

Encouragement and Empowerment through Enlightenment

1. Ephesians 1:15 begins with the phrase, “For this *reason*”. Paul says it is why he prays for the recipients of the letter. Review: What *reason* do you glean from Ephesians 1:3-14?
2. Paul adds the Ephesians’ faith in Jesus and their love toward one another as additional reasons for his prayers on their behalf. How are you challenged to live up to the Ephesians’ reputation?
3. What does Paul request of God on behalf of the Ephesians in verse 17? Share with the group an example of how your knowledge of Jesus has grown over time.
4. As Paul’s prayer continues in verse 18 he moves from the mind to the heart. What is Paul seeking to have the Ephesians know and appreciate? From 1 Corinthians 2:9, what do you learn about the human capacity to grasp the height, depth and breadth of God’s blessing using our own hearts and minds?
5. In Psalm 119:18 the author asked God to open his eyes that he may see wondrous things from God’s law. Give examples of others in the Bible who have asked God to open their eyes. Share a time when God gave you greater insight and appreciation for Him in response to your prayers.
6. Ephesians 1:18 also suggests that we are God’s inheritance. How does the idea that you are regarded by God as His glorious inheritance recalibrate your impression of God the Father?
7. Verses 19 and 20 move on to focus on the power of God exerted on our behalf. What specific deed of God is cited as a demonstration of His power? Why, in your opinion, did this take such an exertion of God’s power, in light of other fantastic things God has done?
8. God raised and seated Jesus at his right hand above everything. Paul lists a number of things present and future after that in verse 21 – what are those things? From Ephesians 6:11-12, what is the source of their power?
9. Paul uses the prepositions “under” and “over” in describing Jesus’ position. Whom or what do you think of as being “under” His feet? How is that different from Him being “over” all things to the church? How can a church show in practical ways that Christ is the head of that church?
10. In verse 23 the phrase, “the fullness of Him who fills all in all”, conveys completeness within the body. At present the body seems incomplete. What is being filled here? Recall that Paul’s prayer pertains to both this age and the age to come.