

What Does the Bible Reveal about your Life Mission? Ephesians Series #9 “Receiving God’s Amazing Empowering”

Message Notes, October 30, 2022

Ephesians 1:18-19 (ESV) ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the ^{a.} immeasurable greatness of his ^{c.} power toward us who believe, according to the ^{b.} working of his ^{d.} great might

Eyes of your hearts: in the Bible, the heart does not simply govern emotions and intellect, but refers to the entire personality, including their inner motivations.

Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your affections. For they influence everything else in your life.

Enlightened:

- Ancient Greek rhetoric uses this grammar to express excitement, and here Paul is again trying to draw attention to matters that are critically important in the life of faith. It is the “hope of the calling,” the “inheritance,” and the “power.”
- The phrase “*enlightened eyes*” means to give light, to realize the truths we need to see, through the work of the Holy Spirit. The present tense is used here, implying that this Spirit makes us realize the truths we need **daily**.

God’s Power

- V. 19 “the immeasurable (hyperballo) greatness of his power (*dynamis*→dynamite) toward us who believe. This power is described by four adjectives
 - a. Greatness *megethos* magnitude
 - b. Work(ing) *energeia* → energy, the ability to work in a concrete, actual, tangible way
 - c. Power *kratos* the power to complete something perfectly or successfully, to bring about the desired result
 - d. Great might *ischys* the power inherent in people, their hidden potential
- The reason for this redundancy in describing power is that all of the power that we need to live a victorious life here on earth is definitely available to us from God.
- The purpose for which God provides this power to us is so that we can continue to its end the path of salvation that has been provided for us.
- This is the power of resurrection that set Jesus free from the bondage of death, covered from vv. 20ff. God is offering this power to us.
- These two concepts of resurrection and heavenly reign are always mentioned in parallel (simultaneously) in the Bible→Eph 1:20-23, 4:8ff. This means that we, too, will be freed from the noose of sin on this earth, and at the same time, we, as the church, will have a ministry of service (witness) to the world. This is a package deal!

How, then, can we receive this power, overcome temptation and weakness, and be made worthy to contribute to the work of the Kingdom of God?

1. Trust that the Necessary Power is being Provided

- First, God has provided the power necessary to help us. This is a very important perspective. When facing temptations and trials, remember (believe) that God is ready (has resources) for me, at this moment, to overcome them.
- The word “power” is used to describe the power of “transcendence” (*hyerbello*) which is not translated directly into Japanese. There is a solution that overcomes the problems we face today. There are no exceptions.

2. The Point is, Where are We to Continue to Keep Looking?

- The Spirit opens the eyes of our hearts daily. We must listen to the promptings and whispers of the Spirit and walk with him.
- *Enlighten* means to shine light on, and it is in the present tense. In other words, day by day, moment by moment, the Lord is illuminating our hearts with light and guiding us in the path we should walk. It is important that we keep our eyes fixed there.
 - Where are you directing your attention?
- **Hope:** in “the hope of his calling,” that is, before the creation of the world, the Lord knew me, had a special regard for me, sent me into the world at the right time, led me to encounter Him, and put eternal hope in my heart. And he has appointed each one of us to be a part of His worthwhile work.
- **Glory:** In addition, we must realize that this “three-legged race” with the Lord is preparing us for the greatest and highest praise of our lives, an eternal inheritance, so that we can continue to walk with our eyes firmly fixed on the goal.

3. One Step at a Time

- We cannot skip grades on our life journey. We must take one step at a time, working on the issues we need to learn about now. There is no need to rush.
- God speaks to you daily in many different ways. Why don't you make time and listen to God's voice?
- We are not to compare ourselves with other people. Just as Peter was concerned about John, we Japanese especially tend to be concerned with what other people think, but our relationship with God is a realm that no one can enter except God and ourselves.
- God made you and He knows you, so come before Him just as you are. God loves you so much that He brought you into existence and made you the object of His love. This is the primary purpose for our existence.

Ephesians 1:5 His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And he did this because he wanted to!

Conclusion

- Do you need God's empowering now? Do you believe God will provide you with the power you need?
- What thoughts occupy your mind? Do you ever consider God's plan of hope?
- What do you think is your next step as you start this week?