

*Miraculous Mosaic #31: Knowing God Better: Spiritual Balance*  
*Ephesians 1:15-17*  
*February 13, 2005 - Dave Desforge Preaching*

**Scripture Text:** Ephesians 1:15-17

<sup>15</sup>For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup>I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>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.

**Balance: Knowledge and spirituality**

- 1) As you look back over your own spiritual journey with Christ, can you identify seasons of imbalance? What were some of them? Why do you now look back on them as imbalance? What did you learn of benefit in those seasons? What are your regrets from each season?
- 2) If you are a new believer or seeker, how does it strike you to hear long-time believers speak of seasons of imbalance?

**Balance: Knowledge, Experience and Relationship**

Dave used the example of knowing grief – as a word, from a book, sharing life with grieving people and then losing close family members – as an example of pulling knowledge, experience and relationship together.

- 3) Why is it important to be reminded that “knowledge” in Hebrew culture was more than simply “facts”?
- 4) What are some new things that you have been “learning” in a new way lately?

**Balance: Intellect and Faith**

- 5) How has your faith been nurtured by intellect? How has your intellect been nurtured by your faith?
- 6) “The facts or content of the Gospel are important, but not enough.” What did Dave mean by this? How have you experienced its truth in your own life?

**Balance: Possession and Petition**

- 7) How is the pursuit of Christian maturity made different by thinking of it as “asking God for what I already have”?

**Balance: Individual and Community**

- 8) Has maintaining balance seemed more like a fearful tightrope for you or a joyous dance on a log in the woods?

## Blessings

Dave ended with a “shower of blessings” that are ours “in Christ.”

Review this list as a group. Are there any surprises? Are there any that have been particularly important for your life? As your group prays, have each person identify and share a blessing that they need to have “re-tattooed” into their life.

- a. **Chosen:** God planned to bl3ss us before planning anything else. Our blessing existed before the world did (1:4a).
- b. **Transformed:** Supernatural change is His promise and a process In the end, we will be like Him in love, until then we are being moved towards the goal (1:4b).
- c. **Destiny:** We have a guaranteed happy ending and destination – intimate relationship with God (1:5a).
- d. **Adopted:** God accepts and enjoys us as His children and relates to us as a perfect Father (1:5b).
- e. **Meaning:** Our lives exist to be extraordinary stories of grace, leading us and other to praise Him (1:6).
- f. **Redemption:** He is in the process of setting us free from our unhealthy and destructive patterns and from the controlling influence of outside forces (1:7a).
- g. **Forgiveness:** God will not in any way hold our sins against us now or forever (1:7b).
- h. **‘Effusiveness’:** He doesn’t hold back but rather lavishes us with His grace, love and blessing (1:8). Undepletable grace!
- i. **Wisdom:** God let’s us in on the mystery of the purpose of the universe and all of history, giving us global perspective.
- j. **Revelation:** He reveals to us His will and plan for the end times: to united the broken and fractured universe through and under Christ’s healing authority (1:10).
- k. **Assurance:** In spite of appearances sometimes, things in the world and our lives are progressing according to plan (1:11).
- l. **Comfort:** Our Father’s will WILL be done and we can exhale. Nothing and no once else will determine our destiny or the world’s (1:11).
- m. **Church:** He has place us in a new community and family to pursue unity, relationship and maturity in love together (1:12).
- n. **Gospel:** ‘GOOD news’ is written over our journey and destiny (1:13).
- o. **Salvation:** He rescued us. He is rescuing us. He will rescue us (1:13).
- p. **Sealed:** We are marked with a guarantee of the blessings and promises (1:13).
- q. **Indwelled:** God’s presence is alive in our hearts through His Spirit, who is like a deposit assuring us of future blessing (1:13)
- r. **Inheritance:** God has stored up a wealth of blessing for us to receive in the next life.
- s. **Possession:** Our Father awaits our arrival home: treasuring us as His own most valuable and desired inheritance.