

The Ultimate “It” Factor3

June 16, 2024

Series In Ephesians

Part 3

Before sin entered man’s life, He had open conversations and intimacy with God daily. There was none like him on the face of the earth, and God decided that it was not good for him to be without a helpmate of his kind. So, God created from the rib of the first man (Adam)... woman to be his life partner to fill the earth with their kind. They both enjoyed the fellowship of God without any disruption. It was heavenly sunshine, and the world was perfect in their relationship with Father God. Lucifer looked on, scheming how to divide this perfect relationship.

Paul reminds the Ephesian believers about their relationship with Christ and how all believers have redemption through His sacrificial blood for the forgiveness of our sins. His death, burial, and resurrection have given us access to the presence of Father God. God’s idea for creating mankind, before the foundation of the world, was that we would be like Jesus with free will... holy and blameless in His eternal presence.

Scripture Text: Ephesians 1:13-18 NKJV **13** In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, **16** do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

VERSE 13 *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,*

When the Ephesians heard the word of Truth and when we hear the word of Truth, our hearts of stone are made tender, and our eyes became opened.

The scriptures make us aware why people have difficulty believing the Gospel. **2 Corinthians 4:4 NLT** “*Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the good news. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.*” How do we learn to trust as a broken person? When a person is faithful, truthful and keeps their promises we learn to trust them. **Matthew 7:9-11 NIV** **9** “*Which of*

you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

In the book of Ezekiel, God promised to bring restoration to the Jews who were held in Babylonian captivity. **Ezekiel 36:26 NIV, *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.***

A person's heart becomes stoney when deceived and continually lied to. They can quickly become cynical, untrusting, and irreverent toward the things of God while holding on to things that have no eternal value.

The Holy Spirit begins to peel back the layers of lies that the Enemy has covered our hearts with. We begin to trust God because of the demonstration of love by His Son who became sin for us. Our fear is replaced by faith as we believe God. The truth was sewn in our hearts, and we were sealed by the Holy Spirit as God's property with a promised future to dwell in His eternal presence.

VERSE 14 *who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*

Our response to God's Truth brings salvation to us and set us apart for the day that He will come to claim His purchased property. The Holy Spirit seals us, **guaranteeing the assurance under all conditions that the promise (*being with Christ in Heaven*)** will be fulfilled. While we wait, the Holy Spirit gives us access to the Father, teaches us truth from error, strengthens us, and helps us overcome evil with good.

VERSE 15 *Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,*

Paul begins with a commendation, of "your faith in the Lord Jesus", and of "your love for all the saints"; these are two essential marks of true Christians, because we belong to God, we belong to each other and we are on the same path. Paul is rejoicing for all Christians everywhere. We also rejoice because of other believers' faith in Christ's death, burial, resurrection and return which gives us reason to pray for one another.

We are obligated by the grace that we have received to love all the saints, not just those who are like us, or those who like us, or those who return our affection.

VERSE 16 *do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:*

Paul understands the power of prayer and intercedes for those who have come into relationship with Christ. He knows the power of prayer can change the paradigm of life over death. Many times, he found himself clinging to life because of his testimony of Jesus Christ and the power that raised Christ from the dead.

He encourages all believers to pray by believing that you have received what you ask for and walking in confidence that you are more than a conqueror.

When we pray for others and especially those of the household of faith, we pray for the one body with many members.

VERSE 17 *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,*

Paul's focus is toward Father God, who has demonstrated His grace to all men that they may be saved. The Holy Spirit within us will teach us God's Truth as we walk by faith. We can't rely upon our sight because we are blind until He opens our eyes and give us revelation to the unseen. We must continually strive to know Him better day by day.

The keys to spiritual to growth and victories will come in knowing God's word and Christ. Gaining this knowledge is the work of the Holy Spirit, who brings wisdom and revelation. Through Him we learn things that cannot be known by human wisdom.

Applications:

We can always depend on the person who has been tried, tested and proven to be faithful.

The soul is liberated when truth is sought from a heart directed toward God.