

MAIN POINT

Paul prayed that the believers in Ephesus would have life changing belief in their identity in Christ.

INTRODUCTION

What is something you know but still find hard to believe? What is the difference between knowledge of something and true belief?

Knowledge and belief are not the same. It is possible to know something on an intellectual level without believing that truth in a way that leads to action. For the church in Ephesus, Paul prayed that they would not only know the truth about their identity in Christ but that they would believe it to a level that led them to action. Pray prayed that the eyes of their hearts would be enlightened to their true hope in Christ.

DISCUSSION

> READ EPHESIANS 1:15-23.

What difference does growing in our knowledge of God make in our daily lives? How is your knowledge of God and His power different today than it was five years ago?

What did Paul mean by “the eyes of your heart” (v. 18)? Why do our spiritual eyes need to be reopened occasionally?

How would you go about your day if you fully understood the power available to you as a child of God? What would look differently about your life?

How does knowing you are adopted by God change your view of yourself and of God?

How do you feel about the quality of love of the One who has chosen you? How does this affect your love for others?

Which of the spiritual blessings in Christ from this passage do you have the hardest time believing is true for you? Why?

What are some attitudes you might have regarding the church that would show you don't truly believe and accept the authority of Jesus?

APPLICATION

If you are in Christ, what is one thing that needs to change in light of your true identity that is found in Him?