

# Walk in the Spirit

## Ephesians 3:1-13

Lesson 14

### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Share a thought or blessing you received from your study of Ephesians 2:11-22.
  
2. God in His grace has a specific call for each of our lives. This call has to do with the unique gifting and grace He has given to each one of us. Paul knew the specific calling on his life and was enthusiastic about it. In Ephesians 3:1-13, Paul detailed the call he received by revelation from God.
  - The revelation God gave to Paul was that salvation was also for the Gentiles.
  - The call God gave to Paul was to take the Gospel to the Gentiles.

Capture Paul's enthusiasm by citing key phrases from the following verses that speak about God's revelation and call:

  - a. Ephesians 3:1-4
  
  - b. Ephesians 3:5-7
  
  - c. Ephesians 3:8-9
  
  - d. Ephesians 3:10-13
  
3. Take a moment to boldly ask the Lord to bless your study of His Word this week.

*In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.*  
Ephesians 3:12

**SECOND DAY:** Read Ephesians 3:1-4

1. *For this reason* (Ephesians 3:1a) refers to Paul's purpose for writing this epistle to the Gentiles. Use Ephesians 2:18-20 to summarize the *reason*.
  - a. How did Paul describe himself in Ephesians 3:1b?
    - (1) For who's sake was Paul in this predicament?
      - (a) What does this convey to you about Paul?
2. The *dispensation* Paul described in Ephesians 3:2 speaks of God's gracious plan of salvation for the Gentiles through Christ. Use Ephesians 2:8-9 to describe God's plan.
3. *By what means* was this *dispensation* given to Paul? Ephesians 3:3a
  - a. Link this with Galatians 1:11-12 and share your thoughts.
4. Paul used the word *mystery* in Ephesians 3:3 to denote something that once was hidden, but now has been revealed. From the following Scriptures comment on the *mystery* revealed to Paul:
  - a. Ephesians 1:10
  - b. Ephesians 2:13
  - c. Ephesians 2:14
  - d. Ephesians 2:16
  - e. Ephesians 2:18
    - (1) Why do you think Paul was so excited about this *mystery*?
5. What did Paul desire the Ephesians to *understand* when they read his letter? Ephesians 3:4
  - a. Why do you think it was important for them to *understand*?
    - (1) Why is it important to *understand* what Jesus has accomplished for you?

**THIRD DAY:** Read Ephesians 3:5-7

1. In Ephesians 3:5a what did Paul state about the *mystery of Christ*?
  - a. How was this *mystery* revealed? Ephesians 3:5b
  - b. To whom was this *mystery* revealed?
    - (1) From Acts 11:18 identify the *mystery* revealed to the *apostles*.
    - (2) What is your response to the fact that God has now revealed such things to us? See also Matthew 13:16-17.
  
2. In Ephesians 3:6 Paul elaborated on the *mystery of Christ* and its implications for the Gentiles. List the three things Paul declared concerning them:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
    - (1) These things were accomplished *through the gospel*. What does this convey to you about the *gospel*? See also Romans 1:16.
  
3. With respect to the *gospel*, what did Paul become? Ephesians 3:7a
  - a. What was the *gift* given to Paul? Ephesians 3:7b
    - (1) Use the following Scriptures to cite why this *gift* was essential to his ministry:
      - (a) Romans 1:5
      - (b) 1 Corinthians 3:10
      - (c) 2 Corinthians 12:9
    - (2) Why is this *gift* essential for every ministry?
  - b. How was God's *power* toward Paul described? Ephesians 3:7c
    - (1) Link this with Ephesians 1:19-20 and share how this encourages you concerning God's ability to equip you for ministry.

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Ephesians 3:8-9

1. According to Ephesians 3:8a, how did Paul view himself?
  - a. Use 2 Corinthians 12:11c and 1 Timothy 1:12-15 to remark on Paul's self-assessment.
  
2. What was Paul *given*? Ephesians 3:8b
  - a. What was Paul to *preach among the Gentiles*? Ephesians 3:8c
    - (1) Link this with Colossians 2:3 and share your thoughts.
  
3. The *fellowship of the mystery* emphasizes the fact that Jew and Gentile share in the blessings of a relationship with God through Christ. Why do you think Paul longed to *make all see* this? Ephesians 3:9
  - a. What did Paul state about this plan that was *from the beginning of the ages*? Ephesians 3:9b
  - b. What did Paul say about God? Ephesians 3:9c
  
4. Consider the glory and humility associated with such a ministry by reading Ephesians 3:8 in the NLT, *Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, He graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ:*
  - a. How do you see the affect of this ministry on Paul's self-assessment?
  - b. Why do you think God's *grace* and *power* were necessary for Paul's ministry?
  - c. Briefly share a way you have experienced:
    - (1) God's *grace* in your life or ministry
  
    - (2) God's *power*

**FIFTH DAY:** Read Ephesians 3:10-13

1. Use Ephesians 3:10 to answer the following questions:
  - a. What was God's *intent* in revealing these things? Ephesians 3:10a
    - (1) The word *manifold* means *variegated* or *many-sided*. What does this suggest about God's *intent*?
    - (2) Link this with Romans 11:33. What do you see?
  - b. *By whom might this be made known?* Ephesians 3:10b
    - (1) Who would this include?
  - c. *To whom was it to be made known?* Ephesians 3:10c
    - (1) Link this with Philippians 2:10-11. Share your thoughts.
2. From Ephesians 3:11 describe God's *purpose*.
3. Comment on the blessings that are ours *through faith* in Christ. Ephesians 3:12
  - a. How should this affect your approach to prayer? See also Hebrews 4:16.
    - (1) Share something you would like to pray for with greater *boldness* and *confidence*.
4. In light of Paul's God-given ministry, what did he *ask* the Ephesians? Ephesians 3:13a
  - a. Read Acts 20:37-38 to recall the relationship Paul had with the Ephesians. Why do you think they needed to be encouraged not to *lose heart*?
  - b. In Ephesians 3:13b what did Paul remind them about his *tribulations*?
    - (1) How does Philippians 1:12 amplify Paul's perspective on his *tribulations*?
    - (2) How is Paul's perspective an example to you?

**SIXTH DAY: Review**

1. From the following verses in Ephesians 3:1–13, comment on Paul’s perspective of:
  - a. himself (verses 1, 8a)
  - b. the revelation (verses 8b, 10)
  - c. his call (verses 7b, 9)
  - d. his circumstances (verse 13)
  
2. In light of Ephesians 3:1–13 how should you view:
  - a. yourself
  - b. your call
  - c. your present circumstances

*This grace was given, that I should preach  
among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.*  
Ephesians 3:8