



CEO Devotional – January 21, 2013

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Eyes of the Heart

Ephesians 1:17-19, “*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. 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 the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.*”

I am moved by the power and depth of this passage. It expresses Paul’s desire for us to dive deep into our faith and knowledge of God. Paul is inviting the reader of his letter to experience the glory of God and partake in the inheritance of those who believe in His Son. His desire for the people of Ephesus to experience this renewal should motivate us to share the same Good News with those around us: our families, coworkers, friends, and strangers.

An example of this for me occurred on a plane flight from Haiti. I had just completed a mission trip and was sitting in first class in seat 1B. I was wearing jeans that had paint on them and a T-shirt with the orphanage logo that I had volunteered at (I had left everything that I brought for the missionaries at the orphanage). The woman in 1A was in an intense conversation on the telephone. She was dressed impeccably with flowing bracelets and necklaces of gold. She looked at me with a wary eye as I seated myself.

I felt the Holy Spirit call me to connect to her hardened heart so that the eyes of my heart would see the goodness in her. It turned out that she was from one of the wealthiest families in Haiti. They owned the Coca-Cola bottling company as well as most of the major car dealerships. By the end of the flight she told me that “if I died today, I feel I have not done something of true meaning.” This opened the opportunity to share God’s love. I connected her to the orphanage to set up a work study program that she would supervise.

What are the eyes of the heart?

“In biblical usage the heart is the whole inward self, comprising mind as well as emotion. So ‘the eyes of the heart’ are simply our ‘inner eyes,’ which need to be opened or ‘enlightened’ before we can grasp God’s truth.” (Stott, John R.W. *The Message of Ephesians*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1996, page 54.)

What opens the eyes of the heart? Short answer: The Holy Spirit.

We need light to see. Simple but powerful, without light there is no sight. II Corinthians 4:5-6, “*For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*”

Light to see what?

- 1) *The hope to which He has called you.*
- 2) *The riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.*
- 3) *His incomparably great power for us who believe.*

Ephesians 5:8, “*Live as children of light.*” I encourage you to close your eyes now, think about this message and see with the eyes of your heart.