

*Every Spiritual Blessing*

**Lesson 2**

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

*The Hope of His Calling*

**Memory Verse:**

“...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints” **Ephesians 1:17-18**

Do you realize God has called you personally to Himself and He has given you not only a new identity, but purpose with meaningful things to do? It’s true! Everyone who comes to God by faith in Jesus Christ is born again to a new and living way. And that is not all. God has given you His Spirit. Do you ever stop and really take in what that actually entails? The Holy Spirit is not just a part of you but He inhabits all of you. The Holy Spirit in a person is the power and presence of God and He changes you from the inside out and will affect even how you perceive and interact with all that surrounds you. In this second half of chapter one, Paul prays, “that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened to know the hope to which God has called you and to know the riches of His glorious inheritance” that is now ours as believers. Paul is talking about being chosen, being called and being empowered—in a word HOPE! Hope for the past, the present and the future, and it’s all found in Jesus who is the Hope of Nations. Do you need hope right now? There are several things we can be tempted to see as hopeless but through the power of God we can be assured that there is HOPE! As we dig into the Word of God we will find that there is new life and HOPE assured on every page—guaranteed! Studying God’s Word will stir up fresh faith as we are reminded of HIS truths!

**Day 1 - Ephesians 1:15-23**

1. Read Ephesian 1:15-23, underline words and phrases that stand out to you and then choose three that stand out the most and write them in the space below, with the verse reference. Think about how or why these words or phrases stir your heart or apply to you and write that down as well.

a. Word/Phrase: \_\_\_\_\_(v.)

Applied to me: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Word/Phrase: \_\_\_\_\_ (v.)

Applied to me: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Word/Phrase: \_\_\_\_\_ (v.)

Applied to me: \_\_\_\_\_

2. In Ephesian 1:15-23 we read Paul's prayer asking God to do a specific work in the believers lives. What does Paul ask for? List them here:

Ultimately, Paul is praying God's will for the Ephesians! This prayer is also one we can pray for ourselves and others, knowing it is God's will for all believers as well.

3. What is the greatest need in your life right now?

a. According to these verses of "prayer," how can you see God meeting your need?

The Word of God is referred to as a "solid rock" to stand on for hope, vision, stability, promise, assurance and confidence. Jesus is the Word (John 1:14). We must take the Lord God at His Word and believe Him. Hebrews 11:6 tells us, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." Mark 11:24 states, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." It is a right of a child of God to pray to Our Father in Heaven, in Jesus name and receive from Him. Do you believe that?

Sometimes it seems that what we ask for we don't receive. Perhaps we are asking for the wrong thing? James writes, "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures" (James 4:3). If we are honest, sometimes we are trying to tell God how best to work out an issue without considering His vast knowledge, understanding and wisdom for the situation. Whatever it is that you bring to the Lord right now, can you trust that in His infinite wisdom He will do things in the best way possible? If you are having trouble you can pray like Thomas, "Lord, help my unbelief" and the Holy Spirit will help you. Call to the Lord now. God knows all things and He truly does know best

and is working all things for your good and His glory. Let Him align your heart with His. Take this time to write a prayer to God and stand on the ROCK OF AGES—JESUS CHRIST—THE LIVING WORD and allow Him to bless you and fill your heart with hope and peace. He can do the impossible!

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” — Corrie ten Boom

## **Day 2 - Ephesians 1:15-17**

1. Read Ephesians 1:15-17: What are the reasons Paul is giving thanks and praying for the believers in Ephesus? \*Hint look at the previous verses.

Paul is giving thanks for their faithful trust in Christ for salvation and the inheritance they as believers' have received “every spiritual blessing” (i.e. election, predestination, adoption, grace, redemption, forgiveness, wisdom, understanding, knowledge of God’s will and plan, being sealed and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and receiving the eternal reward of being a child of God). Paul prays for believers to be confident in all Christ has done, and that **they would grow in their faith and truly know God intimately in a very personal way**. He prays that, *“the Father of glory, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power”* (verses 17-19).

2. What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge? (Use a dictionary, bible dictionary or bible study help tool for a better understanding)

Wise (wisdom):

Knowledge:

- a. How do wisdom and knowledge work together?
- b. How does having the spirit of wisdom help us to apply the revelation of knowledge about God, or what we know about God, in our lives?

Many people can have a lot of knowledge about somethings but it does not affect the decisions they make or attitudes they have. Others can be wise about many things, but have absolutely no knowledge of God. As a Christian, we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us and He will give us divine spiritual wisdom so that we may grow in our knowledge of God. He reminds us of what we know about God so we can rightly apply that knowledge in our daily lives. As we walk with God (walking in the Spirit) we also glean wisdom from our experiences as God works in our lives. We learn more about His character and apply what we know to every aspect of our lives.

3. What do the following verses teach you about different types of wisdom?

Proverbs 4:5-13

Proverbs 9:10

James 1:5-6

2 Corinthians 1:12

- a. How does James 3:13-18 compare the wisdom God gives versus the wisdom that is demonic?
  - b. How does seeing the difference between *wisdom from above* and *demonic wisdom* help you to make sure you or others are moving in God's wisdom?
4. Paul prays that along with spiritual wisdom, believers would grow in the knowledge of God. There are things we do intentionally when we want to get to know someone better. What are some ways that indicate to you that you really know God or what things are you intentionally doing to help you to know God in a more personal way?
5. Are there improvements in your relationship with God that you would like to see? What do you think God would like for your relationship? Do you ever find that you hold back from

God or have trouble being truly personal with Him? The Lord wants you to be close to Him and He desires to be close to you. Look up the following verses and write down what they say about God and drawing close to Him.

James 4:8

Isaiah 55:6-7

Psalm 145:18

Hebrews 10:19-22

Things in life will try to spoil our relationship with God. The Enemy of our souls will try to use these “things” whether they be good or bad, to distract us from investing in our relationship with God. Our own weakness along with the enemy’s lies will encourage us to run away from the Lord when we are hurting or overwhelmed. Instead, we should run to the Lord who is able to help us with everything in life. You are God’s precious child whom He loves beyond measure. He wants you to come to Him with everything—your hurts, troubles, doubts, responsibilities, frustrations, joys, needs, desires, hopes, even your sin, your shame, your “I blew it again God”—absolutely everything! He tells us “come to me all you who are weary and carry heavy burdens and I will give you rest” in Matthew 11:25-30 NLT.

6. Finish your time today in prayer asking the Lord to show you if there is anything hindering you from growing in your walk with Him. He loves you and desires for you to know Him more because there is nothing compared to the goodness of the Lord in our lives!

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

—A.W. Tozer

### **Day 3 - Ephesians 1:18**

Paul was praying for these believers to have Spiritual wisdom and a greater personal knowledge of God because they were called to a new life! His prayer is that they would understand what that meant for them. These same blessings apply to believers today!

1. Look up Ephesians 1:18 in various Bible translations (such as NLT, ESV, ASV) Write out what Paul was asking God to bless the believers with in Ephesians 1:18:

\* The New King James version reads, “the eyes of your understanding,” but “understanding” is translated “heart” in most other translations and uses the term the “eyes of your heart.”

- a. What does the “heart” represent in our lives?
  - b. What do you think a “calling” is?
2. Why do you think it would be so important that that our “hearts” would be enlightened, by the knowledge of the hope of His calling on our lives, why would what a person knows in their mind need to be believed in their heart?
  3. Let’s examine the “hope of His calling” personally by seeing what scripture reveals. First we must establish that God has called us by His grace unto salvation and He has a purpose for our lives. He then by His Spirit empowers us to live out His calling, His purpose for our lives. Look at the following verses and write what you observe about our “calling” as believers:

1 Peter 2:9-10

2 Timothy 1:9

We have been called to salvation in Christ Jesus receiving a living hope and inheritance incorruptible and we are kept secure by the power of God (1 Peter 1:2-5). Jesus is the Hope of Nations and we who are called by Him have received new life—a holy calling. As such, Jesus gave us this commandment, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35).

“He said, ‘Love . . . as I have loved you.’ We cannot love too much.”  
—Amy Carmichael

4. The Hope of His calling is not only for personal assurance, but it is to overflow our lives, it is to be proclaimed and shared, not just in word but in action and truth. Take this time to reflect on what you have learned today. In light of these truths how do you think God wants you to walk in this calling?
  - a. What should confidence in Christ produce in your life?

- b. Are there ways you may resist His call on your life through unbelief or disobedience?

Take these things to the Lord in prayer, talk to Him, confess to Him your fears, failings, needs, and let Him refresh you.

"We can be tired, weary and emotionally distraught, but after spending time alone with God, we find that He injects into our bodies energy, power and strength." —Charles Stanley

**Day 4 - Ephesians 1:19-23**

1. Read Ephesians 1:19-23 Not only does God want you to know His heart towards you personally in the hope of His calling but God wants you to know the greatness of His power towards you and the working of His power. Highlight all references to power and might in the verses below and note what each reference is telling you about God's power and how it applies to you.

*v.19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.*

God's power and work: \_\_\_\_\_

Applied to me: \_\_\_\_\_

*v.20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*

God's power and work: \_\_\_\_\_

Applied to me: \_\_\_\_\_

*v.21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*

God's power and work: \_\_\_\_\_

Applied to me: \_\_\_\_\_

*v.22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

God's power and work: \_\_\_\_\_

Applied to me: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Have you ever felt powerless or just completely drained of energy? Of course, we all have. But God's power and strength never runs out—Hallelujah! 1 Corinthians 4:20 states, "For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power" (NLT). Look up the following verses and record what they say about God's power and authority and how those who trust in Him benefit from His power.

2 Samuel 22:33

2 Chronicles 20:6

Romans 15:13

2 Peter 1:3

3. After reading the above verses write your own statement about the greatness of God's power and how He has called you to live by it.

"God knows what each one of us is dealing with. He knows our pressures. He knows our conflicts. And He has made a provision for each and every one of them. That provision is Himself in the person of the Holy Spirit, indwelling us and empowering us to respond rightly."

—Kay Arthur

## **Day 5 - Review and Reflect**

1. Day 1: We learned how Paul prays for the believers to know and understand God thanking Him for their faith and “every spiritual blessing” they have been given in Christ. We learned about bringing to God our deepest need standing on His Word as a solid rock for help. As you did that, in what ways has God moved this week in helping you with your need?
2. Day 2: We learned about wisdom and knowledge and how the Lord desires for us to walk in Spiritual wisdom, applying it to our lives and interactions. How does spiritual wisdom help us grow in our relationship to God?
3. Day 3: We learned about our hearts and understanding being enlightened to the Hope of His calling. What is the Hope of His calling? What should be our response to Christ’s calling?
4. Day 4: Re-read Ephesians 1:17-19 again. This prayer is for the Ephesians but it is for us as well. And we want our answer to Paul’s prayer for our lives to be “Yes and Amen!” But, sometimes we neglect what God has blessed us with and allow things to hinder us. What keeps us from agreeing with the “Yes and Amen” answer to this prayer in our own lives? What are some reasons we do this and how can we overcome these obstacles?
5. Pray for others to receive the Hope of His Calling and that your life would be defined by the love of Christ moving in every spiritual blessing and grace God has given you. Write out at least two people’s names that you are trusting the Lord to bring to salvation and commit to pray for them throughout this study. No matter how hard the situation or tough the person may seem, our God is mighty to save and He can work on a heart like no other. The Lord has given you His might to work with Him for His purposes and glory, so take them in full confidence to the Lord in prayer and watch Him move.

“Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them.” —Elisabeth Elliot