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The Rabbi's Prayer for Godly Wisdom 1: 15-23

Insight comes from understanding the relationship between cause and effect. Scientists propose theories based on cycles and predictable observed patterns. Sir Isaac Newton posed the theory of gravity based on an apple falling straight down to the ground. The effect revealed the cause. In our lives as believers, we see the realities of cause and effect. **Rabbi Sha'ul** prayed that the **Ephesian** believers would realize the effect salvation through faith **in Messiah** had in their daily lives. It is generally understood by Bible commentators that **Paul** wrote **Ephesians** to both the church in that city as well as to other churches within the vicinity and influence. Therefore, when **he** referenced a report **he** heard about their faith **(1:15)**, this applied to both those believers with whom **he** was familiar **(Acts 20:17-18)**, but also to others whom **he** did not know personally. So, with a pastoral concern for some of **his** audience with whom **he** was not familiar, it was entirely appropriate for **Sha'ul** to pray that they would be enlightened in their faith.

In writing this letter, **Paul** followed a fairly standard approach to letter writing in the Greek-speaking world. The writer would begin with some type of thanksgiving and then follow with a prayer. However, the content of **Paul's** thanksgiving was not typical, but as **he** counted the great blessings of **ADONAI** (**to see link click An – The Basis of Spiritual Blessing in Messiah**), a single sentence made up 203 Greek words. Following **his** anthem of praise to **the Lord** for **His** spiritual blessings, **the rabbi** shared **his** prayer for those to whom **he** wrote. This was a logical spiritual progression. **The apostle** prayed for **his** hearers that **God** might grant

them the realization of **Messiah’s** great work on their behalf. **Paul** never got over the amazing grace of **YHVH** that was revealed to **him**. **He** was amazed at **God’s** greatness as well as the riches of **His** goodness.[80]