

# Life Group Lesson

SUPERNATURAL • Week of September 25

## Introduction

Paul was chosen by the will of God to be an apostle (Ephesians 1:1). For Paul (formerly Saul of Tarsus) a personal experience with the Risen Christ made all the difference. Paul's living into the Lord's direction was not merely a 'good idea' but a mandate, an appointment that came straight from the portals of heaven. It was a supernatural work of God that transformed this former persecutor of the church into a Holy Spirit-filled apostle of Christ. Paul said, "God gave me the special responsibility of extending *God's* grace to you Gentiles. As I briefly wrote earlier God himself revealed his mysterious plan to me..." (Ephesians 3:2-3, italics added)

Apostle means *one sent on mission*. Did you know that God has an appointment (assignment, calling) over your life—He wants to send *you*? Last week, in our Supernatural message series, we learned that works do not make us holy; only God's Holy Spirit can make us holy. The Holy Spirit (the indwelling presence of God in the heart of a believer) is a personal guarantee that we belong to Christ and will one day inherit the promises of heaven. God alone can make such a promise, and it is the Holy Spirit alone who will help us be faithful to the day He returns for us. Whatever supernatural work God has your name on, live into it! Ask the Lord to reveal to you what special assignment He has for you. You also are 'one sent on mission.'

Paul's ministry in Ephesus is incredible to read about (Acts 19:1-20). It was the fourth largest city in the Roman Empire and a place of many gods, in particular the Greek goddess Artemis. The city of Ephesus was known as the "official guardian of the temple of the great Artemis" (Acts 19:35). The apostle Paul loved the church at Ephesus and proved it by enduring much suffering on their behalf. After a first visit to Ephesus (near the end of his second journey in Acts 18:19-21), he returns to Ephesus and stays between two and three years. It was a place of darkness and witchcraft (Acts 19:18-20). Many opposed his sharing the Gospel there; in fact, Paul spoke of the beatings and persecution he suffered (2 Corinthians 1:8-9, 11:23-27); at one point, Paul mentions 'fighting wild beasts—those people of Ephesus' (1 Corinthians 15:32).

Yet, Paul stayed the course. He was fearless and faithful (again, only through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit). Because Paul was obedient from the onset, he witnessed the baptism of the Holy Spirit upon twelve men early on,

who immediately began speaking in tongues and prophesying (Acts 19:5-7). Thus, as the city flourished, the church flourished. It was on the return of Paul's third missionary journey, while on his way back to Jerusalem, that Paul sent for the Ephesians to meet him in Miletus for final words of exhortation, encouragement and prayer (Acts 20:13-38). In the midst of pain and trials, Paul knew first-hand that it is God alone who gives grace and peace in the midst of extreme hardship.

## Background

As a background exercise leading up to the primary Scripture, read Ephesians 1:3-11. According to Paul's words, notice the many ways God works (and what God promises) on behalf of those who are united with Christ. What does God promise individuals who place their faith in Christ?

### LIST

What God Has Done for Us  
Through Christ

-  
-  
-  
-  
-

What God Promises Us

-  
-  
-  
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## Reading the Text

### Read Ephesians 1:12-25

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can we help you?

# SUPER NATURAL

**Text:** Ephesians 1:12-23

## Plain Truth:

Christians have \_\_\_\_\_ over  
\_\_\_\_\_ elements of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Two *Radioactive Elements* came into the world that have led to our bondage, brokenness,**

A. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. These two often go together.

B. Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ that led to the temptation itself.

**Paul gives us the definitive outline to combat *Radioactive shame, fear, scarcity*:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus

2. \_\_\_\_\_

## Reflection

When you accept Jesus into your heart, the Bible says you become a new creation. “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! (2 Corinthians 5:17) and that *your real life* is hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3). Thus, for Christians (those who are in Christ) there is power available upon request! – you have Holy Spirit access. Our plain truth states that: “Christians have power over the radioactive elements of sin.” What once brought shame and fear, is now defeated by Christ’s resurrection power. What once held you in a mindset of scarcity, is now placed under the Lordship of Jesus who sits at the right hand of POWER on high, God Himself! Read together Paul’s words –

*“I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe in Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms. Now He is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority Christ and has made Him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is His body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with Himself” (Ephesians 1:19-23).*

## In Closing

Thank the Lord for adopting you into His own family. Thank Him for showering you with kindness, along with all wisdom and understanding. Thank Him for the inheritance you have to look forward to – and for including you in this glorious mystery of salvation made known through His Christ. Thank Him that ‘He makes everything work out according to His plan.’

## Close in a Time of Prayer asking:

How can I pray for my fellow Life Group participants this week?

## One Year Bible Readings

September 25: Isaiah 45:11-48:11, Ephesians 4:1-16, Psalm 68:19-35, Proverbs 24:3-4

September 26: Isaiah 48:12-50:11, Ephesians 4:17-32, Psalm 69:1-18, Proverbs 24:5-6

September 27: Isaiah 51:1-53:12, Ephesians 5:1-33, Psalm 69:19-36, Proverbs 24:7

September 28: Isaiah 54:1-57:14, Ephesians 6:1-24, Psalm 70:1-5, Proverbs 24:8

September 29: Isaiah 57:15-59:21, Philippians 1:1-26, Psalm 71:1-24, Proverbs 24:9-10

September 30: Isaiah 60:1-62:5, Philippians 1:27-2:18, Psalm 72:1-20, Prov. 24:11-12

October 1: Isaiah 62:6-65:25, Philippians 2:19-3:3, Psalm 73:1-28, Proverbs 24:13-14

**September 25, 2022**