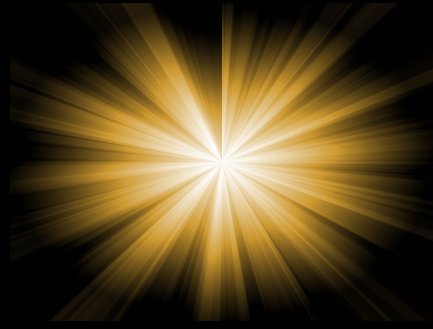


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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 1:15-19
Lesson #7
Prayerful Teaching
09/10/2017




**HOLINESS HAS MORE TO DO
 WITH WHAT WE ARE DRAWN TO
 THAN WHAT WE TURN FROM.**


1

2 Corinthians 5:14
 "For the love of Christ controls us,"

Two paths

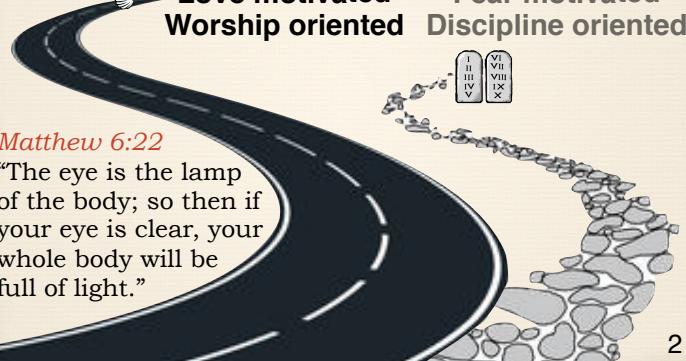


Spirit centered
 Love motivated
 Worship oriented



Law centered
 Fear motivated
 Discipline oriented

Matthew 6:22
 "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light."



2



**EPHESIANS WANTS TO START US
 ON THE RIGHT PATH**

3


Paul's letters start with affirmations not exhortations.

What Christ has done *for* us.

Our **position** in Christ by grace through faith

What Christ is doing *in and through* us.

Our **behavior** in Christ by grace through discipline



At this point we are not exhorted to do anything but pray for God to help us see.

4

Ephesians 1

"¹⁵ **For this reason** I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you, and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;

Starting on the right path involves:

- Recognizing what we have in Christ (vs.3-14) not what we don't have.**

"In Christ" we have:

- chosen to be holy,
- predestined to adoption as sons,
- redemption and forgiveness,
- the mysteries of fullness in Christ revealed,
- an inheritance,
- sealed with the Spirit as a pledge

5

Ephesians 1

¹⁵ For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you, and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;

Starting on the right path involves:

2. Recognizing true signs of spiritual life - faith, hope, and love **not our comfort, growth, power, programs, and material wealth.**

Colossians 1

³ We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven,"

6

Too many congregations measure "success" by superficial issues.

- **Growth and size** - the bigger the better.
- **Programs** - opportunities to address every need.
- **Efficiency** - well run and controlled organization.
- **Community** - everyone gets along and feels good.
- **Facilities** - creature comforts.
- **Leadership** - charismatic, personality, visionary.
- **Respect** - making an impression on the world.
- **Power** - political and economic game changer.

7

Too many Christians measure success by superficial issues.

- **Happiness** - do I feel good about self, life, etc.?
- **Health** - am I enjoying good physical health?
- **Wealth** - am I prospering materially?
- **Security** - do I feel secure looking forward?
- **Relationships** - do I have a lot of good friends?
- **Respect** - am I recognized and appreciated?
- **Significance** - am I making a difference?
- **Power** - am I reaching my goals?

8

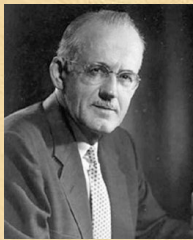
¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe."

Starting on the right path involves:

3. Recognizing that we need more than orthodox doctrine. **We also need spiritual insight.**
- *Paul does not only teach but also PRAYS that God's Spirit would open their eyes to see.*
 - *Its not so much about knowing God's will as knowing Christ (the knowledge of him)*

9

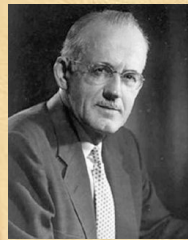
A.W. Tozer



"The disciple of Jesus needs more than light. He also needs sight. The blind man is not aided by light without sight."

10

A.W. Tozer



"Fundamentalism has fallen into the error of textualism, which is simply orthodoxy without the Holy Spirit - "Bible taught" and "Spirit taught".

11

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.”

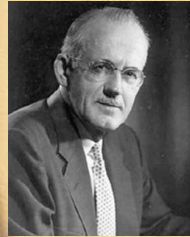
Starting on the right path involves:

4. Recognizing three things that every Christian must see **before they start doing God's work.**

- What is our spiritual **calling**?
- What is our spiritual **destiny**?
- What is our spiritual **power**?

12

A.W. Tozer



“We take a new convert and immediately make a worker out of him. That is not God's way. God meant that a convert should first learn to be a worshipper, and then his work will have God in it.”

13

“the hope of His calling”

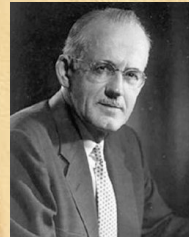
Christ's calling and ours overlap.

Philippians 2

“⁵ **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus**, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but **emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant**, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

14

A.W. Tozer



“Get a man converted who knows that if he joins Jesus Christ he's finished”.

15

“the hope of His calling”

Christ's calling and ours overlap.

Ephesians 4

“¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to **walk in a manner worthy of the calling** with which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, ³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

16

“the hope of His calling”

Christ's calling and ours overlap.

1. The emphasis is on how we **relate to each other in the Body of Christ** **not on our outreach to or renewal of the world.**
2. We are called to share Christ's **attitude as a sacrificial servant** **not just his behavior.**

17

“the glory of His inheritance in the saints”

This is a reference to HEAVEN.

1 Peter 1

“³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to *obtain* an inheritance *which* is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, **reserved in heaven for you**, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready **to be revealed in the last time.**”

18

“the glory of His inheritance in the saints”

***HEAVEN
is described as a NEW EARTH***

2 Peter 3

“¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! ¹³ But according to His promise **we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.**”

19

“greatness of His power toward us”

Clarification of “the power”

- ***It is usually NOT the changing of our circumstances.***

We too often want dramatic deliverance FROM not peace and growth through.

- ***It is more often the power to endure and exploit our situation.***

20

“greatness of His power toward us”

Examples

- **Joseph's captivity** (Gen.50:20) - It was evil but God used it for good.
- **Paul's thorn in the flesh** (2 Cor.12:1-10) - It was from Satan but God used it for good.
- **The Cross of Christ** - It was unjust but God used it for good.
- **Our suffering in this life** (2 Cor.1:1-11) - It enables us to comfort others who suffer.
- **What is painful for you right NOW** - It is a door to develop or demonstrate the image of Christ.

21

Take home lessons

1. There is much more attention given to **living the Christian life** than becoming a Christian.
2. The Lordship of Christ and what it means to be “in Christ” is realized through **instruction and intercession.**
3. Our **calling, destiny, and power** are a key to our worship, and walk.
4. **Turning from the bad** starts with seeing the beauty of the good.

22