

EPH WK 3: READ: Eph 2: Saved by Grace Through Faith (Duration: 21:23)

"When a person's life is transformed by Christ, the people around them start taking notice and they wonder what brought about that kind of a change. It's a before and after picture."
(Ch 2) Contrast between your life in Christ after and life before you walked with Christ. The way we walk is the way we live.

Two Evils: 1. Way of the World (latest trend, philosophy of the world), 2. (V2) Satan, *prince of the power of air*; spirit of sons of disobedience

V3: Passions of flesh due to original sin (Bodily urges: sexual sin – [fornication, adultery], pride, envy, greed)¹ (**HO#4¹ & #5²**),

V4: Personal transformation: (Rich) *Mercy of God*; opportunity to change our life

V7: Immeasurable riches: Not about *riches* of this world; riches of relationships, peace, inheritance (1:18, 3:16); Christ is *rich in glory* (3:18, Mt 13, *Pearl of Great Price*)

V8-9: Grace is God's riches at Christ's expense; **Grace is a person, it is Christ**; Grace is *undeserved/unmerited gift from God*. **Works:** have saving power because they are in cooperation and an extension of God's energy working inside us. **WWJD:** Airplane seatmate: *I am your brother in Christ. And I want you to know that on this flight, you are not alone. I will be with you.* I realized I was picking up her cross and the grace of God was touching her.

Saved by Grace by Faith (Covenant word): Faith is *relational*; **we are not saved by works but works are part of our salvation** (not works of OT like circumcision or kosher laws)

Tenses of salvation: We have been saved, we are being saved and we shall be saved; God's *workmanship* (Greek *poem*), we are God's *work of art* (*before and after* snapshots)

Are you saved? Yes! Saved at Baptism (Rom 8:24, 1 Cor 1:18, Rom 5:10, John 10:9), I hope to continue being saved in the future

V 14-17: PEACE (Weaver's term meaning to *join together, to make whole again*; God offer us wholeness again; Peace-state of *nothing missing, nothing broken*; Jesus is the *Prince of Peace*, makes us *whole* again; Church is *household* of God; not always easy to work with each other in the Church; not a matter of *passivity*: **STORY:** Worker in stone quarry=stones talking to each other, one perfect/one imperfect; stonemason carved the perfect to fit with the imperfect to create the most perfect.

MESSAGE: Take *Spiritual Inventory*³ of your life (richness of relationships, your children knowing the Lord, beautiful gifts of the Church and create a *Spiritual Improvement Plan*⁴

*Remember, you are God's workmanship you are God's Paul, you are in the midst of
God doing something beautiful in your life by His grace by faith.*

¹ Litany of Trust (**HO#4**) sistersoflife.org

² Litany of Humility (**HO#5**) ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/litany-of-humility-245

³ Spiritual Inventory (**HO#6**) www.livewithpurposecoaching.com

⁴ Spiritual Improvement Plan (**HO#7**) www.livewithpurposecoaching.com

EPH WK 4: READ: Eph 3: The Mystery Revealed (Duration: 21:33)

STORY: Infertility, Mother Angelica, TRUST in His way, not always the way we think He will answer

Pivotal event in Salvation History; a Hinge: Paul revealing of the *Mystery* of the new *covenant relationship* to Jewish AND Gentile people; things are going to change, the family is expanding

STORY: Finding father's will and learning best friend is really a brother who now **share in the inheritance**

MESSAGE: God's riches are *inexhaustible*! For Gentiles, *exciting*, for Jews, *big problem to share*; Everything will change (where we pray, how we pray, who can pray with us, what we eat)

Cornelius: First Gentile convert through *new covenant relationship* by Peter (ACTS 10-11); much controversy; debated at **Council of Jerusalem**; Peter (1st Pope) stated God, through power of Holy Spirit has made known His plan for whole world to be invited into *covenant relationship* (Plan hidden in OT/revealed in NT. *All Christians are stewards of God's grace* (1 Peter 4:10) with responsibility to *expand the walls* of their Church

EPH 1 & 2: Foundation of Church; **EPH 3:** What is family? How to expand and live in the family?

Verse 7-13: Plan of the mystery hidden for ages; Paul's humility gives *key* to expansion of Kingdom; closer get to Christ, more he demonstrated humility, *I am the least of the Apostles* (1Cor 15:9), 1 Tim 16), *I am foremost of sinners*; must be aware of own inadequacy/weakness before God and others

Regular Confession: Puts us *eyelash-to-eyelash* with God on regular basis (Latin root word *reconciliation*, eyelash to eyelash); *very intimate*

Verse 14: Prayers of St Paul: Heart of the Father to see His family grow/expand; what is breadth, length, height and dept of your church? Of your family? Of your heart? Heavenly Father's heart is so much more

Prejudice (Pre-judging): Obstacle to growth of the Father's family; they *mystery* has now been made visible

Verses 15-20: ^{v20}Who by the power at work within us, is able to do far more abundantly than all that we asked her think, to Him the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations for ever and ever. God's power is *unlimited*; it's about the Father's *heart/vision* for all; if not excited about this need and *attitude adjustment*

Dynamis=dynamite: What if we were *dynamis* about what we believed/called to be/do-imagine what God could do for you if you go eyelash-to-eyelash, give Him access to your heart, seek that *intimate relationship* with Him

Paul in prison, why?: Working the Father's plan

MESSAGE 1: Pope Francis: Year of Mercy: OPEN THE DOORS to God's mercy to be reconciled to God; we need to be not only *stewards* of God's grace, we need to walk in wisdom; invite others through love not judgement or our own teachings. Pray for others (family, friends, neighbors, strangers) this week that God will begin to draw them into the *covenant family*

MESSAGE 2: Spend time seeking God's will for you. Don't limit Him. Give Him a chance. Open *your* heart.

Prayer of Jabez (1 Chronicles 4:9-10) www.christianity.com

And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, 'Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain.' So God granted him what he requested."

"That you would bless me": Jabez knew that the God he believed in is the source of all blessings. For that reason, he asked God to bless him. And these blessings are more than just material; they can also be spiritual blessings, like good relationships, peace of mind, a compassionate heart, and a gentle demeanor, among other things. God blesses us with spiritual as well as material blessings when we ask Him. So we should always be reminded that asking God for a blessing is not a bad thing.

"And enlarge my territory": Territory here does not really mean physical land. Jabez is more concerned about making an impact for the Kingdom of God. It is not a literal land territory. This may not be obvious at first glance, but when we look at the spiritual meaning of this line, it's different. Jabez prayed that God would enlarge the territory of his heart, that it may overflow to those around him. He wanted to reach others for the sake of God's Kingdom.

"Let your hand be with me": Jabez recognized his limited, feeble nature as a person. Because of that, he knew he needed God's help. He knew that God was all-powerful, so he asked God's hand to be with him – to guide him into the right path and to hold him throughout his journey. In this line, Jabez recognizes that blessings can only be good things when it comes to God's hand. Without God's hand leading and guiding us, the blessings would be a waste. They would not fulfill a good purpose.

"Keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain": In this line, Jabez makes a reference to his own name. Again, the Hebrew word for Jabez means "he causes pain." With this, he renounced the awful meaning of his own name. He asked God to free him from harm so that pain may not befall him. Perhaps Jabez needed **strength**, and who better to look to than God Himself?

How Can We Pray Like Jabez?

We see in the next part of the verse that "God granted what he asked." God was honored in the prayer of Jabez. He asked the **right things from God**. He also **had the right attitude when he prayed**. For us to pray as Jabez did, we must first recognize who God is in our lives. Do we know that He alone is the

103 source of all blessings? Do we recognize that God can give us the appropriate blessings if we ask Him for
104 them? It is important to first evaluate what we know about God so that we can approach Him with the
105 right heart and mind. Otherwise, we may pray for the wrong things and become frustrated when God
106 says no. Once we know who God truly is, what He's capable of, and His role in our lives, we can then
107 come to him with all confidence. Like the boldness Jabez showed when he prayed for God to bless him
108 and enlarge his territory, we can ask God just as courageously for big things. Once again, the right
109 attitude here is important. Jabez did not seek material wealth, so this prayer is not a gateway to the so-
110 called *prosperity gospel*. God may not grant you 1 million dollars or a thousand-acre estate, but He is
111 willing to grant you a heart like that of Jesus. He also wants to give your heart a desire to spread the
112 Gospel to others. That's an expansion of territory that truly puts a smile on God's face.
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