

THE PROMISE



PRECEPT

EPHESIANS 1:15-22

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, 16 I never stop giving thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to those He called—His holy people who are His rich and glorious inheritance. 19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe Him. 20 He exercised this power in Christ by raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavens— 21 far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made Him head over all things for the benefit of the church. 23 And the church is His body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with Himself.

PROMISE

God has chosen us and adopted us into His family (Eph 1:3-6). This means we belong to Him, and not to this world. We have been forgiven and redeemed by the blood of Christ (Eph 1:7-12). We have also been sealed and possessed by the Spirit of God (Eph 1:13-14). With this knowledge, we must remember to whom we belong to when storms come and water rises. We can cling to the hope of God's coming redemption even in the face of dark powers at work in the world.

Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:15-22 is specifically for the Ephesians, but he is also weaving in details of God's grand redemptive plan into their specific needs and challenges. Paul wants the Ephesians to have a greater understanding of what their salvation means for them. Their struggles might be different from our struggles today, but the bottom-line is struggles in life are never-ending. This is why we need to always be reminded of who we belong to. We must know the hope to which God has called us.

HAVE A GROWING KNOWLEDGE OF GOD. Verse 17 tells us of Paul's prayer for the Ephesians, that the Father would give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. May we all have a deeper, personal, and intimate relationship with Him, so that we may discern His will for our lives, because we are saved for more.

OPEN THE EYES OF YOUR HEART. Paul prays in verse 18 that the eyes of their hearts may be enlightened. The heart is the core of our being, our innermost part. May we understand the truth and confident hope God has given us, and may it grow everyday as we depend on God. Our eternal future rests on His promises. We live in confidence because of His promise!

PROFESS THE POWER WE HAVE IN JESUS. Our God, the Creator of heaven and earth, has incomparable power! We can overcome any trial and temptations and be victorious because we have this power in us! No matter what situation or pressure may come upon us, we have the power of God to address it. We must not lose sight of the power of God in our lives.

EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY ONE DAY. We are the church, the body of Christ; the totality of believers all over the world. All followers of Jesus all over the world will be full and complete in Him, and we will experience complete perfection in Jesus. What is the implication of this? Whatever we are going through today is nothing but temporary. If we are truly followers of Jesus, we can have hope that everything will be okay one day.

PRACTICE

1. Who You Belong To. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt all hope was gone? Are you going through such a time right now? Who/what do you find yourself relying on most? How can your small group support you and hold you accountable in this?

2. Hope in Christ. If you endured a difficult trial, what would you tell someone just entering one?

PRAYER

I. Love

- Pray that we may always reflect God's wonderful, selfless and unconditional love to others.

II. Hope

- Pray for hope when despair numbs our soul, and that He will lift us up when we stumble and fall.

III. Strength

- May we always depend on God, our rock for apart from Him, we can do nothing.

IV. Wisdom

- Let us seek the wisdom of our all-knowing God so that we can walk in the path He lays before us.

V. Peace

- May the Lord make us instruments of peace, and may He grant us peace in times of troubles.

VI. Courage

- Pray that we will always have courage to do what is right in God's eyes.

VII. Joy

- Thank the Lord for He has given us many reasons to be joyful! Thank Him for His love that is abounding.