**Open My Eyes, That I May See**

*Psalm 119:18*

**Introduction**

1. There is a danger in the thought that we know all and perceive all.
   1. We should have a confidence about us as Christians.
   2. However, humility should be an ever-present virtue we possess.
2. **Psalm 119:18** – this should be a constant prayer of the Christian.
   1. This prayer comes from the presupposition that we surely don’t know everything, and if there is something we do not know specifically we cannot know our deficiency unless someone exposes our ignorance.
   2. The person who thinks they know everything actually only knows what they know – inevitably there is still much to gain and thus benefit from, but the arrogant know-it-all deprives himself of such knowledge.
   3. The Christian is to always possess the humble disposition of a student before the great Master Teacher – if there is something I don’t know that I need to know, please show me.
   4. GROWTH IN KNOWLEDGE ALWAYS COMES FROM A REALIZATION OF IGNORANCE.
3. This prayer, along with diligent study of God’s word, will equip us with what we need to be pleasing to God.
4. **Proverbs 3:7-8** – we should seek to be wise before the One who is all wise, which requires a constant humble estimation of self.
5. Principles of the Prayer
6. The Destructiveness of Ignorance
   1. Some people are comfortable and content in what they know, and would rather remain in a state of ignorance about the things they don’t know.
   2. There is a fear of knowing with such people.
   3. These are people who possess a type of complacency – “Ignorance,” they say, “is bliss.”
   4. The end of this path of thought is destruction – **Hosea 4:6**
   5. Those who don’t know will be destroyed – **2 Thessalonians 1:8** (do not know God – is a general concept that includes all who aren’t faithful in all things – **cf. 1 John 2:3-4**)
7. The Danger of Lacking a Desire to Know
   1. The Psalmist’s fervent desire for knowledge – **Psalm 119:20** – his desire is so much it is crushing. (“I want it so bad it hurts.”)
   2. Sometimes we learn things even when we aren’t seeking to learn that thing.
      1. However, one who lacks the desire for new knowledge, thus shuts out instruction, will not learn from circumstantial teaching.
      2. WE MUST CONSTANTLY CULTIVATE A DESIRE FOR LEARNING.
   3. Jesus warned about this obstinate mindset – one which is closed off to further instruction:
      1. **Matthew 13:11-15** – Why Jesus spoke in parables.
         1. **(vv. 11-12)** – It has been given in the sense that you have the desire to understand and know. SINCE YOU HAVE THAT DESIRE FOR UNDERSTANDING, YOU WILL BE GIVEN UNDERSTANDING.
         2. **(vv. 13-15)** – Parables are used so that only those who really want to understand will understand. THEY DON’T UNDERSTAND BECAUSE “THE HEARTS OF THIS PEOPLE HAVE GROWN DULL.”
      2. Take heed how you hear – **Luke 8:18** – i.e. we must hear with honesty, and the desire to know and understand the truth, OR ELSE WE WILL REMAIN IGNORANT, AND BE DESTROYED.
8. The Need to Accept the Discomfort of Reproof
   1. A major reason some want to remain ignorant is due to the fact that learning new things always comes with being proven ignorant, and often comes with being proven wrong, which requires change.
      1. This is why the key to being right with God is humility.
      2. **James 4:6, 10** – the proud are resisted, but the humble are lifted.
   2. Growth requires the enduring of pain – “growing pains.”
   3. A disciple of the Lord must not be afraid of the negatives that come with learning:
      1. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – there is going to be reproof in teaching, and the subsequent need for correction.
      2. This is how scripture thoroughly equips us.
   4. This is the nature of God’s love – **Proverbs 3:11-18** – chastening comes from God’s love, and results in a life of blessings.
9. We must pray for God to open our eyes to the matters of His word – **Psalm 119:18** – but we must also be practical with such a prayer, asking God to help us see the applications of that knowledge to better ourselves before Him.
10. Open My Eyes, That I May See
11. My Own Sin
    1. Contrary to what some teach, Christians can live without constant sin.
       1. The Bible teaches we must – **Romans 6:1; 1 John 3:9**
       2. However, there is the acknowledgment that sin may creep in – **1 John 2:1**
       3. Therefore, we must have a vigilance about us, and the desire to be shown our sin.
    2. When we don’t see our sin – **Luke 18:9-14** – parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector
       1. We cannot be justified by God.
       2. Like the church of the Laodiceans – **Revelation 3:17**
       3. David is a prime example – **Psalm 51:3** – he acknowledged his transgression.
    3. Need for self-examination – **2 Corinthians 13:5** – are you in the faith?
    4. We must be able to see our sin in order to repent of it, and make things right – **Leviticus 4:13-14, 22-23** – the sin of ignorance still makes us guilty.
12. What Spiritual Improvements I Need to Make
    1. God calls us to growth:
       1. In Knowledge – **2 Peter 3:18**
       2. In the spiritual stature of Christ – **Ephesians 4:13** – applying the knowledge of Christ to live like He did.
    2. It is true that not all have the same abilities/talents – **Romans 12:4-5** – different functions, thus, each member brings something different to the body.
       1. However, as individuals, we must not make the assumption that we are already doing ALL WE CAN.
       2. The acknowledgment that all have different gifts to put into action does not equate with the inability to develop in other areas.
    3. It might be that we simply aren’t doing enough with the talents we know we have – **Matthew 24:18, 27** – JESUS DIDN’T REBUKE HIM FOR ONLY BEING ABLE TO BE TRUSTED WITH ONE TALENT, BUT FOR NOT DOING ANYTHING WITH THAT ONE TALENT.
    4. What do I need to work on? – **Galatians 5:22-23** – ALL CHRISTIANS ARE REQUIRED TO BEAR THIS FRUIT.
       1. However, there is a need for constant inventory – do we possess these characteristics?
       2. Also, we may need to improve in these areas.
    5. Instead of assuming we are doing well, we need to consistently ask God to show us if we are not.
13. How to Strengthen My Marriage
    1. The permanency of marriage – **Matthew 19:3-6** – one man, one woman, for life.
       1. **(vv. 7-9)** – Goes on to list the ONE exception – fornication.
       2. God hates divorce – **Malachi 2:16**
    2. Marriage doesn’t just work, IT TAKES WORK!
       1. **Matthew 19:10** – The disciples conclusion to Jesus’ teaching of marriage for life, with one exception of fornication.
       2. The stringent nature of Christ’s law on marriage makes the decision to marry extremely important.
       3. FOLLOWING, IT MAKES THE RESOLVE TO STRENGTHEN ONES MARRIAGE TO MAKE IT HEALTHY EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.
    3. This prayer for God to open our eyes to see how to strengthen our marriages REQUIRES HONEST INTROSPECTION, AND DILIGENT INVESTIGATION.
       1. Be more like Christ – **Galatians 2:20** – the best way to strengthen any relationship is to be a better Christian.
       2. Recognize your debt of love – **Romans 13:8-10** – when you married, you are giving up self for another – **cf. Ephesians 5:28-30** (members of one another – one flesh – love each other as self)
       3. Humbly serve each other – **Philippians 2:3-4** – marriage is not about getting your own, but serving another.
       4. Communicate – like our relationship with God, the marriage relationship thrives on communication – **James 1:19-20** – sometimes we need to just listen, and do so without getting angry.
    4. We need to ask God to show us where improvements need to be made in our marriage, and then be watchful to see those matters.

**Conclusion**

1. Christians should constantly be aware of their dependence upon God.
2. We need to pray for God to open our eyes to matter pertaining to truth.
3. God can work providentially to show us matters in our lives that need improvements, among other things.
4. However, we have to be willing to accept what God shows us, instead of ignoring it.
5. We should be praying the prayer of the psalmist every day – **Psalm 119:18**