

Life Group Homework

BLESSED WITH ETERNAL SECURITY BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Ephesians 1:13-14

Let's Get Started:

In verse 15, Paul sets the stage for this deeply compassionate and heartfelt intercessory prayer. Paul has no doubt heard many things about the Ephesian church members, and he is genuine in his praise for them regarding two aspects of how they were living out their faith. One, he was grateful for their continued faith in Christ. And, two, he was grateful for their love for other Christians. In Philippians 1:2 Paul says, "...make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind." If the Apostle Paul were here today, do you think he would look at the churches in America and say we are "making his joy complete?" Why or why not?

Let's Dig In:

1. In 1970, Stevie Wonder came out with the song "Signed, Sealed, Delivered." As a review from last week, list at least three of God's promises for believers that He has "signed, sealed and delivered" us.

2. Read Ephesians 1:15-23 carefully. There are four obvious requests in Paul's prayer that help us understand our true spiritual wealth that has been planned for by the Father and protected by the Holy Spirit. **See if you can identify them and list them below.**

Paul's Request #1:

Paul's Request #2:

Paul's Request #3:

Paul's Request #4:

3. In verse 19, Paul prayed that the Ephesian Christians would come to know the “immeasurable greatness of God’s power” in their lives. **Look up Matthew 5:16. What does it say?**

As you think about these two scriptures in Ephesians and Matthew, **how would you describe the evidence of God’s supernatural spiritual power at work in your life today? How does the presence and power of God shine through your life as a light in a dark world?**

4. Accessing your spiritual riches is not possible, aside from an ever-deepening, intimate relationship with the One who gave you every spiritual blessing. Paul brings this out in verse 17. **Read John 15:1-11.** The role of a true disciple of Jesus is described here as one who is in an intentional “abiding” relationship with Christ. **How would you describe your own personal pursuit of “abiding” in Christ?**
5. In verse 18 Paul prays that “the eyes of our hearts” will be opened so we can see the hope that God has called us to. **Look up 1 Peter 3:15.** Compare the two scriptures then ask yourself, **“Am I prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks me for a reason for the hope that is in me?” “How prepared am I today?”**

- I feel very prepared.**
- I feel somewhat prepared.**
- I'm not feeling as prepared as I know I need to be.**

Note: We are all “under construction” and growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Use this little self-examination as motivation to keep moving forward, not to be discouraged or to compare yourself with others.

Let's Live It Out Together:

The point of Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:15-23 is that you and I might feel how secure we really are in Christ and how secure our hope of eternal life with the Lord actually is. Most believers experience times of being in a valley or feeling the weight of a difficult circumstance or a nagging sin that they just can't seem to break free from. Perhaps you would consider closing your group time with prayer for those who need assurance of the presence and power of God in the middle of a storm. It's a fact that people who get prayed for just do better!