

## **Ephesians. The Identity of the Church that Overcomes.**

### **Part 15: The Hope of Our Glorious Calling**

*Houses of Light Church • November 3, 2024 • Pastor Netz Gomez & Ilse Marquez*

#### **Focus: Ephesians 1:18-19**

*“...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might...”*

#### **Ephesians 1:18-19**

Paul writes down his prayers for the church of Ephesus in Ephesians 1:18-19. These are his three main requests: (1) That they would understand the hope to which they have been called, 2) that they would understand the riches of God’s inheritance in them, and (3) that they would see the immeasurable greatness of his power toward those who believe. Today, we are going after understanding these three life-changing truths for ourselves.

#### **I. The hope to which we have been called.**

A. According to the Bible, our calling is:

1. Fellowship with the Son. - 1 Corinthians 1:9 - *“God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”*
2. Eternal life. - 1 Timothy 6:12 - *“Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”*
3. To live in His kingdom and glory! - 1 Thessalonians 2:12 - *“we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.”*  
1 Peter 5:10 - *“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”*
4. To walk in His marvelous light. - 1 Peter 2:9 - *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”*

B. **Therefore, the hope to which we have been called is to be with God in glory forever.** This calling is certain, irrevocable, and definitive which is guaranteed by the faithfulness of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 - *“He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.”*

C. If we don’t experience the miracle of receiving the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him and the eyes of our hearts are not enlightened, what Paul is going to talk about in chapters 4-6 won’t make any sense. The second half of this letter is dedicated to instructions on how to live in the great calling we have each received.

Ephesians 4:1 - *“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called...”*

D. If Paul’s prayer isn’t answered, we won’t see or understand the hope of our calling and we won’t walk worthy of it either. The entire book of Ephesians hinges on this prayer being answered.

E. We need to pray the prayer of Ephesians frequently: ***Lord grant me the spirit of wisdom and revelation to know You, and may the effect of knowing You be that the eyes of my heart will be opened to prefer, value, desire and dedicate myself to grow in the knowledge of You; then my eyes will see the hope of Your call in my life to realize that it is not only a glorious destiny but also irrevocable and effective because of Your glorious power and faithfulness.*** (Or write your own version below.)

## II. The riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints. (Ephesians 1:18b)

- A. There have been two interpretations regarding this verse. Is it an inheritance that God receives or one that we receive? Many interpreters consider that it speaks of God's inheritance, not ours, because He bought us for Himself.

*Acts 20:28 - "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."*

- B. So if we are treated as God's possession, it is correct to say that we are His inheritance. God calls His people His inheritance many times, especially in the Old Testament.

*Deuteronomy 32:9 - "But the Lord's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage."*

- C. On the other hand, the arguments in favor of us being the ones who inherit something are also clear in the New Testament- see Colossians 1:12 & 3:24 and Hebrews 9:15.

- D. Ephesians 1:14 speaks of our inheritance not His. When it mentions the riches of his glory, it is talking about what God has for us. — Eph. 1:14 - "...who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."

- E. In Ephesians 1:18, the phrase "the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints" leads us to believe that these could be what we would receive, not necessarily what we are.

- F. We can conclude that God is our inheritance and we are also His inheritance. Our inheritance is that we will be glorified together with Him. Since we are God's possession, the more glorious we become by experiencing the fullness of redemption, the more beautiful his possession because everything is for the praise of His glory. God created us for His own delight and this will be our eternal joy.

### Notice: What is the Holy Spirit highlighting?

Ephesians 1:18-19 - "...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know **what is the hope** to which he has called you, **what are the riches** of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and **what is the immeasurable greatness of his power** toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might..."

- A. Paul uses these words for a reason: *what is the hope, what are the riches?* — His prayer is for believers to pause and be awakened to the magnitude of this hope, glory, and greatness.
- B. Our hearts need to value these things and the Holy Spirit through Paul is inviting us to take a moment to see just how wonderful these things really are. It's important to look at the intensity of each one and not take it for granted. The hope of His calling includes a glorious inheritance and there is great power that ensures the hope we carry.
- C. We will lack nothing in this hope and nothing will stop it from being fulfilled because God's glorious power is what sustains it. We will understand this when we receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation and the eyes of our hearts are enlightened. This is why it is important to read our Bibles and pray! — This is the only way to experience all of this in our lives!

*Romans 5:1-5 - "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us"*

### III. What is the greatness of His power?

Ephesians 1:19-21 - "...and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the

*dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.”*

- A. God wants the eyes of our hearts to be opened so the greatness of his power will have an impact on those of us who believe. In these verses, Paul talks about a great power that is immeasurable and effective. What would happen in our lives if we truly understood the magnitude of the power of God?
1. This power acts in us the same way it acted in Christ in 2 ways: 1) raising Him from the dead, 2) seating Him at the right hand of the Father in heavenly places (Eph. 1:3, 2:6, 3:10, 6:12)
  2. Being at the right hand of God is a unique place of authority over all of the powers of this age. (Eph. 6:12)
- B. There are forces of darkness in the world, but Christ is seated above them all at the right hand of God. What Paul is highlighting here in Ephesians 1:19-21 is that the same power that worked in Christ now operates in us to bring us to life and seat us with Him in the midst of this spiritual reality. Ephesians 2:5-6 - *“...even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...”*
- C. The call that God makes to us today takes us out of spiritual death. It is like when Jesus called Lazarus out of his tomb. When He said: “Lazarus, come forth” (Jn. 11:43-44), the dead man obeyed because the powerful voice of Jesus produced obedience even from beyond the grave. This is what happens to us when the Lord calls us, He makes it possible for us to believe in Him through His incomparable power. This same power is what will sustain us until the end of time.

#### **Reflection Questions:**

1. **Have you been struck by the hope, inheritance, and power Paul is talking about? Explain why or why not.**
2. **How do these truths change the way you respond to God? Do they lead you to love Him more deeply, stand in awe of His greatness, and have security in Christ? Explain why or why not.**

#### **Announcements:**

1. **Ministry Night this Thursday at 7 PM! It will be bilingual, bring the whole family!**
2. **We have baptism preparation class Monday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. in Building 2. For more information, or to sign up, email us at [hello@housesoflight.org](mailto:hello@housesoflight.org).**
3. **Log on to [housesoflight.church](http://housesoflight.church) to access teaching notes, videos, sign up for friendship groups, and get updates on all our upcoming events!**