

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 Sept 2019 Ephesians 1:1-14..... Rejoice
- 2) 08 Sept Ephesians 1:15-23..... Remembered
- 3) 15 Sept Ephesians 2:1-10..... Resurrected
- 4) 22 Sept Ephesians 2:11-22..... Reconciled
- 5) 29 Sept Ephesians 3:1-13..... Revealed
- 6) 06 Oct Ephesians 3:14-21..... Residence**
- 7) 13 Oct Ephesians 4:1-10..... Walking Together
- 8) 20 Oct Ephesians 4:11-16..... Walking Forward
- 9) 27 Oct Ephesians 4:17-32..... Walking Differently
- 10) 03 Nov Ephesians 5:1-14..... Walking in Love
- 11) 10 Nov Ephesians 5:15-21..... Walking Wisely
- 12) 17 Nov Ephesians 5:22-6:4..... Walking as Family
- 13) 24 Nov Ephesians 6:5-20..... Walking to Battle

INTRODUCTION

- What is the real power of God? What does it look like? Who can have it? How do we get it? How do we use it?
- Paul tells his readers it begins with true, honest, worshipful prayer to a holy God who is our loving Father

Passage	Comments
Eph 3:14	<p>Paul prays on his knees to the Father...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there significance to having a correct posture when praying? • Which is more effective for praying: standing, kneeling, sitting, prostrate face up or face down, walking, running or driving? Where should the hands be? Up? Down? Straight Out? In pockets? ♦ Jesus knelt down and prayed Luke 22:41 ♦ Jesus laid down – He fell with his face to the ground Mt 26:38-39 ♦ Jesus prayed while on the cross Mt 27:46 ♦ Jesus prayed with His eyes open John 17:1 ♦ Jesus. 'whenever you stand praying'.... Mark 11:25 ♦ Paul. I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer..... 1 Timothy 2:8 ♦ But the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even look up to heaven Lk 18:10-13 ♦ Paul and others prayed kneeling Acts 20:36 ♦ Paul prayed with others on his knees while at the beach..... Acts 20:5 ♦ David sat to pray..... 2 Samuel 7:18 (Sitting for prayer in church was not prevalent until after the invention of pews during the Middle Ages) ♦ Solomon stood before the people while spreading his hands toward heaven..... 1 Kings 8:22 ♦ Solomon also sat, stood, knelt with his hands "spread toward heaven"..... 2Chon 6:13 ♦ Daniel prayed 3x daily on his knees..... Dan 6:10 ♦ Ezra and the people prayed standing with hands lifted up, heads down, eyes to the ground.... Neh 8:6 • Praying involves having a worshipful heart more than having the right posture or position or even having the right words – JUST PRAY !!
3:15-18	<p>Paul prays that God would grant them to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man” – What does this mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of power? To work miracles like Jesus or to acquire wealth & wisdom? • Remember – the power comes from the Holy Spirit who resides "in the inner man". Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Col 3:10 put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to Christ (...by obeying) ♦ 2Cor 4:16 the inner man is renewed everyday

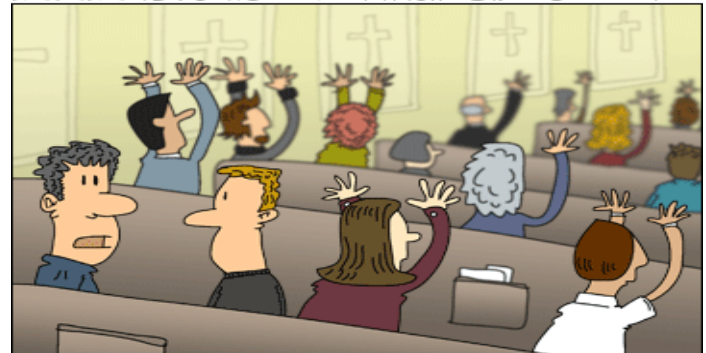
Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Eph 4:23 be renewed in the spirit of your mind (How? By willfully obeying God's commands) ♦ 2Cor 5:17 He is a new creation in Christ, old things are passed away, behold all things become new – THIS IS THE REAL POWER OF GOD TO CHANGE LIVES FOREVER – Turn a hell-bound sinner into a Heaven-bound saint; and to turn a young Christian into someone resembling Christ
3:17-19	<p>The love of Christ surpasses knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is unfathomable – It is Incomprehensible – It is above our IQ to know what seemingly can't be known • The peace of God which keeps us also surpasses our earthly understanding..... Phil 4:7 • So, how would we begin to comprehend the "breadth and length and height and depth" of God's love for us? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this: A parent's love for their children is the closest we can come to grasping God's love for us.
3:19-21	<p>Be filled up with ALL the fullness of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can God's fullness reside in unholy, sinful, unloving, imperfect creatures like us? • I guess we first must be made into new creatures! • God is able to do ABUNDANTLY beyond all that we can ask or think – according to the power that works in us – through the Holy Spirit who resides in us (v16) along with Christ (v17) through faith – WOW ! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Those are nice words, but what does this look like at the street level where we live? Do we get a boatload of cash? Perfect health? Perfect spouse & kids? ♦ Consider the following: King David went from lowly shepherd to King of Israel; & before becoming an Apostle, Paul tortured Christians (Acts 26:11), thereby deserving a millstone to be hung around his neck and to be tossed into the sea (Mat 18:6)

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- The real power of God comes to us through the indwelling Holy Spirit – and it wants to first change our lives, our hearts, our attitudes, our desires – to make us new creations
- Then He wants to work through us to change others the same way – from the inside out – and it begins and ends with being willfully obedient to His word: Be kind one to another, think on what is pure, obey those in authority, be devoted to prayer, think more highly of others, be generous, make disciples of all nations, yada yada...

NEXT WEEK: Ephesians 4:1-16. Should we strive for unity at all costs? How do we walk in the manner we are called in? And what happens if we speak the truth but not in love?

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT **BIBLE GATEWAY**



Thanks to David Walker

03-25-2013

I THINK THE HAND RAISING IS KINDA LIKE RABBIT EARS ... BETTER RECEPTION