

*Note: The online version of the Sermon Notes and Study Guide may be found at:
<https://notes.subsplash.com/fill-in/view?page=GXsG-Bwtzxe>*

:: Summary

In chapter 1 of Ephesians, Paul praises God and prays to God – praise for how God has spiritually blessed us in every way, and prayer that every believer might come to know God more fully. But not just individual believers. Rather Paul prays for believers as the Church. The “you” in each phrase is plural. There are no solo Christians. Ephesians will remind us – several times in fact – that we are together the body of Christ. God’s response to Paul’s prayer will therefore most fully be received in the context of shared Christian life.

:: Share

Describe an experience of being treasured (highly valued) by someone – a friend, spouse, child, co-worker, teammate, or another person in your life. What did it feel like to know he or she saw you as valuable?

:: Explore and Discuss | Read Ephesians 1:15-19

Both in the Old Testament and New Testament, the word “heart” means much more than an internal organ or a seat of emotions. Heart is used to describe the whole person made up of the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, rational, and volitional including being responsive or unresponsive to God. At the beginning of verse 18, how would you describe what Paul is praying specifically for the heart?

Describe as fully as you can the Christian “hope” to which we have been called.

It is absolutely true that Scripture describes the inheritance we receive from God. In the message, it was noted that in this particular text the wording favors the idea of God’s people being God’s inheritance. How would you explain what it means to know the “riches” of this reality?

How have you experienced God’s incomparably great power? (Note: God works in large and small, invisible and visible, subtle and not so subtle ways).

:: Apply it to Your Life

Have one person read verses 17-19 aloud changing the pronouns to “me”, “I”, “my”, “I”, “you”, “me” in order to make it personal. You are encouraged to pray this prayer throughout the next week. Is there any part that particularly inspires you or you find difficult to pray? Explain.



How do you want to “know” God more (in the fullest, deepest sense)?

:: Pray

Glorious Father, we ask that you bless your Church with greater knowledge of you. Enlighten our hearts so that we would know deeper hope, make us aware of how much you treasure us, help us to know your incomparably great power in ever fuller ways in our daily walk of faith. More of you Father, is what we humbly ask. Amen.

