Tread: **A Study in Ephesians – wk 3 – Need to Know Basis.**

**A person must learn to stand, then walk! Video How our 1 yr-old daughter Lucy became a biped. One does not come before the other!**

**When you understand where you stand, you find yourself in a strong position to walk with confidence.**

**This is Ephesians Ch 1-2 Where we stand in Jesus. Our foundation and footing. Ch 3-4 - how to walk it out. Ch 5-6 - how to run the race!**

**MAP / pics \*\* - Back story - Ephesians**

* **Paul started the church - lived there 3 yrs – miracles & riots**
* **Port city, vacations, events - Written by Apostle Paul in prison**

**Last 2 wks - where we stand** **as a child God, you are chosen, adopted, forgiven, enlightened, heirs, saved, included, secure!**

**Ephesians 1:15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, (your love for God and how you love each other – that is real evidence of God working in you – your love for people) 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.**

**What follows is a spiritual father and pastor’s prayer- 3 things he prays they would never forget and know. (Stand in this)**

**BTW - great things to pray for those you love**

**Ephesians 1:17 I keep asking (praying) 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.**

**1. I pray you - Know God deeper (Phil 3:4-6, Acts 17:22-28, Romans 8:14-16)**

**Two truths about knowing God (often misunderstood)**

* **Obeying the bible is not knowing God**

**The bible tells us to know him, but we have conditioned ourselves to think that obedience IS knowing Him.**

**I obey the law but that does not mean I am on a close relationship status with the police or judges. Obedience does NOT = relationship.**

**You might say well – Jesus said, “If you love me you will obey me” (John 14:15, 21, 23, 15:10, 1 John 2:3, 1 John 5:3, 2 John 1:6) You’re right – a lot!**

**But notice this – it does not say - if you obey me, I’ll love you.**

**But - if you love me, you’ll obey me.**

**To know him (is to love him) - from that relationship status we desire to obey him. If you love me (intimacy = relationship)**

**It’s not rules, it’s relationship. If we don’t get this, we are simply religiously good but spiritually lost. I pray you know God deeper.**

**Second truth**

* **Knowing about God is not knowing God**

**There is a difference between knowing about God and knowing God.**

**You might know a few things about Jesus, God, the Bible. Maybe you grew up in church - going here a while. You know some things. You answer questions correctly… but you don’t know him.**

**Reminds me of - Matthew 7:22** **Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ 23Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness.’**

**What does it mean to know him? Paul prays, That God… “may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation.”**

**Spirit of wisdom & revelation: Knowing God is not knowledge reason, opinions, assumptions, or feelings – it is supernatural revelation. (1 Cor 2:10, 12:3, Matt 13:11, 16:17, Jo 14:26, Ro 11:33, Gal 1:12, Eph 3:3-5)**

**I pray that you will supernaturally - know his love – his goodness – his grace – his patience – his kindness. This is done through knowing Jesus alone.**

**Ephesian 3:17 I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.**

**Filled to the top, lacking nothing, to never doubt the depth of his love for you! That’s his prayer and mine. So many run from God because they do not understand the richness of his love.**

**2. I pray you - Know your calling (1 Peter 1:3-5, Colossians 1, Titus 2:13)**

**Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart (your spiritual eyes – if you could only see it! Are your spiritual eyes open? – That your eyes… =) may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,**

**The great hope of our calling is our resurrection and the return of Jesus to the kingdom of heaven. The riches of the next life. You’re called to that Kingdom!**

**Two things about knowing your future calling – when you know this**

* **You won’t hold so tight to this life**

**When you see your future hope – you live open handed.**

**You understand when Paul says - 1 Timothy 6:7 - We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.**

**Like you, I can at times get caught up in the stuff here.**

**You understand when Jesus says - Matthew 6:20 - Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. (All will fade, rust, break, tear, and pass - only what is eternal will last!)**

**Can't take it w/ you, but can send it ahead, Jesus layaway plan**

**When you know this you become generous, free, unbound people - less anxious about your money and possessions. You become eternity minded. Holding loosely what God gives you.**

**Some struggle to trust God with their finances and struggle to give – that is because they don’t truly understand their future calling.**

**1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. 11 Flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.**

**How can I be free from the worry of money and stuff – reach for the eternal – take hold of it - Know your eternal calling!**

* + **Everything here is just an overnight bag – the real valuables are back home.**
* **You’ll have boldness to live freely in God’s calling in this life**

**When you have your eyes on the price of eternity. You see those around you differently. The things you do differently.**

**Our lives are brief – eternity is forever. AND - billions of people’s future eternity is at stake for billions. I now know that!**

**The trials, setbacks, and circumstances I face are only temporary.**

**God what do you have for me to do? God what do you have for me to say? God where do you have for me to go? We all have a calling!**

**Every Christian is a missionary – wherever you are.**

**Because I have a clear understanding of eternity and know my calling here - I will not bow, shrink back, cringe, or cower!**

**God is for me, who can be against me – Romans 8:31**

**The word Calling in Gk here = is an invitation. (megaphone – come eat) Do you know that you were invited to partake in the Kingdom. Come sit with the family of the redeemed. But do you know that you are not just invited to the table – but you are invited to bring others to the table.**

**You have an invitation – a calling to do something great!**

**You are called and wired to advance the Kingdom of God. But, there is more to God than what you have experienced. You have been created for Greatness, you have a calling, an invitation! Do you know it?**

**Volunteering here – is one way. People wouldn’t come to know Christ here if it were not for some of you… But this is just the beginning of you calling. There is more to God! More to life!**

**I pray you know Him deeper, know your calling, and… Eph 1:19 …and (know) his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power (in you) is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms…**

**3. I pray you - Know God’s power (Philippians 4:13, 3:10, Romans 8:31-39)**

**In the original - To know = to be aware, realize, experience, see appreciate, understand – to grasp. Do you know his power!?**

**Paul throws out this same concept in another book he wrote called**

**Phil 3:10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection…**

**If you want to know something - Google it, Alexa, Siri, Bixby. Name it, you can find the answer. But God is more than information. He is not JUST 5 steps to financial freedom - or 3steps to thriving in our world…**

**God is more than information, facts, and data, He is power.**

**We need to know not just a God of knowledge, but a God of power. God still does miracles, heals, opens doors - still does the impossible. Don’t brush off the power of God because you’re you are “intelligent”**

**1 Corinthians 2:4 My message and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.**

**Our walk with God is not designed to be all be brain – there is a supernatural part of it that we are to know and experience. God’s power and presence is still active today!**

**Three things to know about the power of God**

* **You cannot harness the power of God**

**Paul tells the Corinth church about supernatural spiritual gifts then adds this… 1 Corinthians 12:11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.**

**God is almighty all powerful - you cannot hold him hostage or demand your way. He does as he desires and determines.**

**Proverbs 19:21 Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand. / Proverbs 16:9 - The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps. / Job 12:10 - In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind. / Job 42:2 - I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be stopped. / Psalm 103:19 - The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. / Daniel 4:35 - All the people of the earth are nothing compared to him. He does as he pleases among the angels of heaven and among the people of the earth. No one can stop him or say to him, 'What have you done?'**

**God is all powerful and has complete power as to how he uses it. There is no formula for it or vending machine combination.**

**God - heals, miracles, signs - as he desires! Thank God for it!**

* **In Christ - You have power to overcome and endure**

**(Ro 2:7, 8:29-39, 15:3-5,13, Heb 12:1-15, Jam 1:12, 1 Chron 16:11, 1 Jo 5:4-5)**

**The power to stand strong, overcome, endure any hardship,**

**1 John 4:4 – Children (of God), you are from God and have overcome them, because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. (that’s power)**

**Colossians 1:11 - We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power, so you will have all the endurance and patience you need…**

**Philippians 4:13 (speaking about hardship and trials, Paul says) I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (that’s power)**

**That power, child of God, is yours! You can overcome what you’re going through right now. The power of God is in you!**

**You have the love and power of God almighty in your blood. Do you realize / know this? Many Christians do not know this or recognize it – you have resurrection power! I pray you know this!**

* **In Christ - You have power to see the dead raised to life**

**Ephesians 1:19 …That power (in you) is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead…**

**Romans 8:11 - And if (if you are reborn in Christ) the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.**

**The power that will raise your body into eternity is the same power to raise a dead marriage, a dead job, dead finances, a dead heart, a dead spirit – now! What is dead in your life?**

**Paul ends his powerful prayer with a powerful declaration of the power of Jesus!**

**Ephesians 1:19… That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead…**

**Jesus is risen! Cross was the final word but not final – He is alive!**

**…and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realm…**

**Jesus is God! – Right hand, symbol of full honor and authority!**

**21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion…**

**Jesus is sovereign! – full 100% supremacy as God – he is reigns!**

**…and every name that is invoked… in the present age and in the one to come.**

**Jesus is exalted! Present and future - no name is greater!**

**22 And God placed all things under his feet…**

**Jesus is king! - Jesus is right now king of all!**

**…and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, (us collectively) 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (All things are by him, thru him, for him)**

**Jesus is moving! – In and thru the world through his people!!**

**Jesus is – the living way!**

**Notice this - 22 …the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. \*\*\*\*\* Jesus is the fullness of the father on the earth, we are fullness of Christ in the earth.**

**Jesus is the body of God – we are the body of Christ!**

**Want to see God? – see Jesus. Want to see Jesus? – see us!**

**Jesus is the hands and feet of God – in the flesh!**

**The church (us together) are the hands and feet of Jesus – in the flesh!**

**I know church people are not always good at being that, but if we can know where we stand, we can be who we are created to be.**

**I pray you – know God deeper, know his calling more clearly, and know his power stronger - Are you in the know?**

**Where are you today? Where do you need a miracle?**

**Where do you need to know him?**