

AWAKEN: See What Is Within (Ephesians 1:15-23)
#2 in the series, The Game of LIFE: Ephesians Edition
September 20, 2009

Core Truth: God wants you to comprehend and experience his _____ and _____ within you.

The Believer's Resources:

1. A _____ with God (1:17)
2. A _____ of significant _____ in life (1:18).
3. An _____ in heaven (1:18).
4. The _____ to live _____ lives (1:19).

The Believer's Response:

- Since Paul _____ it, will you _____ for others to experience more of God?
- Since the Spirit _____ it, will you _____ your life to his _____?
- Since power is _____, will you _____ to take some _____?

Getting to Know Each Other

1. What do you remember from your childhood about Thanksgiving Day? Who keeps your family traditions alive today?

Getting Started

2. Why do you think Paul would praise these people for their faith (1:15-16) and then pray that they would grow (1:17-19)?
3. Do you believe people today are hopeful or hopeless? Why?
4. What ongoing things do you do now "that you may know him [God] better" (1:17)?

Digging Deeper

5. Use these references to discover some things that God has "called" us to: Romans 1:6, 7; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 9; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Peter 1:15; 2:21; 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:12; 4:7; Galatians 5:1, 13; Colossians 3:15; Philippians 3:14. Each of these, plus the specific calling to a job and mission, give purpose to our lives. How do these inspire hope in you?
6. Describe what you know about heaven (pool your knowledge with the C'Nex group but stay biblical). Why is the inheritance of heaven something we need to grasp now?
7. Describe what Ephesians has said so far about the Holy Spirit's role (1:13-14, 17-18)? Compare this to 1 Corinthians 2:12. Why do Christians continually need insight into faith from the Holy Spirit?
8. The power given to believers is the same as the power that raised Christ from the dead and overcame evil (1:19-21; see also Romans 8:31-39). How would your life be different, if you experienced more of this power to live in an evil world (not escaping or a magical power)? How can this happen for you?
9. In Ephesians 1:17 Paul prays for their "wisdom" and "revelation." So, Christians are to be great thinkers and spiritually receptive. Which is harder for you, thinking and learning about God or being taught and guided by the Spirit? Why? What can you do to be balanced?