

Water of Life Community Church

PRAYING POWERFUL PRAYERS

WEEK 2

EPHESIANS 1:15-23; 3:13-21

LEADER NOTES

Your Participants will only see the text noted in **bold**.

ICE BREAKER

- Out of the two prayers in Ephesians 1:15-23 and 3:13-21 which describes your walk? Give two examples.
- Who in your group would you consider being spiritually insightful and why?

Paul teaches us in Ephesians about the tools that we have available through prayer. In our group, we want to build each other up. It draws us closer to God and creates intimacy in our group.

OPEN IN PRAYER

Holy Spirit, we delight in You and are so grateful that You are here to teach and guide us. Please empower us with Your insight and open our hearts to receive all that You have for us. Amen.

WORSHIP

If you're looking for help with worship, head to <https://vimeo.com/album/2977729> and choose a couple of the songs you find there. The password is wolsg. Worship is also available at the beginning of each teaching video on our YouTube channel at mywolgroup.com.

INTRODUCTION

Paul writes to believers to enlighten them and build them up so that they will become confident in the blessings available to them through Jesus. He also prays that our hearts would likewise be healed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

1. READ EPHESIANS 1:15-19.

- a. "That God may give you spiritual understanding." What does it mean to have the eyes of your heart enlightened?
- b. "That you might know the riches of His inheritance." Why do we need the spirit of wisdom and understanding? How does that apply to your prayers?

Paul teaches that the Holy Spirit guides us and navigates us throughout our walk. The Holy Spirit wants to bring understanding to us about the things of God.

2. READ EPHESIANS 1:17b.

- a. "Prayer for enlightenment." What things do you do to get to know God? Name three.
- b. Where in your heart is the Holy Spirit working today? Be specific.

When we are unable to understand the things of the Spirit, it is due to our hearts. Paul emphasizes this by calling us to get to know God. We learn about God by spending time with Him, allowing Him to touch and heal us in those broken places. He wants us to draw near to Him, to be vulnerable.

3. READ EPHESIANS 3:14-21

- a. In verse 16, Paul is asking God to strengthen the Ephesians with power through His Spirit. Why do we, as believers, need power?
- b. In verse 18, Paul again asks for power. Why?

In verse 16, we learn that Paul's prayer is so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. In verse 18, the power is so that we can grasp the full measure of Christ's love.

- c. Why do you think it is necessary for believers to live in the Power of the Holy Spirit? Why don't we?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

- In what ways are the eyes of your heart being opened through this teaching?
- Which scripture provoked your heart in this teaching and why?

The Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts. He is actively waiting for us to allow Him access to take us deeper, to challenge us in our prayer life, and to empower us to be filled with the goodness of God.

GOING DEEPER/WEEKLY CHALLENGE

REFLECT

- What is the deepest desire that has stirred in you during this lesson? What is the first step you can take to go deeper with God?

RESPOND

- Find a quiet place each day and write down what the Holy Spirit is saying to you. The more we listen to Him, read His word and act upon it; the closer we get to the heart of God.

Also ... Subscribe to our e-devotionals by texting "eDevotional" to 67076; or go to wolgroups.com and click on the eDevotional button for daily testimonies relating to this week's theme.

MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 1:18-19

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the boundless greatness of His power toward us who believe.”

COMMENTARY

On January 6, 1822, the wife of a poor German pastor had a son, never dreaming that he would one day achieve world renown and great wealth. When Heinrich Schliemann was seven years old, a picture of ancient Troy in flames captured his imagination. Contrary to what many people believed, Heinrich argued that Homer’s great poems, the Iliad and the Odyssey, were based on historic facts and he set out to prove it. In 1873, he uncovered the ancient site of Troy, along with some fabulous treasure, which he smuggled out of the country, much to the anger of the Turkish government. Schliemann became a famous, wealthy man because he dared to believe an ancient record and act on his faith. We discovered that we were “born rich” when we trusted Christ. But this is not enough, for we must grow in our understanding of our riches if we are ever going to use them to the glory of God. Too many Christians have never “read the bankbook” to find out the vast spiritual wealth that God has put to their account through Jesus Christ. They are like the late newspaper publisher, William Randolph Hearst, who invested a fortune collecting art treasures from around the world. One day Mr. Hearst found a description of some valuable items that he felt he must own, so he sent his agent abroad to find them. After months of searching, the agent reported that he had finally found the treasures. They were in Mr. Hearst’s warehouse. Hearst had been searching frantically for treasures he already owned! Had he read the catalog of his treasures, he would have saved himself a great deal of money and trouble. Paul desired the Ephesian Christians to understand what great wealth they had in Christ. Paul knew of their faith and love, and in this he rejoiced. The Christian life has two dimensions: faith toward God and love toward men, and you cannot separate the two. But Paul knew that faith and love were just the beginning. The Ephesians needed to know much more. This is why he prayed for them, and for us. In the prison prayers of Paul (Eph. 1:15–23; 3:14–21; Phil. 1:9–11; Col. 1:9–12), we discover the blessings he wanted his converts to enjoy. In none of these prayers did Paul request material things. His emphasis was on spiritual perception and real Christian character. He did not ask God to give them what they did not have, but rather prayed that God would reveal to them what they already had.

For further commentary go to <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/wiersbe-be-bible-study/toc>

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