

# God Empowers You!

## Ephesians 1:15-23

### **DAY 1: Character: faith and love**

1. Let's review our study of Ephesians 1:

Eph. 1:1-6     God chose you

Eph. 1:7-10    God redeemed you

Eph. 1:11-14   God sealed you

*Ephesians 1:15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints ...*

2. Paul had pastored these people for three years. He begins this letter remembering his early days with them.

3. What important character traits caught his eye?

4. When a fellow Christian thinks about you, what character traits do you think they notice about you?

*“By their fruits you shall know them.”*

*Ephesians 1:16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.*

5. What do you notice about Paul's prayer life for them?

6. Is this reflective in your prayer life? What would you change about your prayer life?

7. What strikes you from today's devotional?

## DAY 2: A spirit of wisdom and revelation...

1. William Randolph Hearst was extravagantly wealthy, and was an ardent collector of art. He bought famous and expensive paintings from all around the world. Ironically, Hearst had been searching frantically for treasures he already owned!

2. As Christians we are prone to do the same thing. What treasures do you have you may not even know about?

*Ephesians 1:17 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**.*

3. Think of all the things you pray for.

a. Would v. 17 make your prayer list for you?

b. Would v. 17 make your prayer list for others?

4. What characteristics make knowing God possible?

a. What do you think is the “Spirit of wisdom?”

b. What do you think is the “Spirit of revelation?”

c. Why would these two characteristics make it possible to know God better?

5. Paul’s prayer is not that these Christians would know their facts *about* God or beliefs better. His desire is for something much richer and higher—to know God better.

6. Paul had come to know God personally through meeting Jesus Christ. His life was never the same. He wants this same gift and privilege for his brothers and sisters in Ephesus.

7. The knowledge of God gives believers a whole lot more knowledge about life, relationships, people, and yourself.

“Since we are made in the image of God, the better we know God,  
the better we know ourselves and each other.” – Warren Wiersbe

### DAY 3: To know the hope of God's calling

As we'll see, knowing God better is not just knowing Him better generally. It is also involves getting to know specific characteristic about Him!

*Ephesians 1:18 I 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 ...*

1. In world history the Reformation in Europe spurred what we call the Enlightenment. Many secular historians see very little connection between these two monumental periods of life. Ironically, it's easy to study about the Enlightenment without being enlightened about the primal cause of the Enlightenment—the Reformation!
2. This is the very characteristic of which Paul prays for the Ephesians! Notice how Paul sees enlightenment occurring: “that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened.”
3. Notice that Paul does not pray that their brain would understand...the hope to which God has called them.
4. Instead, he prays “that the eyes of your heart” be enlightened?
5. What is Paul getting at?

*Matt. 13:13 “...seeing they don't see and hearing they don't hear.”*

6. Jesus pointed out the difference between seeing and hearing things people should understand but apparently don't. This is why Paul prays this prayer!

“The inability to see and understand spiritual things  
is not the fault of the intelligence but of the heart.” – Warren Wiersbe

7. “...the hope to which you He has called you.”
  - a. Hope #1: an expectant attitude. Assurance. Hope doesn't mean, “Hope so.”
  - b. Hope #2: the substance of what we will experience in the future. The hope we have in heaven, that which we will receive in heaven and experience in heaven. Biblical hope is something that means a “guarantee for the future.” The idea is that we have a delightful future!

8. What does Paul mean by **God's calling?**

*Philippians 3:14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has **called me heavenward** in Christ Jesus.*

*2 Tim. 1:9 ... who has saved us and **called us to a holy life...***

*1 Thess. 2:12 ...encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who **calls you into his Kingdom and glory.***

9. What strikes you from today's devotional?

## DAY 4: The riches of God's inheritance, the greatness of God's power

### *...to Know the Riches of God's Inheritance*

*Eph. 1:18 to know... the riches of the glorious inheritance in the saints...*

1. One of the most astounding traits about God is His willingness to deal with us on the basis of our future not our past!

2. Jesus illustrated this when He first met Simon Peter.

*John 1:42 You are called Simon... you shall be called Peter (rock).*

3. This prayer encompasses two thoughts:

a. First, God's riches in His people. The idea is that we may know just how precious we are to God, and to get a glimpse of what kind of person we could become due to our relationship with Him! Paul elsewhere talks about we are His trophies, trophies of grace and power.

“Our treasure is in God, and in a very true sense  
His treasure is in His redeemed people.” Vaughan,

b. Second, this refers to what we have coming in the future, the future glory of believers.

### *...to Know the Greatness of God's Power*

*Eph. 1:19-20 ...and **His incomparably great power** for us who believe. That power is like working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in...*

4. Paul uses four Greek words as what we call force multipliers. The Greek words are italicized.

- *Dunamis*- power, dynamo, dynamite.
- *Energeia*- working, energy.
- *Kratos*- mighty.
- *Ischus*- power.

5. Why do we need power? Here are some of my needs for greater power:

a. I aspire to be a better man than my own resources can pull off!

b. I want to love people better than I do, and that will take a love richer and deeper than mine.

c. I want to be wiser about life and relationships than what my mind can pull off.

d. I aspire to have more patience than I can pull off. In the midst of stress I want more peace than I can pull off. I want to be more grateful and less complaining.

e. I aspire to be a better man, husband, father, worker, leader, mentor, and friend than I can pull off with my resources.

*Matt. 26:41 “The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is **weak**.”*

6. What strikes you from today's devotional?

## **DAY 5: The power...the authority**

### ***The power of the resurrection***

*Eph. 1:19-20 ...That power is like working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ **when He raised Him from the dead** and ... seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms...*

1. I need power to overcome “self,” that propensity in me that is more interested in self-interests than other-interests. Until “self” is dealt with my resources can only rearrange the deck chairs on the Titanic. My human resources cannot overcome my human nature.

2. The kind of power available to the genuine Christian is illustrated by raising Jesus Christ from the dead after 3 days in a tomb.

### ***...seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms***

*Eph. 1:19-20 ...That power is like working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and **seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms...***

3. Paul says more happened than “just” resurrection. God also raised Christ to heaven and placed Him in his rightful place of authority—at God’s right hand.

4. After Christ came to earth as a helpless baby, King Herod issued a death warrant for the baby. Joseph and Mary fled to another country for their lives! Only when Herod died did they dare return home. When Christ began His ministry, He was under constant surveillance. Religious leaders sought to trick Him, discredit Him and finally to kill Him, and in this they succeeded! The power of the Roman government mixed with the power of Jewish authorities had Christ arrested, beaten, interrogated, whipped, and finally crucified as if He was a common criminal. After His death, the political and religious authorities did everything in their power to insure that the body of Christ remained in that tomb. Everything that man could throw at Christ was thrown. Everything that could be done to discredit Him was done. Everything that man could do to kill Christ was done. And everything that man could do to crush His tiny movement was accomplished.

5. No matter what the power of Rome threw at Christ, Christ was still raised from the dead! He lives! No matter what power the Jewish authorities threw at Him, Christ ascended! He is in His rightful place with God. But Paul takes it a step higher.

*Eph. 1:21-22 ... far 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. And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything.*