

Our **Virtual**

PowerGroup

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

Week 2 Study

Icebreaker

What in your life are you most thankful for? What do you thank God on a daily basis?

Passage 1 Ephesians 1:13-14

Here Paul uses the imagery of a seal pressed into wax to verify the identity and authority of a king in those days who made an official transaction or decree. Paul uses this helpful imagery to describe the work of the Holy Spirit within us. The Spirit brings us to a place of hearing the word of truth, stirs within us and gives us the faith to believe, and seals us with his presence and power to complete the transaction of God's work of redemption in us.

Reflection How is the Holy Spirit similar to a "deposit" or down payment?

How are we being transformed according to 2 Corinthians 3:17-18.

What does John 16:7-15 say the spirit will do for us?

Passage 2 Ephesians 1:15-16

The apostle Paul continually gives thanks to God for the Ephesians because they have put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Furthermore, he gives thanks for the fact that the genuineness and the fruit of their faith is being evidenced by the love they have, not only for each other, but for "all the saints," all those who are fellow believers in Christ.

Reflection Why did Paul continually give thanks for the Ephesian believers?

What fruit does Galatians 5:22 say should be evident in the life of a Christian?

Why is faith and love so important in a believer's life?

What are some practical examples of our personal faith working itself out in acts of love?

Passage 3 Ephesians 1:17-21

The Holy Spirit is the “Spirit of wisdom and revelation,” and we need this Spirit of God so that we can know God better and become more like Jesus. Using the word picture “the eyes of your heart,” Paul indicates that he wants believers to have more than head knowledge about God. Believers need a deep inner awareness of God’s working in their lives and of all that God wants for them. In the Bible the heart is the core of one’s being, the very center of one’s life, and Paul is saying here that he wants believers to know God in the utmost depths of their being.

Reflection Why was Paul praying that believers could receive the “Spirit of wisdom and revelation”?

Where does Paul state that we get our wisdom from?

What spiritual realities did Paul want believers to know?

How is God’s power described? Whom is it for?

Passage 4 Ephesians 1:22-23

We need to know that God’s power raised Jesus Christ and lifted him to his rightful place to rule over all things at the right hand of the Father. And in this way Christ fills his church, which Paul refers to as Christ’s “body” (1:23) because Christ is its head. The body of Christ is filled with absolute, life-giving power to bring God’s mysterious good news of salvation to the world.

Reflection What is the relationship between Christ and the church?

What would our lives look like if we believed that God was truly in control?

What would the church look like if people trusted God was in control?

Application

When Paul writes about “the hope to which [God] has called you” (1:18), he is referring to more than a feeling or desire. He is pointing to a promise that will come to pass. He is referring to the assurance of eternal life evidenced by the presence of the Holy Spirit in believers’ lives right now. The Bible tells us that the believer is “called out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Pet. 2:9) and called to “one hope” (Eph. 4:4)—one living and future hope in Jesus Christ.

In a world that is without hope, how can we communicate that there is hope in receiving the calling of the Lord for our lives?