



SIT Walk Stand

A Study of Ephesians

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Introduction

Background

At the end of his second missionary journey, Paul visited Ephesus where he left Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:18-21). This strategic city was the commercial center of Asia Minor....Ephesus was a religious center as well, famous for its magnificent temple of Diana (Roman name) or Artemis (Greek name), a structure considered to be one of the seven wonders of the ancient world (cf. Acts 19:35). The practice of magic and the local economy were clearly related to this temple. Paul remained in Ephesus for nearly three years on his third missionary journey (Acts 18:23-19:41); the Word of God was spread throughout the province of Asia. [The Open Bible, "The Time of Ephesians", pg. 1159, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1985.]

The most important city in the Roman province of Asia (western Turkey). Ephesus was a bridgehead between East and West. It stood at the end of one of the great caravan trade routes through Asia, at the mouth of the Cayster river. ...the city was magnificent, with streets paved in marble, baths, libraries, a market-place and theatre seating more than 25,000 people. ...by New Testament times the population had grown to something like a third of a million, including a great many Jews. [Atlas of Bible History, pg. 46, A Lion Book, 1986.]

Time Frame of Writing

Paul wrote the "Prison Epistles" (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon) during his first Roman imprisonment in A.D. 60-62. These epistles all refer to his imprisonment (Eph. 3:1; 4:1; 6:20; Phil. 1:7, 13, 14; Col. 4:3, 10, 18; Philem. 9, 10, 13, 23), and fit well against the background in Acts 28:16-31. [The Open Bible, "The Time of Ephesians", pg. 1159]

General Outline

I.	SIT	1-3
II.	WALK	4-6:9
III.	STAND	6:9-6:24

Reference Material

"Sit, Walk, Stand" by Watchman Nee, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. and Christian Literature Crusade, 1977.

The general outline for this study is taken from the above book. I hope you will take the time to purchase this material and begin reading...I believe the truths set forth in this little book (as derived from the Scripture) will radically change your life.

Overview to Chapter 1

Comments

We will find in chapters 1-3 that Paul urges believers to know their position “in Christ.” This position is not some theological ideal that does not reflect reality but is in fact literal truth. We are encouraged to understand our “position” so we might learn to REST on who we are “in Christ.” Hebrews 4:10 explains that he who enters into God’s rest “...hath ceased from his own works as God did from His.” Watchman Nee describes it this way:

Most Christians make the mistake of trying to walk in order to be able to sit, but that is a reversal of the true order. Our natural reason says, if we do not walk, how can we ever reach the goal? What can we attain without effort? How can we ever get anywhere if we do not move? But Christianity is a queer business! If at the outset we try to do anything, we get nothing; if we seek to attain something, we miss everything. For Christianity begins not with a big DO, but with a big DONE. [Sit, Walk, Stand. pg. 14]

Chapter 1 of Ephesians will explore six areas where we need to just sit down and rest.

Outline of Chapter 1

Outline	Key Phrase	Scripture
I. Our Calling	<i>Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God</i>	Eph. 1:1a
II. Our Identity	<i>in Christ</i>	Eph. 1:1b-11
III. Our Purpose	<i>we should be to the praise of His glory</i>	Eph. 1:12
IV. Our Security	<i>sealed with that holy Spirit of promise</i>	Eph. 1:13-14
V. Our Relationship	<i>the knowledge of Him</i>	Eph. 1:15-18
VI. Our Victory	<i>exceeding greatness of His power</i>	Eph. 1:19-23

Our Calling

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God

Eph. 1:1a

Comments

Generally, we Christians are so consumed with “finding the will of God for my life” that we end up missing life in the process. Life is too precious to spend searching for something we might already possess. I do not intend to explore all the aspects of this problem in this little text. I do intend to focus on one issue that is paramount for believers to understand in relation to the will of God. It is so freeing to know that God desires for me to be in His will more than I ever could...He’s not trying to fool me! Believe it!!

Key Truth

- Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh [Galatians 5:16]
- For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God [Romans 8:14]
- When Christ, who is our life... [Colossians 3:4]
- I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh (this body) I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. [Galatians 2:20]

One key truth we must realize: when a believer is “walking in the Spirit” he is, by definition, in the will of God. Period. Although there are many aspects to the “will of God,” if each believer could hold onto this truth I believe we would see less anxiety among Christians and more effective ministry.

Walking in the Spirit

When you trusted Christ as your Savior, the Lord Jesus came to live on the inside of you in the person of the Holy Spirit. His desire is to express the very life of Christ through your life. How? It means total surrender on your part so He can express through your personality, behavior, words, etc. the fruit of His Spirit [Galatians 5:22-23]. Every morning (and whenever you think about it) wake up and say, “Lord, I yield myself totally to your control. You are my very life. Express Your life through me in every possible way. I trust that You are doing exactly what You desire.” Then, by faith, begin your normal routine and trust that Christ Himself is expressing His life through you at this very moment [walking / living by faith]. There will be times when your flesh takes control. You lose your temper. You react instead of respond. You defend, protect, etc. your rights and reputation. When you become aware of this, bow your head and pray “Lord Jesus, somewhere I got off track and took control. Right now, I yield myself to You and trust that You are responding through me. Thank-You that You are my very life.” Remember, surrender means the total abandonment of your rights in everything (career, relationships, ministry, being right, etc.).

Walking in the Spirit is simply a moment by moment dependence on the life of Christ in you to respond through you in every circumstance in life (from the routine to the extraordinary).

Confused Calling

The Scripture uses the word “calling” in various ways. One refers to the Lord “calling” folks to be saved. Another use involves those who have answered the “call” to salvation. Still another involves our “calling” or occupation in life. Remember, context ...context ...context is the key. Paul was called to be “an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God” [Ephesians 1:1]. He had a specific “calling” for a specific ministry. In fact, he had an unusual and supernatural experience when God “called” him to that position [Acts 9:1-19]. Don’t get hung up on HOW God calls individuals to various occupations...that’s His business. The question we should ask ourselves is, “Am I listening to God? Am I walking in the Spirit?” Remember, He wants you in His will more than you want to be there. Relax. Trust that He will speak to your mind and heart to direct your life as you are yielded to Him. Our responsibility is always “instant, complete obedience.” That’s the mark of a surrendered life.

Better or Worse Callings

There are those who believe one “calling” is better or more spiritual than another. They probably also believe they are in the better one. NOT. The body of Christ is made up of individuals with various gifts and calling, no one calling better than the another [I Corinthians 12:14-31]. When the scripture refers to the “best gifts,” it does not mean that a person is better or worse but rather the gift itself has a stronger impact on the body of Christ. This phrase is used in I Corinthians 12:31 referring to the gift of tongues (languages) as being the least of all gifts. Believers trying to edify themselves were misusing it in the Corinthian church [I Corinthians 14:4] contrary to it’s primary intention (to preach the gospel in another language to those who could not understand otherwise - Acts 2:5-11). Remember, God places people in the body as it pleases Him [I Corinthians 12:18]. Trust the Lord to show you where your place is in the body for ministry as well as your occupation. Unless the Lord impresses you in a specific direction, pursue by faith a direction and allow God to work in your life and circumstances to fine tune or totally change your course. Meditate in His Word...Allow His Spirit through His Word to renew your mind...He will never lead you contrary to His Word. Read I Corinthians 7:17-24.

Rest

Philippians 4:6 says “Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Rest in the fact that God desires for you to know His will more than you do. Don’t strive so hard and search so long for God’s will. Walk in the Spirit and rest in Christ trusting that He is guiding you right now. Anxiety and worry are the opposite of faith. Don’t worry about what everyone else is thinking or doing...believe and know that Christ is interested in YOU as a person and what He wants to do for and through you...not what you can do for Him.

Our Identity
in Christ
Ephesians 1:1b-11

Comments

Paul opens Ephesians with a reference to his calling and then addresses this letter to the “saints...and faithful in Christ.” I see two ideas presented in this first verse -- Identity and Behavior. “Saints” represents who we are while “faithful” represents how we behave...sometimes. Three axioms we must remember:

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- ① Behavior Does Not Determine Identity
② Identity Determines Behavior
also
③ Misunderstanding Of Identity Will Produce Misunderstood Behavior
-

Who Am I?

Chapter 2 of Ephesians will address this question in more theological detail (looking at who we were before salvation and the transformation that took place)...for now, let’s see who we are “in Christ” according to scripture (i.e. our identity). Remember, when we accepted Christ as our Savior, we were placed “in Him” and He in us (in the Person of the Holy Spirit). Our very identity is wrapped up “in Christ” for He is “our Life” (Colossians 3:4).

My identity “in Christ”: I am...	Ephesians
blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places	1:3
chosen before the foundation of the world	1:4
holy and without blame	1:4
adopted	1:5
to the praise of the glory of His grace	1:6, 12
accepted in the beloved	1:6
redeemed	1:7
forgiven of all sin	1:7
an heir	1:11
sealed with the Holy Spirit	1:13
seated in the heavenly places	1:20; 2:6
quickenened (made alive)	2:5
God’s workmanship	2:10
close to God	2:13
a dwelling place for God	2:22

My Behavior

Many Christians have what I would term an “identity crisis.” They busy themselves with ministry, Christian duty, leadership positions, spiritual pursuits, etc. (all good and helpful in the right context) to create and / or improve their identity. We do it in the working world as well. Our work (or titles / positions) become the identity on which we build our lives. The problem appears when that work, ministry, position, etc. is removed, our identity is lost and our lives are turned upside down...one reason to remember those three axioms mentioned previously. These behaviors or positions are not YOU...your life is “hid with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3-4). Scripture describes the good / bad behaviors or works of believers in many ways. Below are some examples to illustrate the point.

Faithful (Disciple) or Exhortations to Faithfulness	Scripture
if ye continue in my Word, then are ye disciples	John 8:31
he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting*	Galatians 6:8
faithful in Christ	Ephesians 1:1b
walk in wisdom	Colossians 4:5
and ye became followers (imitators) of us, and of the Lord	1 Thessalonians 1:6

* reap life everlasting here on earth. Experience Christ life in its fullness.

Unfaithful (Carnal) or Exhortations Against Carnality	Scripture
ye are yet carnal (worldly)	1 Corinthians 3:1-3
be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage	Galatians 5:1
he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption	Galatians 6:8
fornication...let it not be once named among you....	Ephesians 5:3
quench not the Spirit	1 Thessalonians 5:19

Why are Christians carnal in their lifestyle and frustrated in their walk...it all goes back to identity.

My Focus

Most Christians focus on behavior. They think that by encouraging a fellow believer to modify their behavior (stop this, quit that, don't listen to such and such, etc) they are discipling that person...I believe that is far from the truth. It may very well be that those behaviors are not Christ like, however, they are just symptoms of the real problem... IDENTITY. When a Christian really understands their identity “in Christ” (and begins to believe and accept it as fact) they will adjust their behavior accordingly. The best thing we could do for a “struggling” believer is to help them discover it! Once understood, it forms the very foundation for a deeper, more intimate relationship with Christ. Don't try to force the issue of one behavior verses another, let the Holy Spirit work in His time. For yourself, meditate on who you are “in Christ;” repeat it out loud if you have to each morning and throughout the day; believe and praise God about who you are “in Christ;” in every circumstance in life, rest (SIT) in your identity and trust Christ within you to respond through you His very life...the REAL You!

Our Purpose

we should be to the praise of His glory
Ephesians 1:12

Comments

Have you ever asked the question, “Why am I here?” The **what** is clear...our mission, according to Matthew 28:18-20, is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ (as First Baptist of Atlanta puts it)...but what about the **why**? I believe the Lord answers that question through the apostle Paul in Ephesians 1:12. We’re here to be “to the praise of **His** glory”, not our own glory or as Ephesians 1:6 says “...to the praise of the glory of **His** grace.” Our purpose is to bring praise and glory to the Lord Jesus Christ, but be careful. We’re not to attempt this in our own strength...that would glorify us. We’re to consciously trust Christ to work in and through us His will in every area of life. Remember...His Glory may mean my failure, losing, or sacrifice. His Grace may mean my weakness, humiliation, or frustration. No matter what the earthly results, my purpose is always His Glory and His Grace.

His Glory

In Jesus’ prayer to the Father in John 12:28 He says, “Father, glorify Thy name.” There came therefore a voice out of heaven: “I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again [NAS].” Like Jesus, so our lives are to glorify the Father (1 Corinthians 10:31: “Whether , then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” and 1 Corinthians 1:31: “...Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord” [NAS]). How do you “do all to the glory of God?”

1. Know that we have nothing to boast of in and of ourselves (1 Corinthians 4:7: “...And what do you have that you did not receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? [NAS])
2. Trust Christ’s life within to work through you in all you do (Colossians 1:27: “...Christ in you, the hope of glory.”)
 - a. Realize that apart from Him you can do nothing
 - b. Surrender the performing and results of the specific activity to the Lord
 - c. Believe that Christ is expressing His life in your activity

His Grace

We are never commanded by scripture to live this Christian life in our own strength...it can not be done. We are “saved” by grace and we are to live by “grace.” What is grace? The Greek word is *charis* [5485] meaning a gracious favor or benefit bestowed. It is God’s enabling work within us to overcome our own helplessness. According to Ephesians 1:8 this grace has been “lavished upon us.” Galatians 2:21 and Romans 11:6 are clear that grace is not received by works...period. God has bestowed upon us the very life of Christ in the person of the Holy Spirit. We are, like Paul, to labor abundantly trusting the grace of God to labor through us (1 Corinthians 15:10) and so glorify God as only Christ can do.

His Glory and His Grace are the reasons for existence.

Our Security

sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise

Ephesians 1:13-14

Comments

People from all walks of life talk about security...financial security, economic security, home security, automobile security, personal security, etc. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt “unsafe”, “uneasy”, or unsure of your personal well being? Those feelings can cause you to have one of three reactions: 1. Fight 2. Flight or 3. Freeze. Many believers do not feel “secure” in their salvation; many believe they can lose their salvation for various reasons. What happens to those believers who do not feel “secure” in Christ? Well, some choose to fight...i.e. they muster up all their fleshly talents and abilities and set out to live this Christian life the best THEY can; others choose flight...i.e. they eventually run away from God, the Bible, church, etc.; finally, the last group seems to freeze...i.e. they know they can’t live the Christian life very well, but they do not want to give up...they are just paralyzed in their walk with Christ. Perhaps you fit into one of these broad categories. If so, I ask you to consider the fact that your reaction may stem from a lack of understanding regarding your “security in Christ.”

Key Word: Sealed (1:13b)

The Greek word for seal is *sphragizo* meaning to stamp with a signet or private mark (#4972 Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance). This was

a device such as a signet ring or cylinder, engraved with the owner’s name, a design, or both (Ex. 28.11; Esth. 8:8). A medallion or ring used as a seal featured a raised or recessed signature or symbol so it could be impressed on wax or moist clay to leave its mark.

The seal was strung on a cord and hung around the neck or worn on one’s finger (Gen 38:18; Jer. 22:24). --Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary, 1986, pg. 960.

I find four major uses of the seal in scripture.

1. A sign of a finished transaction (Jeremiah 32:9-10)
2. A sign of security (Daniel 6:17; Ephesians 4:30)
3. A sign of authenticity (Nehemiah 9:38)
4. A sign of ownership (II Timothy 2:19)

Guess what? When you trusted Christ as Savior you were “sealed” with the Holy Spirit. That means the transaction is finished. There is nothing you can do to add to your salvation. No amount of effort can gain you any more of salvation and nothing you do can take away from your salvation...it’s a done deal! Not only that, it’s a secure deal. No one in this universe can break the seal of God; that same seal has sealed you for eternity. It also says that you are the genuine article...you are a child of the living God (See “Our Identity” in this study). Finally, the seal indicates that God now owns you...you are His purchased possession. Incredible! You may not always feel like all of the above, but it doesn’t change the fact. The more you accept what God says about you the more your feelings will align with the truth...eventually.

Key Word: Earnest or Pledge (1:14a)

The Greek word for earnest / pledge is *arrhabon* meaning “a pledge, i.e. part of the purchase-money or property given in advance as security for the rest: --earnest” (#728 Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance). This “pledge” is similar to what we know of today as “earnest money.” When you’re about to buy a house and are really serious, you put down “earnest money” as a deposit for the purchase. This money is typically non-refundable. The Holy Spirit is given as a “pledge” or downpayment of our inheritance (II Corinthians 1:21-22; 5:1-5) which is with a “view to the redemption of the purchased possession (1:14 NAS).” Not only is the Holy Spirit our “Seal” but also the “Pledge” or “Earnest” of our future redemption...if He can’t secure us to our final redemption, no one can.

Key Word: Inheritance (1:14a)

The Greek word for inheritance is *kleronomia* meaning an heirship or possession (#2817 Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance). It is taken from the word *kleronomos* meaning “a getting by apportionment; a sharer by lot, i.e. an inheritor” (#2818 Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance). The Bible says that you have an inheritance (Ephesians 1:11,14) as a believer with all the other saints in Christ (Colossians 1:12). No unbeliever can inherit in the kingdom as described in Ephesians 5:5 and I Corinthians 6:9-11 [These passages are referring to the identity of a person; although a saint can act impure or immoral, that is not who they are in Christ...they are holy, pure and righteous in their personhood no matter how their behavior may appear at times. The unbeliever, no matter how good they may behave is literally sin in their personhood as described in these passages]. This inheritance we’re talking about is pure and will never fade away, “reserved in heaven for you” (I Peter 1:4 NAS). The title of “heir” is not earned by your performance, but is given to you at birth...your second birth (Galatians 3:28-29; 4:7; Acts 26:18; Romans 8:17; Titus 3:4-7).

The apostle Paul’s glorious concept of a spiritual inheritance for Christians is primarily of Jewish origin. But the doctrine was strongly influenced by Greek and Roman inheritance practices. Three of these influences were: (1) inheritance was regarded as immediate as well as ultimate, (2) all legitimate heirs usually shared the inheritance equally and jointly rather than a division favoring a firstborn son, and (3) legally adopted children enjoyed full inheritance rights along with natural offspring. --Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary, 1986, pg. 507.

Practical Application

Are you resting in your “security in Christ?” or are you “fighting, fleeing, or freezing up?” This week, take time to meditate on what the Bible says about your security. Realize that your security rests in Christ, not yourself, your talents, or others. It’s ALL Christ. As you begin to understand the wonderful inheritance that awaits you, your lifestyle will align itself with your new “redemption view.” That’s what the Bible means when it says in Colossians 3:1-2 (NAS)

If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set you mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

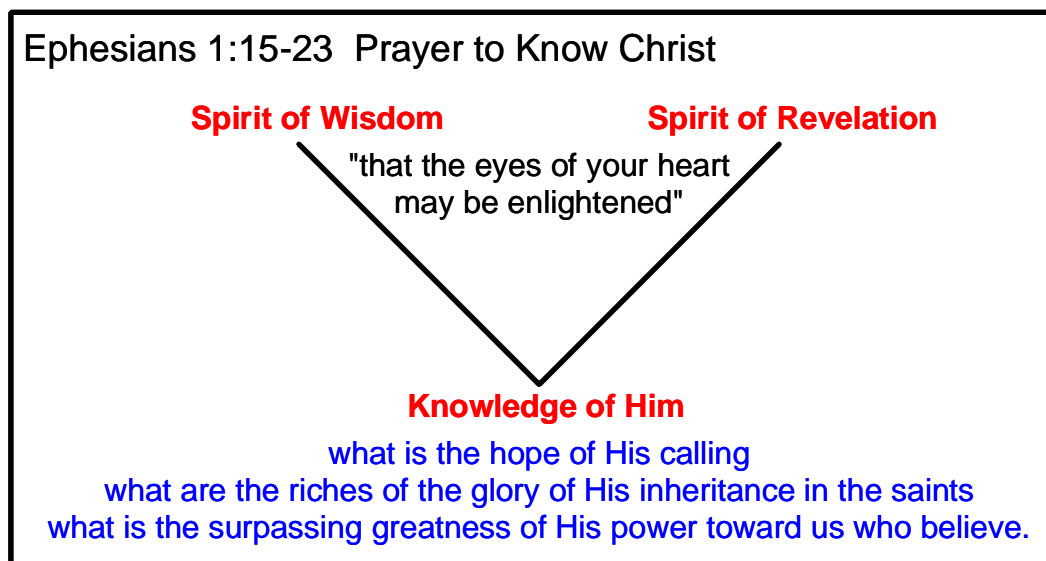
Our Relationship
the knowledge of Him
 Ephesians 1:15-18

Comments

When others examine our lives, how would they describe us? Would we be known for our faith in God and love for all the saints? That's exactly how Paul described the believers at Ephesus. Often we believers get side tracked; our focus shifts, slowly and quietly, to other concerns (work, family duties, church and Christian exercises, et. al). Jesus in Matthew 22:37-40 reminds us to,

...*“LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.*

Paul desires that the Ephesians would deepen their roots in the Lord and prays they would have a special wisdom and revelation to understand Christ...to know him more intimately and fully.



Knowledge of Him

1922. epignosis, ep-ig'-no-sis; from G1921; recognition, i.e. (by impl.) full discernment, acknowledgment:--(ac-) knowledge (-ing, -ment) [Strong's Exhaustive Concordance]

How do we gain this knowledge of God...is it through Bible study, prayer, meditation, memorization, sermons...? These tools and others are important but not sufficient. The knowledge of God is a result of a "spirit of wisdom" and a "spirit of revelation" given to the believer. "Wisdom" (4678. sophia, sof-ee'-ah; from G4680; wisdom [Strong's Exhaustive Concordance]) connotes skillfulness, expertise, sensibleness while "revelation" (602. apokalupsis, ap-ok-al'-oop-sis; from G601; disclosure:--appearing,

coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed, revelation. [Strong's Exhaustive Concordance]) connotes an unveiling.

Knowing God is a result of a sensible, skillful yet supernatural unveiling of Christ as we seek Him with our whole heart. Paul prayed these believers would be enlightened in three specific areas: 1. The hope of His calling 2. The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints 3. The surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe [discussed next section].

“What is the hope of His calling”

1680. elpis, el-pece'; from a prim. elpo (to anticipate, usually with pleasure); expectation (abstr. or concr.) or confidence:--faith, hope. [Strong's Exhaustive Concordance]

The ultimate hope of our calling is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself...He is our hope...
(1 Tim 1:1 NASB) Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope;

He is Eternal Life...we have this hope of our calling, which can not be denied. In any situation, we have the hope of eternal life.

(Titus 1:1-2 NASB) Paul, a bond-servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

By His unconditional love, He has redeemed us and made us brand new creations in Christ. We can have incredible confidence that we are, right now, a purified people for God's own possession (we are in His sovereign care).

(Titus 2:13-14 NASB) looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

“What are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints”

Paul prays we can grasp the fact, by God's enlightenment, that we are God's inheritance...that's right! The Lord considers us so valuable as a new creation in Christ that He calls us His inheritance...incredible.

Practical Application:

Take time to seek the Lord...use the tools (bible study, prayer, meditation, worship, etc) skillfully by God's grace and ask for His special revelation to know Christ. Remember, the most productive use of time is not in doing activities and asking God's blessing, but seeking Christ and allowing Him to work through you in every activity.

Our intimate relationship with Christ IS God's agenda

Our Victory

exceeding greatness of His power
Ephesians 1:19-23

Comments

Paul's prayer continues as he asks that the believers in Ephesus are enlightened to know "the surpassing greatness of His power...." Many times our behavior demonstrates our true attitude...we act as though it's up to us to GET victory...we must DO something to experience victory in our lives. Actually, Paul encourages us in Colossians 2:6 NASB, *As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,*

Well, did you receive Him by faith? Yes...so how should you walk?? In faith...believing...receiving. Paul desires the Ephesians would know Christ in the "exceeding greatness of His power (not our strength)"..power that raised Christ from the dead...power that seats Christ above all principality and rule...power that has absolute authority over the enemy and has everything subjected to it and Him. Now that's power! *(1 Cor 15:57 NASB) but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Our Relationship / Our Victory - Knowing Christ Ephesians 1:15-23

Fruit of our relationship Ephesians 1:15-16

The Ephesians

1. Heard of your faith

-Do others hear of our faith?
-Are we trusting God even in the difficult times?

2. A love for all the saints

-Do we really love other believers?
-Do we accept, respect and sacrifice for other believers even when we disagree with their theology or preferences?

Paul

3. Giving thanks for others

-Are we grateful for others in our lives or do we take advantage?

4. Praying for others

-Is my prayer life tied up with my needs or does it include others?

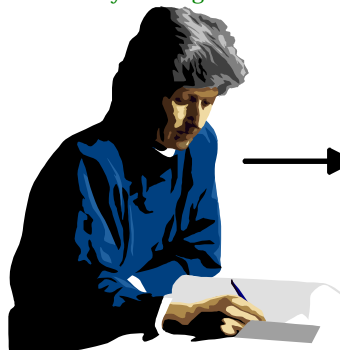
Knowing Christ is not a result of human effort, although we may and should seek the Lord in prayer and His Word, but rather a supernatural unveiling from God...and not all at once (we couldn't take that in our human mind)...it's a lifetime process of intimacy.

Focus of our relationship Ephesians 1:17-23

"...the Father of glory may give to you":

1. Spirit of Wisdom (sophia - skillful, expert, sensible)
 2. Spirit of Revelation (apokalapse - unveiling w/ interpretation; disclosure)
- "in the **knowledge of Him**" (epignosis - clear and exact knowledge)

"eyes of your heart may be enlightened"



to Know (eido - to perceive w/ outward senses; to experience)

1. Our Hope

- "the hope of His calling"
- A. Our new identity
 - B. God's unconditional love
 - C. God's sovereignty and care

2. Our Significance

- "His inheritance in the saints"
- A. "in Christ" we are persons of value

3. Our Victory

- "surpassing greatness of His power"
- A. Omnipotent Christ living inside us
 - B. Only to those who "believe"
 - C. Believe is more than acknowledging the fact, but receiving as true for you and counting it as such right now