

Walk in the Spirit

Ephesians 1:15-23

Lesson 11

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. What blessing from Ephesians 1:3-14 do you most desire?

2. How can you best help someone realize and live in the blessings of God? You can pray for them! Prayer brings the power and revelation of God into people's lives. Paul, having shared with the Ephesians the blessings that were theirs in Christ, launched into prayer for them. Paul knew that the Ephesians needed a divine revelation from God in order to apprehend the great things God had for them. Note the emphasis of Paul's prayer in the following sections:
 - a. Ephesians 1:15-16

 - b. Ephesians 1:17-18

 - c. Ephesians 1:19-21

 - d. Ephesians 1:22-23

3. Take a moment to thank the Lord for the exceeding greatness of His power. Commit to Him any need or desire you may have for this week.

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.
Ephesians 1:18

SECOND DAY: Read Ephesians 1:15–16

1. What two things had Paul *heard of* concerning the Ephesians? Ephesians 1:15
 - a. How is the Ephesians' testimony an example to you?

2. In response to what Paul had *heard of*, what did he *not cease* to do? Ephesians 1:16a
 - a. Why is this an appropriate response?

3. Along with giving *thanks* for the Ephesians, what did Paul do? Ephesians 1:16b
 - a. Use the following Scriptures to comment on the blessing of praying for others:
 - (1) 1 Samuel 12:23a

 - (2) Job 42:10

 - (3) Luke 18:1

 - (4) James 5:16

 - b. How are you encouraged by Paul's example to pray for others?

THIRD DAY: Read Ephesians 1:17-19a

1. How is God described in Ephesians 1:17a?
 - a. Link this with Matthew 6:9 and comment on why it is important to remember who God is when we pray.

2. As Paul began his prayer for the Ephesian believers, what two things did he ask God to *give to them*? Ephesians 1:17b
 - a. Why do you think each of these is so necessary to the Christian life? See also Jeremiah 9:24 and James 3:17.

3. Along with *revelation*, what did Paul pray for the Ephesians? Ephesians 1:18a
 - a. Link this with 1 Corinthians 2:9-14 and note why it is important to pray that our *understanding be enlightened*.

4. From Ephesians 1:18b-19a record and comment on the three things Paul prayed the Ephesians would be *enlightened to know*:
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.

5. How would this enlightenment help the Ephesians to be stronger in their faith?
 - a. Which of these enlightenments do you most long for?

FOURTH DAY: Read Ephesians 1:19b-21

1. In Ephesians 1:19 Paul prayed that the believers would know the *exceeding greatness* of God's *power* on their behalf. According to Ephesians 1:20a, how did God demonstrate this *mighty power*?
 - a. Record what the following Scriptures say about Jesus' resurrection:
 - (1) Acts 2:24
 - (2) Acts 4:10
 - b. Why is it essential to your faith to believe in the resurrection of Jesus? See also 1 Corinthians 15:14-20.
 - c. Share what it means to you to know that this power is available to *us who believe*.
2. How did God exalt Jesus after raising Him *from the dead*? Ephesians 1:20b
 - a. Connect this with Philippians 2:9-11 and share your thoughts.
3. Use Ephesians 1:21 to list and comment on the things Jesus is seated *far above*:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - (1) Remark on the duration of His authority. Ephesians 1:21b
 - (2) How does this speak to you about your present circumstances?
 - (3) According to Romans 8:34, what is Jesus doing from His exalted position?
4. As you view Jesus in the light of His exalted position, how are you inspired?

FIFTH DAY: Read Ephesians 1:22–23

1. What has God put *under Jesus' feet*? Ephesians 1:22
 - a. Cite a few examples of what this would include.
 - b. Use the following Scriptures to remark on Jesus' authority:
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 15:25–27a
 - (2) Colossians 1:18
 - c. What things do you need to put *under His feet*?
 - d. How do these truths enhance your understanding of the *exceeding greatness of His power*?
2. Use Ephesians 1:23 to describe the *church*.
 - a. Link this with Acts 20:28b. What do you see?
 - b. Ephesians 1:22–23 NLT reads, *God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made Him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is His body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with Himself.* How are you blessed by Jesus' relationship with His church?
 - (1) With this in mind, why do you think it is important to pray for the church?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Using Ephesians 1:17-21 review the things that Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers.

a. What do you suppose the effect of such a prayer would have on the church?

2. How were you encouraged by Paul's prayer to:

a. give thanks for all the saints

b. pray for believers

c. pray for the church

3. Take a moment to write a prayer for God's blessing and revelation to the saints in your church.

*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 1:22-23*