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Sermon Notes

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Hope, Riches, Power

Ephesians 1:18-23

On July 16, 1969, three men sat reclining side by side in chairs, trying to control their breathing and calm their hearts from beating wildly. As they sat there, their minds went to the staggering journey about to unfold before them... the longest and most dangerous journey ever attempted by a human beings... a journey of almost a quarter of a million miles. Amazingly, as they looked out the small window to their left, amazingly they could see their final destination: THE MOON.

Those three men were Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Buzz Aldrin... and they were the Apollo 11 astronauts, who successfully landed on the moon

As they thought about the journey they were about to make, it would have been reasonable for them to think about the POWER SOURCE for the journey... the stunning amount of power it would take to accomplish that journey

And they were sitting on that power source... the astounding SATURN V rocket

The Saturn V rocket: One of the greatest achievements in the history of the human race. It was in many ways the culmination of the space race that had begun on May 25, 1961 when President John F. Kennedy, speaking at a specially-called joint session of Congress, threw down this gauntlet of a challenge to the American nation:

“I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth.”

The mountainous scientific challenges that had to be scaled to accomplish this ambitious goal were overwhelming... one of the greatest was the design of the vehicle that would get them there... the rocket that would propel them.

That culminated in the staggeringly powerful Saturn V rocket... still the tallest, heaviest, most powerful rocket that has ever been launched from the surface of the earth and delivered a payload into outer space.

The Saturn V was as tall as a 36-storey building (58 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty); it weighed 6.5 million pounds at launch; it could deliver 260,000 pounds into orbit; as it was launched, the powerful liquid oxygen engines gave the rocket over 7.5 million pounds of thrust, causing the earth to shake like an earthquake for miles around; the total power of the Saturn V was equal to that of 85 Hoover Dams

THAT WAS THE POWER FOR THE JOURNEY... the greatest PHYSICAL journey ever made

But Ephesians 1 describes a journey far more astounding... the infinite journey of a sinner from dead in sin on earth to radiantly glorious and resurrected in heaven... and just as it was reasonable for those astronauts to understand and trust what kind of power there was for their journey, so it is imperative for Christians to UNDERSTAND and TRUST God's power for our journey

So also Paul prays for Christians to understand the amazing journey that lays before us and the almost inconceivably great power that will get us to heaven

The power of ALMIGHTY GOD!!

I. That The Eyes of Your Heart be Enlightened

Ephesians 1:18 “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened...”

A. Overall Context: Paul’s Prayers for the Ephesian Christians

1. Ephesians 1:3-14: Recounting the astonishing blessings of salvation
 - a. Paul begins by praising God the Father for the fact that He has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ
 - b. Again and again, Paul makes it clear that all of these blessings are given BY GRACE and IN CHRIST and FOR THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY
 - c. Then he recounts the most significant of these spiritual blessings: election, predestination, redemption through Christ’s blood, wisdom to understand God’s final plan...
 - d. Vs. 11-14: He describes the Sovereign Power of God in bringing each elect person to salvation
 - i) Vs. 13-14: He describes how the Ephesians, after they has HEARD THE WORD OF TRUTH, the GOSPEL of their salvation and BELIEVED IT were SEALED by the Holy Spirit
 - ii) Vs. 14: He calls the Spirit the “deposit” or “pledge” guaranteeing our full inheritance

This means that the Holy Spirit takes some of our eternal inheritance – which is intimate love relationship with God – and brings it right down to our own hearts...

That brings us directly to Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians: vss. 15-19

B. Paul’s First Prayer: Knowledge of God

Ephesians 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him

1. This is the centerpiece of the Spirit's work as a DEPOSIT guaranteeing our full inheritance
2. God the Father would dispatch the Holy Spirit to lead you into all truth
3. The central TRUTH the Spirit leads us to is to KNOW GOD Himself

So... this is what we saw last week; Paul describing how he prays that these precious Ephesian Christians may KNOW GOD BETTER than they ever have before

But He wants still more for them by the ministry of the Holy Spirit... by the secret working of the Holy Spirit upon their hearts, this Spirit of WISDOM and REVELATION

C. The Eyes of Your Heart (vs. 18)

1. Paul zeroes in on this phrase in his prayers for them
 - a. What are the "eyes of the heart"???
2. The heart is the very center of your being
 - a. The part of you that thinks... reasons... understands... loves... hates... yearns... decides... feels; The "inner person"... the core of your being
3. Ok... what are the "EYES" of your heart
 - a. Eyes are among the most astonishing parts of the body
 - i) Researchers tell us that the eye is the second most complex organ outside of the brain
 - ii) And that 80% of what we learn about the surrounding physical world is through our eyesight
 - iii) And that our eyes are made up of over 200 million working parts

- iv) And that our eyes can process over 36,000 pieces of information in a single hour
- v) The eyes are the way by which we receive a constant stream of valuable information

By the eye, we live in a world of light, a world full of fascinating things; and we study those things with our eyes, understand their placement, their size, their color, their nature, their motion, their speed and direction...

By the eye we constantly perceive the way things really are in the physical realms

- b. “Eyes of the heart” = the way by which our hearts receive spiritual information... information about the “heavenly realms”
 - (i) There is a spiritual world around us... an invisible world... a world not perceived by light and sight
 - (ii) This invisible spiritual world is perceived only by “the eyes of the heart”
 - (iii) Yet in the rest of scripture, this ability to perceive invisible spiritual realities is called FAITH

2 Corinthians 4:18 “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen

2 Corinthians 5:7 “We walk by faith and not by sight.”

Hebrews 11:1 “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things NOT SEEN.”

Hebrews 11:27 “[Moses] endured as seeing him who is invisible...”

- c. It was by the eyes of the heart that we first saw Jesus Christ as God and Savior

John 20:28 “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are they who have not seen and yet have believed.”

1 Peter 1:8 “Though you have not seen him, you love him. And even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy...”

What do we “see” about Christ?

First, the facts of his life, death and resurrection in the eyes of the heart:

Galatians 3:1 “You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes, Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.”

More than that, they could see deeper the truth of who he is:

2 Corinthians 4:6 “For God who said ‘Let light shine out of darkness’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”

So God says “Let there be light”

And where God says “Let there be light,” he must also say “let there be SIGHT”

The “eyesight of the soul” is FAITH

But this first sight of Christ crucified and resurrected is just the beginning

D. ENLIGHTENED:

The “eyes of the heart” must be more ENLIGHTENED to see even more spiritual truth

Paul is praying for this to happen... that the Holy Spirit would work more and more spiritual illumination... more and more spiritual insight... in the hearts of the Ephesians

This happens for us now especially by the work of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of the WORD of GOD!!

Psalm 119:18 “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.”

Luke 24:45 “Then he opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures.”

Here especially Paul wants the Ephesian Christians to have a deeper, sharper, clearer perception of aspects of their salvation:

- The hope of your calling
- The riches of your glorious inheritance in the saints
- His incomparably great power at work in you who believe

HOPE... RICHES... POWER

II. The Hope of Your Calling

A. What is “Hope”

1. Christian hope is not like worldly hope... a vague wish for something good

“I hope it doesn’t rain on Saturday for our church picnic...”

“I hope I’ll get into my top choice for college”

“I hope someday to get a better job”

2. Usually worldly hope is pitted against expectation

“Hoping for the best; expecting the worst”

3. Biblical hope is entirely different

a. Biblical hope is a strong confidence that the future will be bright BASED ON THE PROMISES OF GOD

- i) Hope is based on FUTURE things

Romans 8:24 “Hope that is seen is no hope at all; who hopes for what he does not have?”

- ii) Hope is also based on desirable things

“Who hopes for what he doesn’t want?”

iii) Hope is based on the promises of God

Romans 4:20-21 ... being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

The idea of “BEING FULLY PERSUADED” or “FULLY ASSURED” is the essence of HOPE!!! God makes a promise; Abraham hears the promise, understands it, believes it and is filled with hope... confidence... assurance that God will most certainly fulfill His promise

- b. Hope is directly tied to faith... in fact, it is almost indistinguishable from faith when it comes to wonderful things God has promised for the future

Hebrews 11:1 “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for...”

Christian hope is a strong confidence that the future is bright based on the promises of God

B. What is the “Hope of Our Calling?”

1. Calling is used in two senses in the Bible

- a. External call of the gospel: the word of truth is proclaimed by an evangelist or missionary
- b. Internal call of the Holy Spirit: similar to Jesus calling Lazarus to rise from the dead...

Romans 4:17 “the God who gives life to the dead and CALLS INTO EXISTENCE THE THINGS THAT DO NOT EXIST...”

Romans 8:30 “Those God predestined, he also called; those he called he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”

2. Paul means the second of these...

- a. The Ephesians Christians are to look at their own transformation by the gospel as clear evidence of God’s sovereign and powerful work

Ephesians 1:15 “I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints...”

- b. Paul prays that the eyes of their hearts may be enlightened to KNOW HOPE more than they’ve ever felt it before
 - c. That they will be filled with hope; filled with assurance of their final salvation in Christ
3. The “hope of our calling” is the sense of total assurance of final salvation based on the promises of God and based on the amazing work He’s already begun in you

Philippians 1:6 “Being confident of this: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

John 6:39 “This is the will of God, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up on the last day.”

C. Why Is It Vital for Us to Understand This?

- 1. Christians are to be supernaturally HOPE-FILLED people
- 2. Their hope is to be put on display all the time, no matter what the circumstances
- 3. We are to be lights shining in a particularly dark, hopeless world

Non-Christians are:

Ephesians 2:12 “without hope and without God in the world.”

“WITHOUT HOPE”... hopeless... no good things promised to them either in this world or in the next; God offers no promises or hope to those outside of Christ; non-Christians aren’t looking to God to give them any hope; their hope is entirely based on worldly thinking... optimism... good prospects... their own capabilities... but lingering in the back of their minds is the prospect of DEATH for which they have no answer

Evangelism starts here:

1 Peter 3:15 “Always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you to GIVE THE REASON for the HOPE that you have...”

The non-Christian sees the Christian responding with an amazing hope in an apparently hopeless situation; the non-Christian asks “WHY???? Why are you so hopeful when I am so hopeless? Is there a REASON for it?”

Illus. Sunday, January 25, 1736: An as-yet unconverted John Wesley observed a group of German Moravians conducting a worship service during a violent storm; a rogue wave broke over the deck of the ship and shredded the main sail into ribbons and totally inundated the deck as though the ship were already sunk, swallowed up by the great deep. There was a terrible outcry among the English sailors, and Wesley himself was in terror... but the Moravians just continued calmly singing hymns to God. After the storm had abated and the ship was repaired and calmly sailing, he asked the Moravian leader, “Weren’t you afraid?” They answered “I thank God, no.” I asked, “But were not your women and children afraid?” He answered, “No... our women and children are not afraid to die.”

They were filled with hope in an utterly hopeless situation... it was a supernatural hope based on the promises of God.

D. The Christian Life Must Be a Life of Supernatural Hope

1. A BUOYANT HOPE, unsinkable, cheerful and trusting, confident in all circumstances, based on the eternal promises of God... a God who CANNOT LIE and will not FAIL to keep every one of his promises
2. Hope is needed especially when we face a DAUNTING CHALLENGE ahead; without hope, we won’t venture forward a single step
3. In this way alone will we glorify God in the internal journey of Christian growth... buoyed by confident hope that someday we will be perfectly holy, we put sin to death vigorously

1 John 3:2-3 “When he appears, we will be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

HOPE in final, heavenly holiness leads to strong efforts to PURIFY ourselves every day; hopeless people tend to give up in the face of strong temptations!!

4. In this way alone will we glorify God in the external journey of evangelism and missions, being fully confident that ALL THE ELECT will most certainly come to faith in Christ

Hope-filled people are the ones that risk the most in this world for the spread of the gospel!

III. The Riches of Your Inheritance

Ephesians 1:18 “...what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...”

A. What are the “Riches of His Glorious Inheritance in the Saints?”

1. Again, Paul is PRAYING for the EYES OF THEIR HEARTS to be ENLIGHTENED... for their faith to be strengthened... in order that they may KNOW this
2. Know what? What are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...
3. Simply put: that we would have a sense of how incredibly, gloriously rich we will be in eternity, along with all the saints
 - a. The future world, the heavenly world, the New Heaven and New Earth will be stunningly rich, immeasurably better than anything we’ve ever experienced in our lifetime in this sin-corrupted, decaying world of death
 - b. Paul wants us to know how radiantly glorious that world will be, how delightful will be our personal stake in that future world
 - c. He wants us to know that nothing on earth even remotely compares with the world of glory to which all the saints are going

Romans 8:18 “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”

4. We ourselves will be radiantly glorious

Matthew 13:43 “Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”

- a. All sin will be gone forever... we will be perfectly conformed to the image of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, loving what He loves, shining in our resurrection bodies with perfect glory
- b. We will have no darkness within us at all; we will be finally what we were meant to be

5. We will dwell in a perfect city, surrounded by a perfect world

Revelation 21:1-3 “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is now among his people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.’”

NO MORE DEATH OR MOURNING OR CRYING OR PAIN!!!

6. We will see the perfect glory of God—God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit

Revelation 22:3-5 “No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever.”

7. We will see the perfect New Heaven and New Earth, liberated at last from its bondage to decay, shining, glowing beautifully with the glory of God... a radiant and perfect world which we will OWN... it will be OUR INHERITANCE:

Matthew 5:5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth!”

Romans 4:13 “Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be HEIR OF THE WORLD!”

Promise = hope!!!!

How can we put into words just how staggeringly rich we will be, with no possibility of losing our wealth to moth or rust or thieves???

B. Why Is It Vital for Christians to Know How Rich They Are? So we LIVE LIKE ALIENS and STRANGERS in this world... not grow ATTACHED to TEMPORARY THINGS

C. Why Is Our Future Inheritance Only Discerned by Faith?

1. We will only see this staggering wealth BY FAITH... it is 100% in the word of God and not at all in the physical world
2. Most of the Christians in the world are poor... some of them, staggeringly so
3. I have seen sweet brothers and sisters in Haiti or in India or in Nepal or in Kenya that live at the absolute lowest level economically—dirt floors, mud walls, thatch roofs, etc.
4. But they are, with Abraham and all his children, HEIRS OF THE WORLD... overwhelmingly wealthy eternally!

IV. The Immeasurable Greatness of God’s Power Toward Us

NIV Ephesians 1:19 his incomparably great power for us who believe.

^{KJV} Ephesians 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe

^{ESV} Ephesians 1:19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe

Remember the opening story about the Saturn V rocket and its astonishing POWER to lift the Apollo astronauts up and drive them to the moon; that rocket had to overcome the constant

PULL of earth's gravity... the constant downward pull threatening to end the mission in a fireball of destruction back on the surface of the earth; at every moment, the Saturn V had to strain to lift all that weight against earth's incessant gravitational pull

Our infinite salvation journey is constantly opposed by a far greater downward force... the WORLD, the FLESH, and the DEVIL

So, in the same way as the Saturn V, if Almighty God is going to rescue the elect from Satan's dark kingdom and from the evil world system that is constantly pulling them vigorously away from God, and from their own lusts that wage war against the gospel... he must exert overwhelming POWER... and He does!!!!

A. Paul HEAPS UP Phrases to Explain God's Incredible Power at Work in Believers

1. He is PRAYING for the Ephesian Christians KNOW something spiritual, something hidden from their eyes... something invisible, which can only be known BY FAITH
2. He is talking here about POWER... God's awesome power
3. The word for POWER is used often of Jesus' miracles... displays of supernatural power like stilling the storm or raising the dead; it is also used simply to refer to ABILITY... the ability of a servant to manage a small or a large amount of money; it is also used to refer to GOD HIMSELF... as Jesus said of His second coming

Matthew 26:64 Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

4. God's power is absolutely beyond our ability to comprehend
 - a. By his breath He made the entire universe!
 - b. By His power He sustains it every single moment of its existence

- c. By His power, He keeps the sun burning constantly, putting out in a single second the same amount of energy needed by our current civilization for 500,000 years... 1 second, half a million years' worth of energy! And we're told that the sun is an average star! There are actually TRILLIONS upon TRILLIONS of such stars, and God is keeping each of them burning too

Isaiah 40:26 Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

- d. This is the power of God! Absolutely beyond our ability... Paul heaps word upon word here: the SURPASSING GREATNESS of His power; it exceeds our wildest abilities to comprehend
- e. Power is the ability to AFFECT A CHANGE... to PRODUCE A WORK... to overcome an obstacle
- f. Paul is praying that the Ephesian Christians would know the immense scope of the power at work in every Christian...power already exerted on them, and also the power for their final salvation

5. Power TOWARD US WHO BELIEVE

- a. Power can be creative or destructive
- b. The stunning power of a thermonuclear bomb is nothing but destructive power; it can turn an entire city to smoldering ash in an instant
- c. God has displayed His stunning power to DESTROY HIS ENEMIES at many times and in various places in the Old Testament: Paul did not mention the terrifying Flood of Noah as an awesome display of the power of God; or the devastation of Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone from heaven; or the awful plagues on Egypt, culminating in the death of all the firstborn; or the destruction of 185,000 Assyrian troops in one night by the angel of the Lord

- d. All of these are truly overwhelming displays of the power of God
- e. Paul chose none of them...
- f. God's power here is CREATIVE... it is CONSTRUCTIVE... it GIVES LIFE
- g. The best picture of what God has done in the souls of every single Christian is the RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD... His ascension into heaven, and His sitting at the right hand of Almighty God in rulership over the universe

Ephesians 1:19-21 That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Paul completes the analogy in the next chapter, speaking of OUR SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION IN CHRIST:

Ephesians 2:1-6 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus

- h. Two aspects of God's power toward us who believe: POWER IN US, and POWER FOR US

B. Power IN US... Both Past, Present, and Future

- 1. God raised us from the dead spiritually... He transformed our minds from hating God and His laws and His people to loving

them; he took out the heart of stone and gave us the heart of flesh; He gave us a new nature; one verse sums up all this radical transformation:

2 Corinthians 5:17 “If anyone is IN CHRIST, he is a new creation. The old has gone; behold, everything has become new.”

2. More than that, God united us eternally spiritually with Christ; we died with Christ, we were raised with Christ... and thus we ascended with Christ and now sit with Christ at the right hand of God in the heavenly realms
3. All of this God did IN US... LIFE from DEATH
4. And God will continue to do this radical work IN US... He will continue to transform us in sanctification, perfecting us more and more into the image of Christ; He will conquer the FLESH in you; He will not allow your flesh to win finally in the end; He will make us love Him and His word and His people more and more; He will continue to make us hate sin and wickedness and the evil world more and more; He will work powerfully in us to do good works which glorify Him; again one verse sums up this commitment to work IN US until the very end:

Philippians 1:6 “He who began a good work in you will perfect it (carry it on to completion) until the day of Christ Jesus.”

POWER IN US RIGHT TO THE END!!!

5. AND He will consummate that work in us by raising our dead bodies out of the dust of grave to radiant glory at the end of the world... HIS POWER IN US will be consummated when He raises us in glory

Philippians 3:21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

POWER to TRANSFORM US!!!

C. Power FOR US... Both Past, Present, and Future

1. God's power is also at work FOR us, that is outside of us, around us at every moment to achieve our final salvation
2. It has been working outside of us, orchestrating the circumstances of our conversion step by step until we were finally saved

Ephesians 1:11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will

POWER at work FOR YOU!!! Surrounding you... carrying you along to your appointment with grace at the precise right moment

3. God's sovereign power in Christ held Satan at bay... Christ BOUND THE STRONG MAN (Satan) and plundered you from his wicked kingdom
4. God's sovereign power held the world at bay, keeping wicked people from harming you so much that you couldn't come to Christ
5. And God will continue to protect you from the world and from Satan
6. This is the very thing Jesus prayed to the Father for His chosen people:

John 17:11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name-- the name you gave me-- so that they may be one as we are one.

That means, "Father, unleash your omnipotence, your immeasurable power, to PROTECT your children in this world so that NOT ONE OF THEM WILL BE LOST"

D. End Result: God's Glory and Our Total Assurance

Martyn Lloyd-Jones: "There can be but one conclusion to draw from this. Whatever may be true of our experience, whatever may be true of the world in its darkness, whatever may be true of the seeds of decay and of illness and of death that are in our bodies,

and however great is the power of the final enemy (death) we can be certain and confident of this, that nothing can prevent the carrying out of God's purpose with respect to us. There is no power that can withstand him; there is no might or influence that can match him; there is no possible antagonist that can equal him. The mightiest foes – the devil, death, and hell have already been vanquished, and the resurrection of Christ is proof of it. We thus have positive proof that nothing is too hard for the Lord and that with God nothing is impossible."

Paul prays for Christians that we may KNOW the hope of our calling... that we may KNOW the riches of our glorious inheritance in heaven... and that we may KNOW the surpassingly great power of God at work in and around us to get us to heaven.

V. Application

A. Do you KNOW these things are true of you?

1. Are you a Christian? Has the gospel unleashed the power of God to the end of your salvation?
2. If you are a Christian, do you KNOW these three things... do you think about them daily? Do you live a life of confident assurance in His grace?
3. Do you meditate daily on what is TRUE of you ALREADY if you are a Christian?
 - a. Do your emotions follow these incredible truths?

B. Do You Pray Like This for Yourself and for Others?

C. Do you Live a Life of Hope, Joy, and Power as a result?

1. One of the reasons why God wants us to KNOW these spiritual truths is that we will be maximally hope-filled and joyful with the result that we will do the good works He has ordained for us to do!

2. Christians who are worldly, defeated, depressed, acting as though they are still enslaved to sin do far less for the Kingdom of Christ than those who KNOW these things and live accordingly