

WELCOME TO WORD OF FAITH LIFE GROUPS **WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER**

LIFE GROUP LESSON PLAN

The Ephesians Prayer of Revelation” Pt. 5

Thursday, October 20, 2022 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Teaching The Bible Through Practical Biblical Teaching

OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

WELCOME TO OUR GROUP (5 MINUTES)

If this is your first time joining us, please introduce yourself! We are glad you took the time to join us today. Our group has four purposes:

1. **L... Learning together from God's Word**
2. **I... Interceding through prayer**
3. **F... true Fellowship in the Spirit of Christ**
4. **E...Evangelizing the lost**

PRAISE & WORSHIP (5 MINUTES)

FACILITATION OF LESSON

Sermon Title: “The Ephesians Prayer of Revelation,” Pt.5

POINT I

Ephesians 1:17 is what we call the Ephesian Prayer and it reads, *“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.”* There are things that are hidden for us in Christ and God wants us to see the unseen.

The Hubble Space Telescope is a large telescope in space. It was launched into orbit by space shuttle Discovery on April 24, 1990. It revolutionized the study of our universe. Many mysteries of our universe have been revealed by the Hubble’s discoveries. However, with all we are coming to understand about the universe, there is still so much more to be discovered. The new and dramatic discoveries of the Hubble are possible because a space shuttle mission launched Hubble into a low earth orbit 600 kilometers above the ground. This orbit above earth’s atmosphere allows the Hubble to see things more clearly.

QUESTION

1. How has the Hubble revolutionized the study of our universe?

Just before light arrives at the telescope mirrors on earth, it must travel through our turbulent atmosphere. Earth’s atmosphere blurs the fine cosmic details. This same turbulence in our atmosphere makes stars appear to twinkle on a dark night.

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By putting the Hubble Telescope in space, NASA found a way to avoid the problem of earth’s turbulent atmosphere. Hubble’s orbit above the earth’s distorting atmosphere allows scientists to see and observe things very clearly.

The Hubble has been able to see galaxies 12 billion light years away and has been able to capture images of new stars being born. Because it has been launched far above earth’s atmosphere, Hubble can detect light with eyes five times sharper than the best telescope. The Hubble is able to see deep into space where some of the most profound mysteries have before remained unseen.

QUESTION

1. From what we just read can you explain how the Hubble changed the way we see the universe?

Well, Nasa has launched a telescope even more powerful than the Hubble. It is called the James Webb space telescope. The Webb isn’t a replacement for Hubble it is a successor. It has improved resolution therefore we can see things more clearly than we could see before. The improved resolution of the Hubble space telescope increased the lookback time to 13.4 billion years, and with the Webb they improved on this possibly to 13.55 billion years for galaxies and stars.

Webb will primarily look at the universe in the infrared, while Hubble studies it primarily at optical and ultraviolet wavelengths. Seeing things infrared brings out the colors that the Hubble can’t. Things are even clearer than before. Why are infrared observations important to astronomy? Because light emitted from stars and planets just forming lie hidden behind cocoons of dust that absorb visible light. (The same is true for the very center of our galaxy.) However, infrared light emitted by these regions can penetrate this dusty shroud and reveal what is inside.

QUESTION

1. How has the James Webb telescope change the way we see the universe?

POINT II

Science writer and naturalist Chet Raymo said, *“Through our science we have created magnificent spacecrafts and telescopes to explore the night and light and the half-light. We have made visible things that are invisible to the unaided eye. We have brought the dreamy heavens down to earth, held them in the mind’s eye. Our explorations have produced a vast archive of remarkable astronomical images. The riches are too many for choices, the revelations beautiful and dreadful. We can’t look at these images and not be transformed.”* He then quoted **Psalm 19:1**, *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”*

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QUESTION

1. In your own words, as it relates to the telescopes, how does Psalm 19:1 fit in? When you look up to the heavens what comes to mind?

How does all of this relate to what we’re talking about? In **Ephesians 1:18**, in the Message Translation it says, “...*your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for Christians..*” In The King James version Paul says, “*The eyes of your understanding being enlightened..*” The spirit of wisdom and revelation makes it possible for us to see the mysteries or unseen realities of our redemption. In Christ we have been launched into a heavenly place to be able to see clearly God’s plans and purposes. We can see a clearer picture of what God sees when we have a spirit of wisdom and revelation. **Ephesians 2:6** says, “*And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*” From where we sit, we can see what others can’t see.

QUESTIONS

1. From your perspective how does the Hubble and the Webb Telescopes relate to our subject?
2. What has been made possible in Christ?

POINT III

By the spirit of wisdom and revelation we can see things from the perspective of what God has done for us in Christ. We can rise above the turbulent atmosphere like the Hubble and the Webb did. We can rise above the turbulent atmosphere of our experiences. We can see the picture of who we are and what we have in Christ. God wants to open a different set of eyes so you can see the unseen. The unseen is no less real than the seen. The unseen is actually more real than the seen because everything that you can see came out of the unseen. That’s what those satellites are doing. They are showing astronomers how things were formed light years ago. They are seeing the unseen and how what we see came into being. **2 Corinthians 4:18** tells us. “*While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*”

QUESTIONS

1. Through the spirit of wisdom and revelation what are we able to see?
2. What can you rise above personally?
3. What effect does the things in the unseen realm have on us?

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POINT IV

When you look at **2 Kings**, you can see an example of being able to see the unseen. In the Old Testament, a prophet was called a seer because he didn't just see what everyone else saw. He could see what everyone else could not see. God gave him supernatural vision. In **2 Kings 6**, Elisha was seeing and knew what the enemy was going to do before they ever went to battle. The King of Israel won every battle because Elisha could see where the enemy was planning to attack before they moved. The King of Syria was enraged and sent out spies to find out who was revealing their plans. In **2 Kings 6:12**, *“And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O King: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the King of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.”* They found out where Elisha lived and he sent a whole army to get this one man. That's how afraid the devil is for you to have the spirit of wisdom and revelation.

QUESTIONS

1. Why was the Prophet Elisha so important to the King of Israel and so detrimental to the King of Syria?
2. Why is the devil afraid of you receiving the spirit of wisdom and revelation?

They surrounded the city where Elisha was and in **2 Kings 6:15** it says, *“And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, [he rolled back the curtains] and behold, a host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my Master! How shall we do?”* The servant was shaking in his boots. We're gonna die today! They're going to kill us. Wake up! Get up! We're gonna die! But, look at Elisha's response in **verse 16**, *“And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.”* I know the servant must have looked at Elisha like he was crazy saying within himself, *‘Now, where did you learn arithmetic? There are only two of us and hundreds of troops surrounding us? How can they that be with us be more than they that be with them?’* **Verse 17** says, *“Elisha prayed..”* He didn't pray, *“Oh God, just help my servant to be more dedicated! He's just not dedicated enough. Lord just help him to die right now like a real soldier. He going to die for the cause!”* He did not pray, *“Oh God, we need you to do something! God, show up or it's over for us!”* The prophet prayed the same prayer as **Ephesians 1**. He said, *“Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see.”*

QUESTIONS

1. How would you have responded if you were in the servant's shoes?
2. What didn't the prophet pray verses? What did he pray?

Now the stressed-out servant said, *“My eyes are open.”* Can't you see my eyes are open? The prophet said, *“Yeah, but you need some glasses. You need a telescope that will allow you to see the unseen. Pass through the turbulence you are seeing with your natural eyes.”* When Elisha prayed Lord open his eyes, the servant saw the same thing that Elisha saw. It says, *“And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.”* When

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he saw what he saw with a different set of eyes there was no reason to be afraid. Even with his natural eyes open, the servant lacked the power of supernatural vision. The seer prayed for the non-seer and his eyes were opened. When his vision was changed, everything was changed.

QUESTIONS

1. How can we see past the turbulence in our lives? What will be the results?
2. What should change when your vision is changed?

POINT V

The entire Bible is actually written from the spirit of wisdom and revelation. Creation would still be a mystery today if Moses had not written the Book of Genesis. How could Moses have written Genesis 1? How did he know what happened? He obviously was not there. God must have opened the eyes of his understanding. The only way Moses could have known is by the spirit of wisdom and revelation. Through the spirit of wisdom and revelation, Moses saw the mystery of creation. **Exodus 33:11** tells us, “*And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.*” God spoke to Moses face to face like a friend. He sought God about what to do and how to do it.

QUESTION

1. What were some important characteristics about Moses that allowed him to see differently?

Moses in **verses 13-14** it said, *13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people. 14 And he said, [GOD SPEAKING] My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.*” Moses was feeling pretty special and continued to ask God for certain things and every time, God would say I will do it. Then he was feeling so special that he place a demand on God not knowing the significance. **Verses 18-19**, states, “*18 And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. 19 And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.*” We know from **Genesis 1** that God is the creator of all good. **Genesis 1:31** tells says, “*And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*” As the goodness of God passed by, maybe this is when Moses’ spiritual eyes, the eyes of his understanding, were opened or enlightened. He saw by the spirit of wisdom and revelation exactly what happened when God created the heavens and the earth. Imagine Moses’ reaction when he began to see what happened at creation, “*Whoa! Let me write this down!*” Moses saw and wrote the book of Genesis by the spirit of wisdom and revelation.

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QUESTION

1. After studying Moses, how does his account relate to our study? Make it personal!

CALL - TIME OF DECISION (EVERYONE BOW YOUR HEADS)

PRAISE REPORTS - *2-MINUTES PER PERSON

PRAYER FOCUS / INDIVIDUAL PRAYER REQUEST (10 MINUTES)

Prayer focus:

- 1) Your Circle (friends and family)
- 2) Life Group members
- 3) Word of Faith Leadership:
 - a. Pastor Ronald D. Walker, Jr., Evangelist Sharon L. Walker, Minister Promise Walker, Brittany and Christian and the ministerial staff.
 - b. Bishop Keith A. Butler and Pastor Deborah Butler

Have you reached out to your circle today?

ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 MINUTES)

1. Join the SWAT Team for their next outing **Saturday, October 22nd**. Prayer begins promptly at 11:00 am. For more information contact Minister Julie Francis.
2. The VIP SILVER SAINTS will have a brief meeting immediately following service on **Sunday, October 23, 2022**.
3. Join Covenant Partners Ministry for "A Lover's Stroll," **Friday, October 28, 2022 at 7:00 pm** at **Secret Harbor Beach Resort**. Invite a couple! For more information, contact Minister Oysterman by email at wofcovenantpartners@gmail.com.
4. VIP Silver Saints have a Game Day on **Saturday, October 29, 2022 at 2:00 pm** at the church. Put your game face on; bring a dish and invite a friend. Fun, fellowship, food, prizes and more are in store. For more information contact Minister Williams.
5. Join us for Early Morning Prayer, Monday- Friday from 6:00 am - 7:00 am and Saturday's at 10:00 am. Join us on the Miracle Line where sickness disappear and wholeness appears through Jesus Christ

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on Tuesday’s and Thursday’s at 11:00 am by conference call, Facebook, YouTube and the Word of Faith Website. The call-in number for the Early Morning Prayer and the Miracle Line is (717) 908-1834, access code 755875#.

Then Join us for Noon Day Prayer, with Evangelist Sharon Walker. Join us for 1-hour to pray. This is an In-person Prayer Service at Word of Faith.

OFFERING

- <https://wordoffaithstthomas.com/give-online/>
- <https://www.givelify.com/>

CLOSING PRAYER & DISMISSAL
