



## Meeting Notes: Spiritual Blessings (January 27, 2016)

Due to extreme weather, we did not meet on January 20, 2016. These notes capture our January 27, 2016 meeting. We opened our meeting in prayer and then began our evening. Topic notes may not be in the order discussed during group, and they are not intended to cover everything discussed. They are intended as highlights to capture the essence of our evening. General notes follow each topic that was discussed. Documents used or created during this meeting are attached.

**Current Vision:** “2016 – The Year of Becoming Women of Worship Women of Witness”

**Memory verse:** Ephesians 6:11 – “Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (NKJV)

### TOPICS DISCUSSED:

**Review:** We reviewed our approach to Ephesians. As a letter, it is a form of communication. Thus, it has a messenger, a message, and an audience:

**Messenger:** The apostle Paul

**Message:** What we’re discovering

**Audience:** The believers in Ephesus

Working from this premise, we are looking at “What did the apostle Paul say?” and not “What does it mean to me?” This is so we can put Scripture back into its proper context.

### Discussion Topic: Spiritual Blessings

- **Capturing the blessings described by the apostle Paul:** See the attached worksheet for what we believe to be the spiritual blessings identified in Ephesians 1:1-14.
- **Application.** Applying what we learned to the here and now is our homework assignment. For example, in looking more deeply at verses 7 and 8, the awareness of God’s grace in our lives brought deep conviction to my heart! However, even though some revelation came to us during the meeting, we still want to give the Holy Spirit room to work over the coming days.

**Nuggets from the Night.** Here are some of the nuggets from our discussion:

- **Chosen** (v4). We didn’t believe WHEN we were chosen impacted THAT we

were chosen.

- **Holy and Blameless** (v4). Knowing in Christ we are holy and blameless in God's sight, but not necessarily in other's sight, helps when people judge us.
- **Heir** (v5). Sonship refers to our being a legal heir in God's kingdom. As an heir, we are entitled to the blessings based on the conditions of the blessing.
- **Adoption** (v5). We were chosen! God loved us enough to choose us. He saw us, and He loved us anyway!
- **Redemption** (v7). Redemption refers to ownership, as in how a slave was redeemed from the slave auction block by their new owner. Likewise, Jesus redeemed us (bought us back from Satan and set us free from sin). Thus, He owns us, but that ownership is like a protection.
- **Grace** (vv6, 8). Verse 6 tells us what we received (grace), and verse 8 quantifies how we received it (lavished upon us).
- **Wisdom and understanding** (v9). We viewed wisdom and understanding as a blessing, because when we understand, we "get" things better. In other words, we know better how to respond! However, we also noted the blessing of knowing God's will was based on His wisdom and understanding.
- **The message of truth** (v13). By examining what the apostle Paul said, we concluded the message of truth IS the gospel of our salvation.
- **Hearing the message** (v13). Since we had a little trouble with this verse, we concluded we heard the message that we can be saved and included in Christ. As a result of our believing what we heard, we were marked with a seal by the Holy Spirit.
- **Marked with a seal** (v13). In order to better understand this, we related it to putting our initials on a piece of clothing with a permanent marker so no one else can claim it.
- **Deposit** (v14). To better understand how the Holy Spirit is a deposit for our inheritance, we likened it to Him being the down payment. For example, when you put a deposit on something, it's not yours until you pay it off.
- **Until the redemption of those who are God's possession** (v14). When I first looked at our blessings, I was left with the question, "When does this redemption occur?" Thank God for sisters in Christ, because there were several keys to the answer found in the Scripture I missed. **One**, "those who are God's possession" seems to indicate the apostle Paul is talking about our final redemption. **Two**, in verse 10 we see not everything on earth is under the Messiah's headship (CJB). And **three**, the Holy Spirit being a deposit eludes to Him being a small part of

something greater, which also seems to point towards our final redemption.

**Homework:** Go before the Lord in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to:

- Reveal how does what we learn about each blessing teach us, convict us, correct us, or train us (based on 2 Timothy 3:16-17 CJB).
- Reveal how each of these blessings apply to our here and now
- Help us see our life now in the context of these blessings

**Next Meeting:** The topics for next meeting will be **grace** and **peace**. We will take an in-depth look at what these words means based on how they are used in Scripture, so we will know what the apostle Paul was expecting us to receive in his salutation (Ephesians 1:2).

**Closing:** We closed our meeting in prayer with a time of need-specific prayer for the challenges that were lifted up, for the group overall, and as the Holy Spirit led.

*If you have questions, comments, or concerns about information contained in this document, or would like to be added to or removed from the email distribution for the meeting notes, please email us at [wow2@wow2women.com](mailto:wow2@wow2women.com) or complete a Contact Form on our site, [www.wow2women.com](http://www.wow2women.com).*



## ATTACHMENT 1: Our Spiritual Blessings<sup>1</sup>

Identify (What is the spiritual blessing?)	Define (What is the blessing dependent upon, i.e. “in Christ,” “through Jesus,” etc.?)	Apply <sup>2</sup> (How does what you learned about this blessing teach you, convict you, correct, or train you?)
Being <b>chosen</b> to be blameless and holy in His sight (v4)	Being “In Him”	
Being predestined for adoption to sonship (v5)	“In love” – because of God’s love for us  Through Jesus  In accordance with God’s pleasure and will	
We have His grace (v6)  His grace is lavished on us (v8)	“In the One He loves” – comes through Jesus  It’s freely given by God	
Redemption (CJB says “set free”) (v7)  Forgiveness of our sins (v7)	“In Him”  Through the blood of Jesus  In accordance with the riches of God’s grace	

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Wisdom and understanding (v8)  Knowledge of His will to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ (v9)	God’s wisdom and understanding  Purposed in Christ	
As Gentiles, we became included in Christ (v13)  Hearing the message of Salvation (v13)  Marked with a seal of the Promised Holy Spirit (13)	Having heard the message of truth – the gospel of our salvation  Believing the message we heard	
Guaranteed inheritance (v14)	Through the Holy Spirit	

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<sup>1</sup>Based on the NIV version

<sup>2</sup> Application is our homework assignment