

EPIC PRAYERS: A 5-WEEK VIRTUAL STUDY

SUMMER

Women's Bible Study

EPHESIANS

1:15-23 & 3:14-21

Paul's Prayer to the Ephesians

EPHESIANS

About the Church & For the Church

- Chapter 1-3
 - Our CALLING
- Chapter 4-6
 - Our CONDUCT

EPHESIANS 1:1-6

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

²Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

EPHESIANS 1:7-13

⁸that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

¹¹In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

EPHESIANS 1:14-19

¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I 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. ¹⁸I pray also 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, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

EPHESIANS 1:19-22

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

EPHESIANS 2:1-7

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

EPHESIANS 3:14-19

For this reason I kneel before the Father,
¹⁵from whom his whole family in heaven
and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray
that out of his glorious riches he may
strengthen you with power through his
Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ
may dwell in your hearts through faith.
And I pray that you, being rooted and
established in love, ¹⁸may have power,
together with all the saints, to grasp how
wide and long and high and deep is the
love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love
that surpasses knowledge—that you
may be filled to the measure of all the
fullness of God.

EPHESIANS 3:20-21

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING

- **What are spiritual blessings?**
 - Blessings that pertain to our spiritual life
- **Who are these blessings for?**
 - Those who belong to Christ
- **Where is the heavenly realms?**
 - Metaphorical, in the spiritual realm

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

- Chosen
- Adopted
- Redemption & Forgiveness
- Mystery Revealed
- Jewish Christians First
- Gentile Believers Included
- Sealed with the Holy Spirit

TWO SIDES OF SALVATION

- *God's Side –*

- By His grace, He chose us, He adopted us, He redeemed us and forgave us

- *Human Side –*

- We place our faith in Jesus and trust that He died on our behalf.
- We are saved by God's grace, through our faith, in Jesus.
- Even our faith is a gift from God. It's all grace!

THE FIRST PRAYER

Paul prays that the Ephesians
and all who have received
every spiritual blessing will
know what God has called us
to in the past, so that we can
live differently in the present.

WISDOM & REVELATION

- Wisdom: insight
- Revelation: unveiling, an uncovering of what was hidden

THREE THINGS TO KNOW

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

HIS POWER ILLUSTRATED IN THREE EVENTS

1. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead
2. The exaltation of Jesus to God's right hand
3. The appointment of Jesus as head over the church

GOD'S POWER FUTHER ILLUSTRATED

Chapter 2:1 – 3:13

- 2:1-10 – Power to take people who are dead in sin and make them alive in Christ
- 2:11-22 – Power to take Jews and Gentiles and unify them into one body – the church
- 3:1-13 – Power in the life of Paul as a minister of the divine mystery

PURPOSE OF THE CHAPTER 3 PRAYER

When Christ's presence and
Christ's love permeate our
lives, the *fullness* of God will
be seen in the church.

HE IS ABLE

- To take what is unseen and open our eyes to see it
- To take what is unknowable and make it known to us
- To take the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge and help us grasp it so that we can be filled with God's fullness
- To take His incomparably great power and transform us into what He has called us to be

APPLICATION

1. We apply the truth of chapters 1-3 in the exhortation of chapters 4-6
2. Pray these prayers for yourself and others