



Life Group Study Notes

“We Are Family: Bethel, House of Prayer”

Sr. Ps. James Lowe - August 4, 2019

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- How many different homes/places did you live in before you became an adult?
- If you could live anywhere, where would it be?
- What’s your favorite thing about your home?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Ephesians 1:15-23 ESV *For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.*

There are benefits to being an active part of a local church, which is a spiritual family.

In a healthy spiritual family, people are loved.

People are appreciated.

People are prayed for.

Paul prayed several specific prayers that we should also pray for one another.

1. Pray that we would grow in getting to know God more through wisdom and revelation from the Holy Spirit.
2. Pray that the Holy Spirit would enlighten our hearts, so that we would know more fully the hope we have from God for what he has planned for the age to come.

3. Pray that we would be filled with the hope of being conformed to the image of Christ. (This is God's glorious inheritance in the people he has redeemed.)
4. Pray that we would know God's limitless power that is working to bring about our complete transformation in body, soul, and spirit. God has guaranteed that he will bring this about.

Jesus is capable of fulfilling every one of these prayers, and he will. He has been exalted above all created authorities and powers and rulers. He is the Creator who also became human without ceasing to be God. He did this to redeem us by living the sinless life we should have lived and dying on the cross in our place for the punishment of our sins. He rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, and is seated on God's throne. He is the source of the church's life, as well as its authority. He has promised to return to the earth one day and to fill the church with all of his fullness.

These are extraordinary promises that should change the way we live and think about the future. God has a great plan of redemption that he is bringing about according to his wisdom.

Let's remember to reflect on these great promises and pray accordingly for ourselves and one another. Let's spur one another on to faithfully serve Christ with these promises in mind. Let's live out what it biblically means to be a spiritual family in the context of a local church.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- How often do you pray such prayers for yourself and others, as opposed to prayers focused on more immediate needs such as health, finances, and relationships?
- Why are such prayers as Paul prayed so important to pray in addition to prayers that are focused on more immediate needs?
- How is our hope for the future relevant to our ordinary lives today?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for placing you in a church family.
- Ask God to guide and empower us to serve others more fruitfully.
- Ask God to use us to help others become deeply committed to the church.