

# Ephesians

Transformed by Grace, Empowered by Peace

## Study 5

The Grace of God's Power

Ephesians 1:15-23

### **Ephesians 1:15-23**

“Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 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, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 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.

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.”

### **Ephesians 1:15-16**

“Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:”

1. a) **Comprehension question. Based on v. 15-16, what did Paul commend the Ephesian believers for?**

- Faith in the Lord Jesus
- Love for all the saints

b) Discussion question. How do we show/reflect/demonstrate these traits in our lives?

c) Reflection question. Paul, upon hearing these things about the Ephesians, prays for them. Do you personally give thanks to God when you see these things in your fellow believers? Why or why not?

2. Discussion question. "The Prayer of Jabez: Breaking Through to the Blessed Life is a book by Bruce Wilkinson published in 2000. It is based on the Old Testament passage 1 Chronicles 4:9–10." Based on the video lecture, what is the flaw in approaching prayer this way?

The approach that the Prayer of Jabez takes has a very low view of who God is. The author claims that he knows a way to pray a "prayer that God always answers". This is essentially an easy way of "manipulating" God through the way that we pray. This is not at all like the prayer of Paul in Ephesians 1:15-23.

3. Comprehension question. "How we are to pray should be a response to what God has given." What has God given to us based on the passage we have studied from Ephesians 1:1-14? (Recap)

Election, predestination, adoption, redemption, knowledge of His grand plan, inheritance, sealing with the Holy Spirit.

#### A) Knowledge of Him

##### Ephesians 1:17-18a

"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 [heart] being enlightened;**"

4. a) **Comprehension question. We have learned so much in terms of knowledge. What exactly did Paul ask for once that knowledge has been acquired? (Refer to verse 18 above in bold)**

That the eyes of our heart/understanding will be enlightened.

- b) **Comprehension question. What does the phrase in (a) mean?**

The “eyes of our heart/understanding” is a metaphor - it refers to how that knowledge reaches from the head to the heart.

It should influence how we feel, how we think, and how we act.

Knowledge of the Lord should not just be in our head.

- c) **Discussion question. Is it enough to grow in knowledge? What else needs to happen?**

- d) **Reflection question. What is something you know but have been unable to apply because it has not taken a hold of your heart yet?**

5. a) **Comprehension question. Is the “knowing” in the “knowledge of God” about information or a personal encounter with God?**

Personal encounter with God.

- b) **Reflection question. Do you pray to know about God or to know God?**

6. **Comprehension question.** “Every problem we have is because we do not internalize an attribute of God.” Based on the video lecture, what are the attributes of God (that we lack understanding of) which relates to the problems we face?

Problems	Attributes of God
Worry	His wisdom
Guilt	His mercy
Timidity	His power
Pessimism	
Anxiety	
Uncertainty	

**Ephesians 1:18**

“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”

**B) Know the Hope of His Calling**

7. **Comprehension question.** Based on Galatians 1:15-16 and Acts 9:4-6, what does it mean to be called?

Our calling is to be shown who the Lord Jesus truly is.

**C) The Riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints**

8. a) **Comprehension question.** Based on Ephesians 1:18, God has an inheritance. Who is God’s inheritance?

We are!

b) Discussion question. What does this imply about us?

We are precious in God's sight and we are infinitely loved in Him.

9. Objective question. Based on the video lecture, how does knowing our inheritance in God lead to our integrity (not compromise)?

A. If God is our trust, He is our reward

B. If we sin, we are cutting ourselves from Him

C. If we think of the glory of our inheritance in Him, we can face temptation

#### Ephesians 1:19-20

“and what is the exceeding **greatness of His power** toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He **raised Him from the dead** and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places”

D) The immeasurable greatness of his Power toward us who believe

10. a) Comprehension question. What is the greatest power that God's power overcomes?  
(Refer to verse 20 above in bold)

The power of death.

b) Discussion question. The power of God liberates us from this fear.  
Refer to Hebrews 2:14-15. What does this imply?

We have every reason to follow the Lord and His call fearlessly. We can now live in confidence and strength to honour Him.

**11. Comprehension question. What are the characteristics of common grace?**

- Great gifts of wisdom
- Beauty and goodness
- On all mankind
- Regardless of faith
- Restraints evil

**Takeaway**

- A. How we are to pray should be a response to what God has given**
- B. Pray that we may be filled with the Knowledge of Him and that the eyes of our heart will be enlightened**
  - a. Knowing God is to have a personal encounter with Him, not know about him**
  - b. Every problem we have is because we do not internalize an attribute of God.**
- C. Pray that we may know the Hope of His calling**
- D. Pray that we may know the Riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints**
- E. Pray that we may know the immeasurable greatness of his Power toward us who believe**

## Case Study

### Case 1 – Prayer

Ann Shias is a Christian for many years and is very consistent in her prayer life. She also attends every Bible study and knows the Word of God well.

Unfortunately, despite her vast knowledge of God's Word, she does not care very much about others but only herself.

She will always bring her needs to the Lord and requests for His providence.

However, she always feels worried, anxious, pessimistic, and uncertain about the future no matter how much she prays.

She occasionally worries about dying as she is now in her 80s.

1. a) Discussion question. Why is it that Ann is still a selfish person despite knowing the Word of God well?

Ann has knowledge in her head that has not descended down into her heart. It has not taken a hold of her to influence how she feels, how she thinks, and how she acts.

- b) Discussion question. What should she pray for in order to grow?

She should be praying that the eyes of her heart/understanding may be opened.

2. Discussion question. With regards to her anxiety and worries, what should Ann be praying for?

Ann should pray that she may be filled with the knowledge of God. Knowledge of God as in knowing Him, His wisdom, His mercy, and His power. She needs to internalise the attributes of God in the face of all her problems.

- 3. Discussion question. With regards to her fear of death, what should Ann be praying for?**

Ann should pray that she may know the immeasurable greatness of His power toward her. The very power that raised the Lord Jesus from the dead is the power that God has towards her as a believer.

- 4. Reflection question. Which struggle of Ann's do you resonate with most? What should you pray for?**



