

Ephesians: Spiritual Growth

Marks of a Prime Faith – Ephesians 1:15-19

November 21, 2021 - *Message Discussion Guide*

Scripture & Message Review

Read Philippians 3:10-14.

- In practical terms, what is Paul's life goal (3:10)?
- What do you think Paul meant when he said he wanted to know the power of the resurrection?
- What do you think Paul meant when he said he wanted to know Christ and the fellowship of his sufferings?
- What is the "one thing" (3:13) Paul does to reach his goal? What would that look like in our lives?

Read Ephesians 1:17, 1 Corinthians 2:10-12, John 14:26.

- What does Paul mean when he says the "Spirit of wisdom?"
- What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives that these Scriptures speak to?
- How can a Christian avail himself of this ministry of the Spirit? How do we receive wisdom from the Spirit?

Read Ephesians 1:18, Galatians 4:19, 1 John 3:2, Philippians 1:6.

- What does it mean to have Christ formed in us?
- What exactly is God desiring to do in us and for us?
- How does Philippians 1:6 encourage us when we are frustrated and tired of our own sin?

Read Psalm 95:6, Luke 22:41, 1 Timothy 2:8, Acts 20:36.

- In what ways does prayer posture matter? In what ways does it not matter?
- What prayer postures best communicate and represent what prayer really is?
- Why do you think commonly embraced prayer postures have changed so much in the last few centuries?
- How do you think it would change your prayer life if you utilized other postures?

Read John 3:30, 1 Corinthians 9:27, James 4:8.

- What are some things a Christian can do to pursue a greater love and a closer walk with the Lord?

Big Questions

- Why do people sometimes abandon their Christian faith?
- What can we do to prevent spiritual drift from happening in our own lives?

Bonus Question

- Ephesians 3:16-19 is another prayer Paul prays for the Ephesians, and it is a close parallel with the prayer in 1:17-19. In Ephesians 3:17, Paul prays that Christ might dwell in their hearts. Why would Paul pray that if they are already saved?

Scripture for Discussion Questions

Philippians 3:10–14 | My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead. Not that I have already reached the goal or am already perfect, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God’s heavenly call in Christ Jesus. (CSB)

Ephesians 1:17 | 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. (CSB)

1 Corinthians 2:10–12 | Now God has revealed these things to us by the Spirit, since the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except his spirit within him? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who comes from God, so that we may understand what has been freely given to us by God. (CSB)

John 14:26 | But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you. (CSB)

Ephesians 1:18 | I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, (CSB)

Galatians 4:19 | My children, I am again suffering labor pains for you until Christ is formed in you. (CSB)

1 John 3:2 | Dear friends, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he appears, we will be like him because we will see him as he is. (CSB)

Philippians 1:6 | I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (CSB)

Psalms 95:6 | Come, let’s worship and bow down; let’s kneel before the LORD our Maker. (CSB)

Luke 22:41 | Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and began to pray, (CSB)

1 Timothy 2:8 | Therefore, I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument. (CSB)

Acts 20:36 | After he said this, he knelt down and prayed with all of them. (CSB)

John 3:30 | He must increase, but I must decrease.” (CSB)

1 Corinthians 9:27 | Instead, I discipline my body and bring it under strict control, so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be disqualified. (CSB)

James 4:8 | Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (CSB)

Ephesians 3:17 | and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, (CSB)