

Ephesians – Week 4 – Open our eyes, Lord – Bible Study Helps

Title: Open Our Eyes, Lord

Sermon Summary:

This sermon from Ephesians 1:15-23 emphasizes Paul's prayer that believers would have their spiritual eyes opened to three essential realities: the guaranteed hope of our calling in Christ, our immeasurable value as Christ's treasured possession, and the exceeding greatness of God's power available to us. The sermon challenges the congregation to move beyond head knowledge to heart understanding, recognizing that saved people can still live discouraged and defeated lives when they fail to grasp what they possess in Christ. The message emphasizes that Christ is already seated at the right hand of God, reigning over all creation, and that believers are connected to Him as His body. History is moving toward the inevitable moment when Christ will be recognized as Lord of all, and the church serves as the outpost of that coming reality. This sermon calls believers to live victoriously in light of their secure position in Christ rather than being defeated by worldly circumstances.

Key Points:

- Believers need spiritual enlightenment to understand what they already possess in Christ
- God wants us to know the hope of His calling—our guaranteed future with Him in glory
- We are valuable to Christ as His purchased and treasured possession, destined to reign with Him as kings and priests
- The same resurrection power that raised Christ from the dead is available to believers today
- Christ is already seated at God's right hand, far above all powers and authorities
- Believers are Christ's body, connected to Him who is already reigning in heavenly places
- All of history is moving toward the culmination when Christ will gather all things together in Himself
- We should not live defeated lives when we have access to Christ's exceeding great power
- Sin can blur our spiritual sight, causing us to forget our position and privileges in Christ
- The church's mission is to reach people and make disciples until Christ returns

Scripture Reference:

- Ephesians 1:1-23 (primary focus on verses 15-23)
- Psalm 2:1-12
- Psalm 28:9
- Psalm 94:14
- Psalm 110:1

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- Psalm 119:18
- Isaiah 19:25
- Luke 24:44-45
- Acts 2:32-35
- Acts 16:14
- Romans 8:11
- 1 Thessalonians 4
- Titus 2:14
- Hebrews 1:1-3
- Hebrews 6:19
- Hebrews 12:1-2
- 1 Peter 2:9
- 1 John (reference to "what manner of love")
- Revelation 1:5-6
- 2 Corinthians 4:4

Stories:

- The illustration of a blind man sitting in a room full of riches, unable to see what he possesses, representing believers who don't understand their spiritual wealth
- The analogy of walking into a dark room without turning on the light and stumbling into things, representing living without spiritual enlightenment
- Reference to the movie with a man putting on glasses that allow him to suddenly see reality, illustrating the moment of salvation when spiritual sight is given
- The account of Lydia from Acts 16, whose heart the Lord opened to understand Paul's preaching
- The disciples' encounter with Jesus in Luke 24, where He opened their understanding to comprehend the Scriptures
- Isaiah's vision before God's throne (Isaiah 6) where he recognized his unclean lips and the people's spiritual blindness
- Personal testimony of the pastor remembering the day he got saved and how everything changed

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Discipleship Questions

How might our daily struggles and discouragements be different if we truly lived with the constant awareness that we are already 'seated in heavenly places' with Christ?

In what ways do you think believers can have their spiritual sight 'blurred' by sin, and what practical steps can we take to keep our eyes enlightened to God's truth?

What does it mean for you personally that Christ considers you His 'peculiar treasure' and 'purchased possession,' and how should this reality affect how you view yourself?

How does understanding that all of history is moving toward Christ's ultimate reign change the way you respond to current world events and political turmoil?

Many Christians are content with this world's goods and don't really want to go to heaven—do you think this is true, and if so, what does it reveal about our spiritual condition?

What is the difference between having head knowledge about our blessings in Christ and having heart understanding that actually transforms how we live?

If the same resurrection power that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in believers, why do you think so many Christians still live defeated and discouraged lives?

How does recognizing that we are 'joint heirs with Christ' and will reign as 'kings and priests' impact your sense of purpose and calling in your current circumstances?

Samuel said that not praying for others is a sin against God—how does this challenge your current prayer life and priorities?

What would it look like in practical terms to live as though your future with Christ is more real and valuable than anything you might gain or lose in this present world?

Small Group Guide: Open Our Eyes, Lord

Based on Ephesians 1:15-23

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by asking God to open the eyes of your understanding, just as Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see clearly the realities discussed in this passage.

Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Question: Share about a time when you suddenly understood something you had known about but never truly "got it" until that moment. What changed in how you saw that truth?

Scripture Reading (5 minutes)

Have someone read Ephesians 1:15-23 aloud. Consider reading it from two different translations.

Key Sermon Points

1. Know the Hope of His Calling (Future Hope)
 2. Know the Riches of the Glory of His Inheritance in the Saints (Present Value)
 3. Know the Exceeding Greatness of His Power to Us-ward (Available Power)
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Discussion Questions

Section 1: The Hope of His Calling (25 minutes)

1. Understanding the Text

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- What does Paul mean by "the hope of His calling"? How is biblical hope different from how the world uses the word "hope"?
 - 2. **Personal Reflection**
 - On a scale of 1-10, how much does your guaranteed future in Christ affect your daily life? Why that number?
 - What circumstances this past week caused you to forget where God is taking you?
 - 3. **Going Deeper**
 - Read Hebrews 6:19. How does viewing hope as "an anchor of the soul" change how you face uncertainty?
 - "Discouraged believers may forget where God is taking them." What are the warning signs in your life that you're forgetting your eternal hope?
 - 4. **Application**
 - What's one practical way you can remind yourself daily of your guaranteed future in Christ?
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Section 2: The Riches of the Glory of His Inheritance in the Saints (25 minutes)

1. **Understanding the Text**
 - The sermon explained that we are Christ's "peculiar treasure" and "purchased possession." What does it mean that Jesus places immeasurable value on us?
 - How is Christ's inheritance different from ours?
 2. **Personal Reflection**
 - Do you struggle to believe you're valuable to God? Why or why not?
 - How does knowing you're valuable to Christ (not just that He's valuable to you) change your perspective?
 3. **Going Deeper**
 - Read Revelation 1:5-6. What does it mean that we will be "kings and priests" in God's kingdom?
 - The sermon said, "If you don't think you're valuable to Jesus Christ, you won't work for Him now." Do you agree? Why?
 4. **Application**
 - When people or circumstances make you feel worthless this week, how will you combat those lies with the truth of your value to Christ?
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Section 3: The Exceeding Greatness of His Power (25 minutes)

1. **Understanding the Text**
 - Paul uses multiple words to describe God's power: "exceeding greatness," "mighty power," "working." Why do you think he piled up these descriptions?
 - What is "resurrection power," and how is it available to believers today?
2. **Personal Reflection**

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- In what area of your life are you currently living as though you have no power available to you?
 - The sermon said we can live "defeated" even though we're saved. Where do you see this in your own life?
3. **Going Deeper**
- Read Romans 8:11. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you. How should this truth affect how you face your biggest challenge right now?
 - Christ is already "seated in heavenly places, far above all." We are His body. What does this mean for our security and our mission?
4. **Application**
- What's one situation this week where you need to stop relying on your own strength and start accessing God's resurrection power?
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Practical Applications (15 minutes)

From Head Knowledge to Heart Knowledge

Group Exercise: The sermon emphasized that truth must move from our heads to our hearts. For each of the three realities, discuss:

1. **Future Hope**
 - Head knowledge: "I know I'm going to heaven."
 - Heart knowledge: "I live today with confidence and joy because my future is secure."
 - **This week I will:** _____
 2. **Present Value**
 - Head knowledge: "Jesus died for me."
 - Heart knowledge: "I am Christ's treasured possession, valuable enough that He gave everything for me."
 - **This week I will:** _____
 3. **Available Power**
 - Head knowledge: "God is all-powerful."
 - Heart knowledge: "The same power that raised Christ from the dead is in me and available to me right now."
 - **This week I will:** _____
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Key Takeaways

Write these down and share which one resonates most with you:

- ✓ Our future with Christ is guaranteed—this should keep us from discouragement

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- ✓ We are Christ's purchased and treasured possession—we have immeasurable value to Him
 - ✓ Resurrection power is available to us today—we don't have to live defeated
 - ✓ Christ is already reigning in heaven; we are His body—we're connected to the Victor
 - ✓ All of history is moving toward Christ's ultimate reign—we're on the winning side
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Accountability Questions (10 minutes)

1. What specific truth from this study do you need to pray about this week?
 2. How will you know if your "eyes have been opened" to these realities?
 3. What's one way your life should look different if you truly believed these three truths?
 4. Who in your life needs to hear about the hope, value, and power available in Christ?
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Prayer Time (15 minutes)

Guided Prayer Format:

1. **Praise:** Thank God for the hope, value, and power He's given us in Christ
2. **Confession:** Confess areas where you've been living with "blurred spiritual vision"
3. **Petition:** Ask God to open your eyes to these three realities
4. **Intercession:** Pray for lost people who need their eyes opened to the gospel

Specific Prayer Requests:

- Pray for those struggling with discouragement or depression
 - Pray for those who don't feel valuable or worthy
 - Pray for those facing challenges that seem bigger than God's power
 - Pray for opportunities to share the gospel this week
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Memory Verse

Ephesians 1:18-19a – *"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe..."*

Before Next Week

1. Read Ephesians 1:15-23 every day this week
 2. Journal about one of the three realities each day
 3. Share with one person what God is teaching you
 4. Memorize Ephesians 1:18-19a
 5. Practice living "with your eyes open" to these truths
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Leader's Notes

- **Be prepared** for emotional responses—these truths can be deeply convicting
 - **Watch for** group members who seem defeated or discouraged; follow up personally
 - **Emphasize** that spiritual sight can grow dim even for believers
 - **Don't rush** through the application section—this is where transformation happens
 - **Consider** having someone share a testimony of how God's power helped them through difficulty
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"Lord, open our eyes that we may see the hope of Your calling, our value to You, and Your mighty power available to us. Move these truths from our heads to our hearts, and help us live in victory. Amen."

5-Day Devotional: Open Our Eyes, Lord

Day 1: The Hope of His Calling

Reading: Ephesians 1:15-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Devotional: Paul prayed that believers would have "the eyes of your understanding enlightened" to know the hope of His calling. This isn't wishful thinking—it's guaranteed certainty. Your future with Christ is as secure as if you're already there. When discouragement weighs you down, when circumstances blur your vision, remember: you're headed somewhere glorious. The trumpet could sound today! This world's troubles are temporary, but your inheritance is eternal. Live today with the confident expectation that you belong to Him and nothing can separate you from His love. Let this hope lift you above defeat and depression. Your Savior has prepared a place for you, and He's coming back.

Reflection: What circumstances are causing you to forget where God is taking you? How would viewing today's challenges through the lens of eternity change your perspective?

Day 2: His Treasured Possession

Reading: Ephesians 1:18; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 2:9-10

Devotional: You are Christ's purchased possession and peculiar treasure. While you received salvation freely, Jesus purchased you at the highest cost: His own blood. He looked at sinful, broken humanity and said, "I want them." This staggering reality should transform how you see yourself. When the world calls you worthless, remember: the King of the universe valued you enough to die for you. You're not just forgiven—you're treasured. This isn't about your performance or worthiness; it's about His love. He has made you kings and priests, destined to display His glory forever. Live today knowing you matter immensely to Him. Your value isn't determined by circumstances, achievements, or others' opinions—it's established by the cross.

Reflection: Do you truly believe you're valuable to Jesus Christ? How would living with this reality change your work, relationships, and service for Him today?

Day 3: Resurrection Power Within You

Reading: Ephesians 1:19-20; Romans 8:11; Philippians 4:13

Devotional: The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you. Think about that—resurrection power! The exceeding greatness of His mighty power is available to you today, not

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just for eternity. You may feel weak, defeated, or inadequate, but God's strength is perfected in your weakness. The Holy Spirit who quickened Christ's body dwells within you, empowering you for every challenge. Stop living as though you're powerless when the Creator of the universe has equipped you with His strength. This power isn't for show; it's for daily victory over sin, discouragement, and spiritual warfare. You're connected to the One who has all authority. His power isn't just future hope—it's present help.

Reflection: What situation in your life requires resurrection power today? Are you trying to overcome challenges in your own strength instead of relying on His mighty power?

Day 4: Already Seated in Heavenly Places

Reading: Ephesians 1:20-23, 2:6; Colossians 3:1-4

Devotional: Jesus Christ is already seated at the Father's right hand, far above all powers and authorities—and you're seated with Him. Your head is already in heaven; you're as good as there right now. This isn't future tense—it's present reality. Christ reigns supreme over every government, demon, and circumstance, and you're part of His body. This means nothing touches you that hasn't passed through His sovereign hands first. Stop living as though you're defeated when your Savior has already won. The chaos around you doesn't change the fact that He's above it all, ruling and reigning. Your citizenship is in heaven; you're just on assignment here. Live today from that position of victory, not striving toward it.

Reflection: How would your daily decisions change if you truly lived as though you're already seated with Christ in heavenly places?

Day 5: History's Inevitable Conclusion

Reading: Ephesians 1:10; Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 19:11-16

Devotional: All of history is moving toward one grand conclusion: everything summed up in Christ. This isn't random chaos—it's divinely orchestrated. Every political upheaval, cultural shift, and personal trial is part of God's redemptive plan to establish Christ's universal reign. He's already King in heaven; He's coming to reign on earth. As His church, you're the outpost of that coming reality. Your mission matters eternally—proclaim His gospel, make disciples, plant churches until He returns. Don't be discouraged by darkness; it's the resistance of a world approaching its inevitable reordering under the King of kings. Your labor isn't in vain. Align yourself with Christ's purposes today, knowing history is on His side—and you are also!

Reflection: How does knowing that Christ's victory is inevitable affect your evangelism, your courage, and your hope? What is God calling you to do as part of His body on earth today?

Closing Prayer

Lord, open our eyes to see clearly the hope of Your calling, the riches of Your inheritance in us, and the exceeding greatness of Your power available to us. Help us move these truths from head knowledge to heart transformation. May we live victoriously, knowing we're valuable to You, connected to You, and destined for glory with You. In Jesus' name, Amen.