early, and I can barely see. And I'm sitting there. I'm like, Lord, "This isn't working for me. It's just not working for me right now. Just, I want the lights.... It's too bright in here. It's too loud in here. It's not this person I want. The person next to me, their humming loud, their singing loud, they're praying in tongues loud. This just isn't working for me." I'm just having this internal complaint with the Lord. He goes, "That's the problem. You think this is all for you." He goes, "This isn't mostly about you." He goes, "Have you seen My Son? Have you seen how beautiful and magnificent He is?"

See, that's how Paul and Silas are singing hymns to God in prison. They didn't have a good worship leader in prison. They were the worship leaders. I mean, I'm hoping. I don't know about Paul, but I'm hoping Silas kind of had a good voice. They didn't have AC. They didn't have the convenience of coming in when they wanted and getting nestled down and setting up all their commentaries and journals, and their, you know, fifteen passages, women's Bible Study with the margins and doodle central. They didn't have that. They're in chains. And I'm like complaining in my heart to the Lord, like, "Lord, this just isn't working for me." He's like, "Wait, when was that apart of the deal?" It's not about working, and I like when things work for us. I'm not trying to get things to not work for us. I'm going, there's something else going on. There's an exceeding greatness of God's power in us that's calling us and prodding us. And if we will agree with it. If we'll partner with it, He will take us into things that we can't possibly even communicate.

I want to get to the place where I'm like the prophets and the men and women of God who saw Him. When John sees Him it's like, he's trying to describe God. Why? Because he got taken into the unsearchable riches of who God is. So, he's like, "He's kind of like a diamond." You know, I picture him like coming back and preaching that to his fellow prison mates on the isle of Patmos. He's like, "Guys, God is like a diamond." They're like, "We know, John. You've said that thirty times in a row." Where human words are just vapor. There's not enough to describe the explosion of delight and the storm raging on the inside of our hearts as we encounter the beauty of God and get swept into His majesty. That's where I want us to go. That's where I want to go. That's where you should want the person next to you to go. In such a place of the riches of God.

You know, the Gospel was just the beginning to the riches, the unsearchable riches of the knowledge of the beauty of God. It's just a gateway. It's just a doorway. It's not the end result. Sometimes it's portrayed as like, "I ran my whole life, and I was looking for God, and finally I found Him." And now the story's over. And the Lord's going, "Actually, I've been searching you out My whole life, and I've been trying to show you My beauty and My splendor, and I'll go to any means necessary to do it. I'll take My own beautiful Son, lay aside His glory, lay aside His riches, clothe Him in fleshly garments to hide His unapproachable light, send Him down to Bethlehem, and let Him walk among the poor of the earth. That's how committed I am to you seeing My beauty."

The Lord longs to reveal the beauty of God. He'll go to any lengths necessary. Look at the cross. There's nothing that will stop Him from having a family and having a bride that is lost in the unsearchable riches of who He is.

Paul opens this letter in Ephesians 1, and he has this repeating phrase. He says it three times in verse 6, verse 12, and verse 14. He keeps repeating. He's going, "To the praise of His glory. To the praise of His glory. To the praise of His glory." Paul was walking in a dimension of revelation. He was so filled up with the beauty of God and the glory of God. He's going, I'm going to lay out to you the central truths of the Gospel in this letter in six chapters. I'm going to lay out the essential truths, but I can't help but sneak in what happens and what this whole thing's about. It's all about the praise of His glory erupting out of all of us. The praise of his glory doesn't erupt until you see His glory. The praise and adoration of the beauty of God doesn't erupt until you actually see it and encounter it and believe it. We need a revelation of the beauty of God. We need those eyes of our heart to be, just rip off the eyelids of the eyes of my heart to see God as He truly is, to see the perfect Man, Christ Jesus, in all of His splendor and glory, and then just let the chips fall where they fall as far as our lives and the details and how it all goes. If we could just get a vision of the beauty of the Son of God and then just let the chips fall where they fall, I bet you the gates of hell would tremble over a church that did that.

The more as they grow in God, the whole purpose of the Gospel is that people would praise and glory in Christ, and as the ages go on and on and on they would keep on praising and keep on glorying in Christ as His beauty is unveiled age after age after age after age. And our heart is struck.

The word 'praise' that Paul uses in the Greek means there's an accurate acknowledgement of the One who is being praised. There's an accurate acknowledgement. There's an appropriate

response when the human heart sees the true beauty of God. Even when they see the beauty of one another, they're tempted to worship. When an angel shows up, often times the person encountering the angel is tempted to worship the angel. Why? Because they come, they're clothed in the glory of God. They're shining. They've been in that all-consuming fire.

John the Beloved, John the Apostle is bowing down worshipping the angel. Peter, in the story of the transfiguration, he's falling down. He's worshipping Moses and Elijah because he can't bear the weight of glory. He can't bear something so beautiful. He goes, "I've never seen anything like this before. Let's make a tabernacle for Jesus. Let's make a tabernacle for Moses. And let's make one for Elijah. Because they're all so beautiful; let's just worship them all.

There's something in the human heart that just longs for that encounter and experience with God. Now, there's capital E encounters where you go there, like you go up or someone comes down, those capital E encounters. But there are lower case e encounters. Those are the encounters that are accessible to all of us, and we can get into the place of prayer with the holy Spirit, and He goes, "I will put something in you to encounter My beauty that you're not even ready for." The more that we see Christ, the more that He is savored and enjoyed by him.

If you're following along in the notes, Paragraph 3, the power to know Him. The power to know Him. The Gospel of Jesus Christ in the new birth opens up to humanity a whole new way, a whole new power, a whole new access to know the Holy, divine, and transcendent God. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not a four bullet-point thing that we hand to someone or that we just read and believe and go on with our lives. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is that the veil between the transcendent and the natural, between the holy and the unholy, just like that veil in the temple has been ripped open so that anyone who wants, anyone who's thirsty, anyone who desires the things of God can enter in to that unsearchable ocean of His riches.

The cross has opened up far more to the Christian than forgiveness for our sins, healing for our bodies, the restoration of our marriages, and the blessing of our finances. The Gospel of Jesus Christ cannot be, must not be reduced to the kind of secret meeting that you have so that you can get into the Jabez prayer, pray it, and then everything in life will make sense. The Gospel of Jesus Christ cannot be reduced to that. Jesus did not come to the earth just so that we can kind of be washed and just go on willy-nilly life business as usual. He said, "I came to reveal the Father. I'm gonna release the Spirit, the Holy Spirit inside of you to reveal the beauty and the unsearchable riches of who I am." The Gospel is only the beginning.

Guys, the good news isn't just that your sins are forgiven. It's that you can be lost and romanced in the beauty of God for all of eternity. The Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Good News is that the goodness doesn't end. The fascination doesn't end. The pleasure doesn't end. He's gonna open up a fountain of pleasure and delight called His beauty, and the nations will come and drink, and we will delight ourselves in the Person of God in such a way that is deeply fulfilling and powerful. We won't want anything else. We won't want it.

Ephesians 1:17 emphasizes the invitation to encounter and be fascinated by the Person and beauty of Jesus. And you've heard the verse before, many of you, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, would give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the

knowledge of Him." The knowledge of Him is the knowledge of Christ. It's the knowledge of the Man. It's the experiential knowledge of God. It's not knowing something in my mind. It's being convinced of it in my heart in a way that changes everything about the way I live, about the way I spend money, about the way I express my power and influence. It changes everything. I'm convinced that Jesus Christ is a real person, that He is beautiful, that He is fully God, and I want to get lost in Him forever. I want to get lost in the romance. I want to get lost in the relationship. That's what He's longing for. Guys, He's lost in the romance of romancing you and me. That's why He came. He put love on display, not just to defeat sin and death. He wants to show that He's in the romance business. He wants to romance the heart of His people. He goes, "I want you to know beyond a shadow of a doubt the way I feel about you, and then I want to reveal to you how I feel about you." That's called the beauty of the Lord.

And when that revelation touches our heart, when we believe that God actually likes us, that He enjoys us, that He wants us, that He's pursuing us, that there's a power that He's releasing upon us to encounter the deep things of God, it might make Christianity actually enjoyable. It might actually make it bearable because so many live under the yoke of Christian ethic that we just have to obey God or He's disappointed. They live under the yoke of Christian ethic that we just have to obey Him or He's gonna reject us at the judgement seat. Beloved, that is a spirit of religion. The Lord wants to break that spirit of religion off. No, you don't have to earn God's favor. You've already received God's favor. You've already received His affection, and now you get to open up your heart and have Him pout in the beauty and revelation and splendor of who He is.

Paul knew that the church needed a guide to know the riches of Christ. That's what He's talking about, verse 19, the exceeding greatness of His power towards us who believe. This power exists and moves to bring us in to what we can't experience on our own. Now, if you're like me, you've been to a museum or art gallery. We've got the Nelson Atkins art museum just downtown with, you know, the big birdies in the front lawn. So beautiful. And you know, you take kids there on field trips and stuff.

So, we'd grow up with field trips going down to the Nelson Atkins art museum, and you know, shield our eyes from the inappropriate enlightenment paintings or whatever those were. Keep going kids, keep going, keep going... And you walk past something and you might notice this group of people, and they have a tour guide, and their speaking in low voices. They're looking at some picture hanging on the wall, and they're there for a really long time. Their students from like an art school or something and everybody has note pads, and they're always writing, and I'm like, what are they writing? And they're there just looking at it. And I walk by, and I walk by and think it looks like a Cheeto, keep going. And if you're not an artist, like me, I don't consider myself an artist. You might have thought to yourself, "I could have painted that." And you ask the tour guide, like, that's the only question that we ask. "How much is that worth?" And they're like, "2.7 million dollars, but it's actually priceless." It's like, I'm pretty sure I could have dipped my hand in a can of paint, sneezed, walked away, and been like, "I'm a millionaire."

Why is that? It's because I don't understand the nature and the beauty of what's in front of me. I don't know the story. I don't know the history. I don't know the composition. I don't know the artist and how they like their coffee taken, but they are people who devote their lives to the most

seemingly meaningless details of people's life and the author and what their mother's name was and what kind of dog they had, and whatever. And they create these masterpieces that are hidden away in some like, French countryside villa house, and someone's like pulling open a cabinet somewhere and there's this masterpiece and it's stuck on the back of a cereal box. And people freak out about it. I mean, they freak out about it. I feel like we're finding, you know, the news, the news shows, I feel like we're finding the most rare pieces of art like every week. It's like, "We just found another super rare piece of art. The most rare than all the other rare ones we just found last week."

And these people, you know, they'll sit in these art galleries and studios. And just so you know, I'm not making fun of artists. I'm going to make a point here. I'm making fun of myself. So, they sit in these art galleries, in these studios, and they just look at these pictures for hours, right? Because they understand what's going on. To me, it looks like a Cheeto. To them, it's like this deep, spiritual, emotional experience where there's like this transaction, and they're like connecting with the artist of this painting through the beauty of what they see. Hello? They're proficient. They know all the stories. They know all the history. They want to find out everything they possibly can because every detail lends itself to enjoying the beauty of the picture that's in front of them.

Do we, as Christians, treat Christ in that same way? If we say that He's the most important thing, if we say He's the most beautiful thing, and we sing the songs, "You're the beautiful, beautiful, beautiful God. If we do all those things, if we say it, if we go to the conferences, if we buy the teaching tapes, we recommend our friend listen to this thing on the beauty of God, do we ever sit there and look at the beauty and just marvel at it? Do we learn the backstory of the artist? Do we learn about Jesus and His family and what were His siblings names, and every work that He did, and every miracle that He did? Do we care about those intricate details? Do we get in and eat it up because our heart is so consumed with beauty?

Paul knew that we needed a guide. He knows that we needed a guide. Jesus knew that we needed a Guide. He said, "I'm gonna send you a Guide. I'm gonna help you because you're looking at something that you think is just another art piece on the wall, but you don't understand that you're actually seeing the most rare treasure that you can possibly see. You're beholding the most beautiful thing that you could possibly behold," but we just breeze right past it.

Jesus says this in Matthew 16 verse 13-15, He says, "Whoever hears," or excuse me, look back at verse 13, "However when He, the Spirit of Truth has come," now He's talking about the Holy Spirit, "Whenever the Spirit of Truth has come, He will guide you into all truth." You need that guide. You need the tour guide to stop you and explain to you what you're seeing right here and why it actually matters. We need our hearts and minds to be filled with information so that we can actually behold the beauty of Jesus and it impact us instead of just breezing on by. And there are so many in Christendom, we're just breezing by. We're just breezing... We're missing it. We're missing the beauty of God evidenced in one another. We're missing the beauty of God evidenced in the Word. We're missing the beauty of God in prayer. We're like, "Ahh, prayer's boring. Ahh, this is boring. Ahh, that is boring." And it's because we're not seeing the beauty in it. We need a Guide. He says, "He will guide you into all truth for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears," the Spirit who searches the deep things of God, whatever He

hears, He's gonna tell you, and verse 14 says, "He will glorify Me." He's gonna tell you things about Jesus that so deeply impact you, so deeply transform you that all that's gonna come out of your heart is again, the praise of His glory, the praise of His glory. "I can't help but worship. I can't help but give my life to You because I've seen You as beautiful. The Guide led me here and now I'm here and I don't want to leave. I just want to gaze at Your beauty."

This is the cry of David. Psalm 27:4. He says, "One thing have I desired of the Lord. That one thing I'll seek." Do you know how big of a statement that is for the King of a nation to say, "The only thing I want to do is sit in a prayer room and gaze on Your beauty, inquire in Your temple." That is a bizarre and rare and powerful and beautiful statement. We're all trying to get on the throne to be kings. That king, David's trying to get off the throne to be a priest to gaze on the beauty of the Lord.

The Helper will guide us into all truth. Look at this verse, 1st Corinthians 2, 1st Corinthians 2 verse 9 and 10. "The Spirit of God is the One who knows the deep things of God." Paul writes in verse 9, "It is written, eye has not seen and ear has not heard, nor has entered into the hearts of man the things which God has prepared for us who love Him." And then sadly we stop the verse right there. When our kids come and ask us, "What's heaven like?" "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard." "What are the angels like? What's the realm of the Spirit like? What's Jesus like? What's God like? What's the Trinity like? What's the Godhead like? What is eternity? What does Ancient of Days mean?" "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it entered into the hearts of man." I just skip the first part... anyway.

Listen to this, verse 10, look at this, "But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit." Beloved, there is a revolution coming. There is a re-vitalization in the heart of people to touch the things of the Spirit and the riches of the knowledge of God by this exceedingly great power that works in us and toward those who believe.

God has revealed them to us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, the deep things of God. The Gospel of Jesus Christ gets you to the shoreline of the revelation of Jesus Christ, but it's the Spirit of God, it's the Guide in our willingness that throws ourself into the ocean and begins to explore the depths. He will guide us into all truth. He will guide us into the revelation of Christ' beauty. He will guide us into things that we can't even express, that we have to say a sardius jasper, emerald rainbow God, because words fail us, but our heart is burning and alive. Look, you can have all the words, you can have all the knowledge, Paul said, and be a clanging gong. If the beauty of God isn't awakened within our souls, then what? Then what? This is what we were made for. This is what He came to do. This is the purpose of the cross. He goes, "I want to reveal who I am to you in such a way that your whole life is transformed from the inside out, My beauty will be injected in. My glory will be injected in. You'll see it. You'll savor it. You'll want it more than anything, what you tasted."

Paul says that eye has not seen. Christ is beautiful beyond our comprehension and imagination. Even the most holy of angels, even the most exalted seraphim in heaven, those that are nearest to the throne, cover themselves because they're so overwhelmed by the glory and the splendor of what they're seeing. They're so overwhelmed. They can't bear that type of beauty.

Have you ever seen beauty so magnificent that you were afraid that you're gonna die? Have you ever encountered a beauty so alluring so that you didn't want anything else. You would pay any price. You would sell everything you had, and you would go find that one pearl. You would give it all for that one thing. That's the beauty of the Lord. That's what Abraham is seeing right now. That's what Paul, the apostle, is seeing right now. That's what your grandma is seeing right now. They are fascinated with the beauty of God and you couldn't tare them away even if you were to give them all the kingdoms of the world. They would not want to leave. It's a beauty so terrifying and so powerful and transformative that the only thing they can sing and hold before the throne of God, the only thing those creatures can sing is, "You are completely other-than." That's what the word 'holy' means. You are completely other-than. You are completely other-than. Why? Because there's a huge gulf between that which is uncreated, the Godhead, and that which is created, all of us and the angels and plants and animals. There's a huge gulf in between. How could we possibly get over there? You need a guide.

As a matter of fact, the Greek word, exceeding greatness of His power means to throw beyond, to throw beyond. The Holy Spirit working in the heart of His people throws them across that gulf, that cannot be crossed even if we wanted to. It takes us from being just creatures into experiencing a transcendent God that has no beginning and no end, who is spirit and fire and light and passion and love. It means to throw beyond, the exceeding greatness of His power. Ear has not heard. Paragraph 3, nor has entered the heart of the man. We can't, we don't have the emotional constitution on the inside of us to bear the weight of God's beauty if He were to fully manifest to us. It's like drinking from a firehose of pleasure that would just cause us to erupt and we go, "God, I'm so full, I'm so filled up with You, I can only handle a drop."

I remember during the Student awakening 2009-2010, coming in this room, worshipping, crying out, "I can't handle any more of God," and He's like, "It's only beginning." "I can't handle more of Your presence. I can't handle more of Your love because I feel like I'm going to burst." He goes, "I'll give you a new heart. I'll expand your capacity to love. I'll expand your capacity to experience My beauty. I'm gonna keep expanding and expanding if you let Me." Give Me permission. Give Holy Spirit permission to get into your life and mess things up. Get that exceeding greatness of His power flowing on the inside and get brought and swept into the beauty of God.

Many live at peace with their measure of understanding. Many live at peace with the amount that they have on the inside. I've done it for years. Because I stopped reaching. I stopped engaging. He goes, "I've given you My word so that you would talk to Me about it, so that you would talk to Me about My beauty and about the way that I feel about you." That's that inner explosion. That's the deep things of God, that transaction we need to happen by the Spirit of God on the inside.

Many are content to simply get by with the experiences of the past. Some experienced God five years ago and you haven't even done the math that it was five years ago. Jesus prays in that great prayer, He says, "Our Father in heaven, today I need daily bread, today. Sustain Me on the inside." He's not just talking about, put some food on the table and hopefully we get some pasta spread around for all the kids. He's saying, "There's a sustenance that only comes from Me and

by My Spirit that you were meant to feed on, and if you're not feeding on Me, your soul is starving or worse, you're feeding it with something else from this world."

Paul was not satisfied with the measure that he had. David was not satisfied. Mary of Bethany was not satisfied. John the Baptist was not satisfied. They weren't asking, "Lord, if You answer these three things, then my life will be good to go." They were going, "How much of Your beauty can I drink in in this life without dying, and if I die, I just go to drink more anyway, so..." I don't want to slow down. I don't want to be satisfied and plateau. Who wants to plateau in their Christian faith? It's miserable. There are the deep things of God and the Holy Spirit wants to guide us into all truth.

I invite the worship team to come out. The is my question for us, "If the Spirit of God is manifesting a power in us, and we didn't even talk about the nature of that power and how mighty and great that power is. Some of that's on the last page of the notes, but if the Holy Spirit is manifesting a power like that to us, the question is, how much of God can we get? How much of God can we get? Do we have a vision for the inside of our own souls to be just wounded and ruined and just thirsty for the beauty of God? I can't wait to get back to the beauty of God. I can't wait to gaze upon Your beauty. Maybe the Lord would let us be like David, eager to get off of our throne and gaze at His. Let's pray.