

Ephesians 1:15-23

15. Wherefore, **I** (Paul) also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and **love for all the saints,**

- I John 3:14 "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we _____ the **brethren** (same as "the saints"). He who does not love his brother (fellow Christian) abides in _____ .
- I John 2:9-11 "He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in _____ until now. He who loves his _____ his brother (fellow Christian) is in **darkness** and **walks in** _____ , and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has _____ his eyes."
- I John 4:20 "If someone says, 'I love God' and hates his _____ , he is a _____ ; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not _____?"

16. Do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you IN MY PRAYERS;

- a.) How often does Paul pray for the Believers at Ephesus? _____
- Read I Thessalonians 5:16-18 (Verses 17 & 18) "Pray without _____ in everything give _____ , for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for _____ ." How often are **we** to pray? _____

17-19. That **the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,** the Father of glory, MAY GIVE UNTO YOU:

1. the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him;
2. [that] the eyes of your understanding would be enlightened;
3. that you may know what is the hope of **His calling,**
4. and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints;
5. And what is the exceeding greatness of **His power toward us** who believe, according to the working of His mighty power"

(The above is a list of things that Paul asks God to give to **Believers,** people who already know the Lord. Would these be good things for you to pray for yourself? _____ For someone else who is a Christian, and who asks for prayer? _____) Here's a sample of how you might pray this prayer of Paul's for yourself;

Father God, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I ask You to GIVE UNTO ME: the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You; [that] the eyes of MY understanding would be enlightened; that I may know what is the hope of **YOUR calling for ME,** and what are the riches of the glory of MY inheritance in the saints; and what is the exceeding greatness of YOUR power toward ME, because I believe, according to the working of YOUR mighty power. Thank you, Lord.

What does "the hope of **His calling**" mean? It means that **God has a plan for your life,** but that plan is based **entirely on His calling and choosing you** by His grace, **not** based on any works of goodness or intelligence of your own!! (See Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:3-7)

- Read II Timothy 1:8-9 (Verse 9) "Who has saved us and _____ us with a holy **CALLING, not** according to _____ , but according to **His own purpose** and **grace** which was GIVEN to us in Christ Jesus before time began."

- Read Romans 8:28-31 "For whom He **foreknew**, him He also PREDESTINATED **to be conformed to the image of** _____ , that He (Jesus) might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom He predestined, these He also _____ , whom **HE called**, these He also _____ , and whom He justified, these He also _____ ."
- I Corinthians 1:26-29 "For you see your _____ , brethren, that not many _____ are **CALLED**. But God has **chosen** the _____ things of the world to put to shame the wise, and **God has chosen** the _____ things of the world to put to _____ the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world, and the things which are _____ God has _____ , (Verse 29) That no flesh (no human being) should glory in His _____ ."

20-21. Which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead, and **set Him at His own right hand** in the heavenly places, far above **all principality, and power**, and might, and dominion, and **every name that is named** not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

- Read Philippians 2:9-11 "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him the name that is _____ every name, that at the name of _____ every knee should bow, of those in _____ and of those on _____ , and of those _____ the Earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is _____ to the glory of God the Father."
- Psalm 110:1 "**The Lord** said to **my Lord**, 'Sit at My _____" till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

Jesus rose bodily from the grave and ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father, but we also say He can come and **live in our hearts** (read Ephesians 3:17 and I John 3:23-24).

- Ephesians 3:17 "That Christ may **dwell in your hearts** by _____"
- I John 3:23-24 "And this is His commandment, that we should believe on the name of **His Son Jesus Christ**, and love one another as He gave commandment. And he that keeps His commandments dwells in _____ , and He in him. And by this we know that **He (dwells) abides in us**, by the _____ whom He has given us."

22-23. And has put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

a.) The church is called the _____ of Christ. Does this mean the church is more than just a human organization of people with similar beliefs or interests? _____

- Read I Corinthians 12:11-20 (Verse 11) "But one and the same _____ works all these things, distributing to each one individually as _____ wills." (Verse 18) "But now _____ has set the members, each one of them, in the BODY, just as _____ pleased."

Who decides what our place or position in the Body of Christ will be? _____

- Read I Corinthians 6:12-20. If we are individually members of Christ's body, does it matter how we live and what we do with our bodies? _____