

Day 1

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

¹⁵For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

Q1. Who are the "saints"? Are you a "saint"?

¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

Q2. Paul believed that prayer was important. Do you?

Q3. How would you describe your prayers? The same prayer day-after-day? Conversational?

Day 2

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¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.

Q4. Would you pick someone and pledge to that person that you will pray for him or her each day this week, beginning today. Your prayer petition for this person is this: “[May] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father . . . give you [the person’ name] the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that [the person’ name] may know Him better”?

¹⁸I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ^{19a}and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Q5. Paul writes about “hope” in verse 18. Do you have “hope”? How would you describe the “hope” you have?

Q6. In verse 18, we read about “the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints”. Is that God’s promise to us as Believers in Jesus that we will have wealth and health?

Day 3

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Q7. If I am not wealthy or if I have health issues, is there something wrong with my faith?

Q8. How do we as Believers in Jesus grasp His “incomparably great power”?

^{19b} 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.

Q9. The Bible says that God raised His son from the dead. Why or why not might that *story* be important to Believers?

1 Corinthians 15:12-21 Paul wrote to the Corinthians: “But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.”
[Extra credit: please read all of 1 Corinthians 15]

Day 4

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²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Q10. Is Paul referring to a congregation in Ephesus or the "church"?
And if it is the "church", how do you define "church"?

Q11. God appointed Jesus to be the "head over everything for the church". How can the church be His body, too?

Q12. Consider His church; how might Jesus "fill everything in every way"?

Q13. What is our role in today's "church"?

Day 5: For further consideration

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Q14. Why is it important for Paul to emphasize that the Gospel he preached is true?

Q15. Do you think the Bible is true? Why? Or why not?

Day 6: For further consideration

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Q16. My secular, non-believing neighbors seem to have more "grace" than my family has. Am I missing something? Why do my neighbors have more "comfort" than my family? After all, I am the one who believes in Jesus.

Q17. A co-worker says to you, “I know I’m going to Heaven because I’m a pretty good person! Especially compared to ...” What does your co-worker reveal about their relationship with Christ Jesus? How would you answer them?

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