

# Ephesians I

Ephesians 1:3-14 (July 2010)

The Ephesian Church was very close to a perfect church in history. It was definitely one of the churches that the Lord desired and had a plan for. **It was such a powerful church to cut off the idol Artemis that had a strong influence in Asia Minor from the face of the planet.** Beware that churches in this age are facing the tremendous spiritual battle with Satan. So far Satan has been using 10% of his power to annihilate the churches but now he is using 100%. This is the same in Korea and the world.

I have received a word of prophecy going through the Revelation. God is going to bring a world-wide revival just before the end. In the past the revival has been limited to certain areas but there will be a world-wide revival once. God is therefore seeking churches to prepare for the revival. However, it is not going to be like previous revivals like the conversion of the unbelievers. Rather, it will revive the grains within the churches. Who are the grains? We don't know that, but we do know the time will come to revive the grains and seal them with the glory of God to prepare for the end. That's the prophecy!

I have been running for the last 18 years of my spirituality to prepare for such revival. That's the reason for my existence. The strong work by few cannot change the situation. We have passed beyond the time where we can bring about change by our own efforts because the corruption of man and churches are at the extreme. I am an optimistic person but I can't be optimistic about the current situation of the church. What God shows to me puts a sense of despair in me because the corruption of this generation is worse than the Roman Empire at the destruction, especially Korea. There are so many churches and yet the corruption fills the nation. It proves how powerless the churches are today.

I have shared a story of a woman who had an affair for 18 years and she still served passionately in the church for all those times. When she had come from countryside and started to work in a company, she began her affair with her boss. When she married a man, she continued the adultery for 8 more years. In the meantime, she attended the church diligently. She was born into a Christian family and she served well all along in the church. This is the reality of today's churches. Today's church cannot lead this adulterous woman to repent with the word of God. That's how powerless churches have become. While I was ministering her, anger arose inside of me. I was so angry at the churches of God. That was not my anger but the anger of the Lord. That's the reality of the today's incompetent church full of a mob. It is a church that can't even handle a single soul. We should put an end to this in our generation.

**Ephesian Church had started with 12 people** and what was the principle that led to such a powerful church? Paul recorded the Book of Ephesians when he was at the peak of his revelation. What is the revelation? It is ecclesiology. **Book of Ephesians must be interpreted through ecclesiology.** That's the intention God is giving us through the Book of Ephesians. There is God's will for recording each of 66 books in the Bible. Therefore, we should not preach out of our pastoral intention or personal intention.

I have been praying over the Ephesians. The more I pray over it I realize how amazing it is. I have gone through books in the Bible with expository preaching some more than a few times, but no other book is more refreshing and amazing than the Book of Ephesians. Why? Because the revelation of Ephesians is so deep.

What kind of church is Ephesian Church? Let's look at verse 21 and 23. **God authorized all His authorities onto Jesus Christ who became the head and the church became the body.** In turn the body rules all things in the universe in this vertical relationship. This is church. It is not the will of God for the church of God to be broken, smashed, in conflict, hurt, and influenced in

such a way. God – church – all things in universe align vertically and that's how the universe is run. Church runs the universe.

**When the church of Almighty God experiences the lack of resources, it means the church is losing its image as the church of God.** It is the same thing with the lack of power in the church. The church of God does not have the limitation of power. **It is not a matter of whether we can do it or not! It is a matter of whether it is the will of God or not!** That's the important question. The church of God should not fear, despair, or be scared in any circumstance of suffering and pain. Furthermore, **a church of God should not suffer from lack of wisdom.** God knows all things, so when He lets us know we can know anything.

In our church website there are vast volumes of expository preaching that I have done over the last four years. If I had studied or read books for the preparation and illustrations, my head would have been split in half. It may not be 90% but I received at least 80% of the messages from God directly. What I received and understood was confirmed through some routes and the necessary books were revealed to me. The necessary information came to me.

Alvin Toffler in the *Third Wave* said that whoever has the most information will win. However, in the book of the *Fourth Wave* by Pastor Minho Kim contends **that whoever has the most accurate information in midst of vast information will win.** That will decide the outcome. We should filter everything through God. God is omniscient! If a church suffers from a lack of wisdom, that's not a church. The image of church is disappearing. A church of God does not suffer from a lack of resources, either.

For example, there are some people that drive the underground economy of America. I don't know exactly who they are but I know them as God leads me to pray for them. They are Jews. The price of oil of OPEC increases and decreases dependent upon them. When they put in the money and take it out, the economy like Japan is shaken up. In case of Malaysia and Thailand, they experience IMF. They command 10 trillion US dollars. Are they going to side with Satan at the end time or with God? This is a critical matter. God told me to bind them and pray for them. I know some pastors find it difficult to accept this "what are you talking about?" This may sound too spiritual, so I don't want to go too deep. However, do you know why God delayed Bush's plan to attack Iraq by eight months? God told me to bind the plan and pray for it. Bush was not supposed to invade Iraq out of haste according to God's plan of management of universe. The newspapers had reported that Bush was going to hit them today. We pray for things like this and minister them. Church is omnipotent.

**Satan makes his move by government, authority, and power. He uses the system we call "world."** A church moves this system even more so in the background. A church brings down government and authority on their knees. What I pray for now is that the mayor and the Congressman of Siheung will come out of our church. I expect that to happen in a couple of terms later. Yes, the mayor and the Congressman will come out of this church. Once a church decides, the Congressman of Siheung is also decided. This is not my word but the ecclesiology. The appointment of kings by Pope in the Middle Age was a natural course of action out of ecclesiology. Now, politics and religions are separated so a church may not directly appoint the government officials; however, **when the true leaders are raised up by the churches of God, they are supposed to lead government, politics, culture, education, mass communication, and all other spectrums of society. This is the ordinary church!** When a church is established, it should have such influence upon the nation and the people. When we become such glorious church, what are we going to do through this church? What will God prepare through these leaders that will arise out of Zoe Ministry Network?

Like I prophesied the last time, Korea is not going to be a super power. Nevertheless, it will be elevated to be able to cast a deciding vote amongst powerful nations. Look! Now, America has the

absolute authority; however, in the end time USA can be like nonexistent in the world. Look at California! It is an example that USA is no longer a Christian nation but the secular nation. It will lose the authority and the third power will emerge to reign over the world. For example, Muslims can rise up to power. Suppose Muslims come to power and exert pressure on nations like Korea and say, "Become a Muslim nation!" When the leaders of churches stand up and exert influence on Korean government, resist the Muslims, defend Korea as a Christian nation, they can cast a deciding vote given it already established as a strong nation. This scenario is not possible unless churches are established. I see those visions as I train the leaders in our church. That's the reason I can't take the church members lightly.

**Ephesians is written in a form of poetry of praise.** Ephesians records how much Paul was moved to praise God after receiving the revelation further resulting in a prayer. Paul records the amazing revelation of blessings of God given to church, he saw, from 3-13. It is so great and out of realization of this great blessings Paul begins with the praise in verse three. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Paul begins these great blessings from God with the praise out of much thanksgiving. **He could begin with thanksgiving but he chooses to open up with the praise.** Let's look at the eight blessings given to a glorious church from verse 4 to 14.

Before we look at the **Eight Blessings** in detail I want to point out "God has blessed" us with every spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ in verse 3. The spiritual blessings will not be given as we move forward. **Blessings are already given to every institution that bears the title, church of God.** What is the difference between receiving it at the end/on the way and having received it already? The difference is greater than the difference between heaven and earth. If I know what I have in my Christian walk, then my focus is utilizing what I have. Suppose my father is a millionaire. Since my father is a millionaire, all I have to do is receive proper education to later use the money. Children of owner of big companies go to USA to study not to make money. They prepare themselves how to manage their companies. The conclusion of our life at the end is not the concern. For too many people corrupt their faith life/Christian walk because their focus is only on the end. However, since we already have the conclusion because God has already given it to us, the process of getting there is important. Let us take one genuine step at a time.

**Another difference is that it is a matter of confirmation.** When you finally get there, it may not be there at the end. You may also get lost and end up somewhere else. There can be lots of factors. It is totally different from the perspective of faith. **All I need is a confidence to utilize what I already have.** It is the same with pastoral ministry. If we think a pastor will be completed on our way, then the followers/church members will be anxious like being in a park filled with a thick fog not knowing where they are going. **However, we have them already. All we have to do is move forward.** We have that confidence. For the believers who believe they have all things in their Christian walk, their focus in life is on the purity and holiness. The conclusion of life is not the concern. God has already given us every spiritual blessing from heaven.

Let's look at **the first blessing** in verse 4 "**just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love.**" The first blessing is the holiness. The characteristic of eight blessings in one word is predestination. In verse four we have "God chose" and in verse five we have "He predestined." In Ephesians, "**chose**" and "**predestined**" are treated equally. What do we mean by predestination? We don't mean that certain people get saved and some people get blessings. **Predestination is the stubbornness of God. This is something God will absolutely do. "I chose you. You are my child so I want you to live in such a way."** It must be done! "Chose" and "predestination" mean the same. God made up His mind to bless His churches with these eight blessings. **God is resolute to bestow His blessings upon His churches.** God's determination is great. My daughter Sarah was a little peculiar growing up. She would wear short sleeve shirt in winter and long sleeve shirt

in summer. My wife then would always take off the wrong shirt and put on the right one. Why? Because she loves her. Love is monopoly. It is so exclusive. It is the same with God. God predestined us. It must be done. How great is the blessing? You can't live on your own. Whether God will beat you or coax you, you are bound to follow God's predestination.

**What's the predestination? It is being holy and blameless.** It is a big mistake to think that ministry is all about saving others. Salvation itself is not the goal of God. No parent would set a goal to just give a birth to a baby. A parent desires his/her baby to become mature and pure in her spirit and to become a pride of her family and nation. It is the same with God. **God's will for you is to become mature, pure and holy in your spirit since the day of salvation.**

Do you know what happens to a church that loses the life of God? She eats the tree of knowledge of good and evil. What is this tree? You have sinned 10 times and I have only sinned 9 times. So I am more righteous than you. That's what the tree of knowledge of good and evil does to us. Judgment gets ahead of all things in a church. Now, how about a church that's filled with life? The only sin I commit is everything. **You develop a spiritual flow in which you strive toward the fullness of God.** God is determined to raise you up to be holy and blameless soul. This is God's stubbornness.

**When a new member joins our church, he/she should become holy and blameless without exception.** That's the church we see in Ephesians 1:23; church that fills the world with the fullness of Jesus. The spiritual loss of any member's loss of holiness should become a pain of whole congregation. This is all about being a member of one body.

Your single sin should be felt bigger than 100 sins of others leading your eyes to see the perfection of God to cry and beat your chest. That's what we want to see in churches: the work of repentance. Do you think it is good to have a lot of new people come to your church? If the principle of pastoral ministry according to Ephesian principle where holy and blameless believers fill the church is, then there is no reason to rejoice over big crowd to join church membership. When they do come, I have joy because I train them as my children but at the beginning I have burden. Pouring out all you have for each soul is pastoral ministry. **Do you think God will let go of His stubbornness that we should be holy & blameless and invite everyone in His ministry?** No! The first blessing is the major blessing. How blessed are we that God predestined us to be holy and blameless in His stubbornness!

In verse 5 we see the second blessing **"He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will."** We see the predestination here and Paul is saying **that God predestined us to be His sons and daughters.** We can interpret "sons" as tetrarchs. **We are tetrarchs which means that we are heirs.** Once we become heirs, we are given spiritual, personnel, material, and natural authorities. Where do we want to raise the spiritual maturity to in a church? Look, God loves everyone! However, God does not entrust glory to every child of God. When a new person joins a church, we want him/her to reach this heir stage through the spiritual system in a church. In my message I have shared analogy with regard to the spiritual growth. **There are five stages in spiritual growth. Slave – servant – son – friend – bride.** This is a figure of speech. When we first believe in Jesus and accept Him as Savior and Lord, we are in slave stage. **God would simply tell us what to do, for example, "sweep the floor."** As slaves we simply obey God and do not know why we need to sweep. If we have many slaves in church, we simply work a lot. We are merely workers. We work hard and receive salary. Second stage is servant. Servant asks a question **"Lord, why do you want me to sweep the floor?"** God would answer "Prime Minister is coming over today." God reveals just enough and we still work a lot. We want to reach the heir stage. Have you seen an heir work? **Son receives inheritance!** When a church is filled with tens of thousands of slaves and servants, it is nothing from the perspective of glory. On the other hand, **the presence**

**of one heir is priceless.** In the Major League Baseball (MLB) we may have hundreds of players who receive minimum salary but with just one player who receives tens of millions of dollars can support tens of people. If we take on the perspective of glory, the value differs greatly. Some churches are dirt cheap and some churches are magnificent.

It is the same with prayer. Let's suppose we have thousands of children of God in this village. When all thousands of them pray to God at the same time, God never has any conflict of "who should I answer first?" Why? Because God can simply answer starting with the spiritual first place. "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective!" All God has to do is to answer starting with the prayer of the righteous. The prayer of one heir is more powerful than the prayers of a church mostly filled with 10,000 slaves. Can you imagine the power of church when the majority of congregation reaches the heir stage?

I know of one Lutheran Church in Iowa. There are only 300 members but they sponsor a high school that's in top 5 in the world. The budget of that high school was more than the budget of Seoul National University of Korea when I was there in Iowa. I shared a story about this poor village in northern India. The average wage of this village was 1 dollar 75 cents per month. This village sent 400 missionaries to the world. How is that possible? The power comes out of the authority of heir. **When a church has the authority of heir and sees the glorious church, it doesn't matter where a church is located. Its influence goes forth to the rest of the world.** We should become an heir of God and receive inheritance instead of becoming a worker to remain as a salary man. We want to become a saint that can live with the authority over spiritual matters, people, resources, and nature.

**Our desire is to reach the friend stage.** Like Amos 3:7 "Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets" we want to become a friend of God with whom we have no secret. Next is to reach the bride stage. **There are many women but Solomon enters the bedroom of Shulammitte bride.** Like Solomon we are to enter the bedroom with God and have an intimate fellowship with Him. As we mature in our spirituality the obedience should become so much easier so we become friend and bride. We don't want to stop at the son stage but reach the next stage and beyond. This is the powerful church.

Paul speaks in verse 7, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace." As we move along the Eight Blessings, each blessing is explained in detail. **What about the holy and blameless? That is the son stage. Son has the authority of forgiveness of sin.** The forgiveness of sin means "divorce." We have divorced sin. It is total separation from sin. Son has increasing authority of forgiveness of sin. **The authority of forgiveness of sin means that the purity of believers has reached a high standard. More accurate meaning of it is that the believers fundamentally have a strong immunity against sin.** We can't help but to sin but we don't easily become corrupted by sin in a church. **We have the strong immunity against the infiltration of sin.** It is great to know the teaching of Calvinism that we are justified and have become children of God in our status. However, the sanctification the Methodists contends that not only the outside is made righteous but also the inside.

The forgiveness of sin Paul speaks of in Ephesians is more than the teaching of Calvinism and Methodist. **According to 2 Corinthians 5:21 Jesus became a lump of sin Himself and in turn we became a lump of righteousness.** Suppose there is a nail and when you pull out the nail, there is no mark of nail. That's how pure and righteous we became. Paul is speaking to us that a church is supposed to get to that point. **When the grace of the blood of Jesus Christ touches us, that's how cleansed we become. It sucks out all sins. This is how pure a church is supposed to be.**

**Why is Paul emphasizing on the purity of church in Ephesians and the forgiveness of sin?** In Old Testament God said, "I will meet you in the mercy seat." **Mercy seat is for those who are acknowledged as sinless by the blood of Jesus Christ to the point they never sinned before at all.** A sinner will instantly die upon entering the mercy seat/holy of holy. The power of Ephesians Church is that the majority of believers' faith life took place in the mercy seat. Their prayers and worship services took place in the mercy seat. We cannot say, "Since my goal of holiness is to such and such extent, I am pure. Since I worship to this degree, I am pure." Paul said painfully in **1 Timothy 1:15**, "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – **of whom I am the worst.**" Paul's smallest blemish or spot made him to painfully cry out in prayer in the presence of God. That's the church!

Our church members ask me, "Pastor, **how far do we do this?**" **Our standard is to reach sanctification like Paul.** They say, "Pastor, **is that possible in our life time on earth?**" **It is written in the Bible because it is possible.** "Be holy for I am holy and you shall be blameless before Me." **Why would God record it in the Bible when it is not possible for us? If it was impossible for us to live in such a way, God would have said that you can be an average Christian and do this whole thing of becoming holy in heaven.** The Book of Ephesians points out this is how far and how thoroughly we go with the purity against sin.

They may say, "**Pastor, then how can we live as a saint/believer?**" Like I said earlier repeatedly **saints have true freedom when they are completely seized by God.** Why don't you feel the freedom? Because you have conflict between God and the world. So, you don't have freedom. If you fall deeply into God, you have true freedom. When our authority of forgiveness of sin is elevated to this level, how free can we be? Paul said that whether he is beaten, fed, or hungry, whether he is unknown or well – known, whether it is Greek or Jew, he has learned to be content in any circumstance. He is a perfect free man. This is the principle of Ephesians setting our spiritual goal for us. This is how the Ephesian Church became so powerful!

Let us not give up easily after praying for little bit or for a couple of days. It takes endless beating on the chest on your knees, fasting, crucifying your ego before God, and dealing with more and more evil in you as they are revealed to you. If God saw your sins in the past through the magnifying glass, not it is more like through electric microscope. **This would become a burden on you because you share God's insight into your sins. You can't help but to repent over your sins.** That should become a norm. When we say a spirit is alive, it means one is to keep pouring out through repentance.

Now, let's look at **the fourth blessing in verse eight "which He lavished on us in all wisdom and insight."** Church belongs to the omniscient God. God will fill us with wisdom and insight. When we address "wisdom," it is not that we become wise with it. **Wisdom is hearing the voice of the Wise.** Seeing and hearing are the same principle of revelation. God reveals the wisdom which He uses to run the universe to His church. **Wisdom is hearing the voice of God.**

Revelation is important. Let's look at **1:17 "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him."** As we see Paul's emphasis on the revelation in Ephesian Church let me address the relationship between wisdom and revelation. Anyone can hear the revelation and anyone can see the revelation; however, everyone cannot hear or see it. **Who can see the revelation? Revelation is revealed to those whose goal of life is God, whose motivation of life is God, and whose process of life is God. If you hear something while you are praying when your motivation, process, and goal of life are not God, it is not a revelation.** Again, revelation is revealed to those whose motivation of life is God, whose process of life is God, and whose goal of life is God. When Moses had heard the voice of God to strike the rock, Moses knew exactly which rock to strike out

of millions. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God!" Revelation is the perspective that can always choose God and ears that can hear things of God. That's revelation!

What is wisdom? **Wisdom is for those who see the choice of God and hear His voice over how to carry out His revelation.** When there is no wisdom in a church and someone says, "Our church is filled with wisdom," then either he is lying or Satan has deceived him. Shift your soul's motivation of life, process of life, and goal of life to God. Only then you can clearly see the revelation and choose His revelation. Church is to hear the voice of King and move according to it. Without this revelation, the authority of God as King is not activated. Churches are operated by man's ways and tricks because they cannot hear the revelation. They keep running the programs in their churches because many say, "The revelation has ceased."

Hearing the voice of God is not something grandeur or mystical. When I look at my young son, I notice this. He began to recognize the voice of his mom after about 10 days of his birth. He might not understand "I will give you a bottle of milk," but he knows that's his mom. When we stand toward God all the time, we can recognize His voice and His revelation. The reason you are not sure is because you switch back and forth between God and the world. You have a confusion of spiritual values, so you cannot distinguish between God's voice or your own voice or devils' voice.

Let's look at **verses 9 and 10** "He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth in Him." "Summing up" is equivalent to "fullness" in Ephesians. What is the meaning of "summing up?" **It is a surrender to the authority of King.** Church is the one that has conquered and brought things in the heaven, things on the earth, and things under the earth on their knees before God. A church can "sum up" time, place, and people. All she needs to do is move when God makes His move. Although what believers have seems to be insufficient or even impossible at a moment, when God's time, place, and people have been filled, any church can rise up! How so? Church has the authority of God! Church can sum up (unify) time, place, things in heaven, things on earth, things below earth, and all things. This is the authority God has given to His church. Believers naturally must follow according to the authority of God.

I will address more about the authority of King. Modifiers all used for Jesus have a reference to king. Even Christ means king. Son of God also means king. Lord means king, too. Jesus is King! Jesus, the King, is the head of church. We respond and follow in His time. **The authority of God is moving according to God's will, God's people, God's place and God' knowledge.**

Let's turn our attention to **verse 11** "**also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will.**" God works all things after the counsel of His will. According to His will God prospers His children and their inheritance. Why? **Because His children's business is His business.** It doesn't matter how small a store/business a believer has. **Since it is God's business, obviously it has to become a major corporation.** So, if believers believe they are God's inheritance in faith, how should they run their businesses? They should run or manage their businesses according to God's principles. The other side of token is that the **reason they fail to observe the Lord's Day, sell bad things for profit, rip off others and so on because they are running their own businesses.** Our business belongs to God. Since God is the CEO the business is supposed to be run according to His principles.

I understand that some people have to work for public service like police officers and firemen. We can't help that. My desire is for them to change their profession if they can help it. I am talking about people who are trying to make more money and to increase their wealth not people who have to serve the public.

Your life itself is the inheritance of God, so your life should be offered up to God. If God tells you, "Make the necessary arrangement and go out to as a missionary," then you go! All things in life such as children and experiences have been led by the principles of God. You gotta believe in the inheritance of God. **Everything belongs to God and everything you have is God's inheritance. Therefore, you should do things according to the will of God.**

"Rich" is an important word to Ephesian Church. **Church should be rich not limited to just materials.** A church of God should be full of fun. Why? Because there is much richness! Let me give you an example of a wrong church. "Our church is only good in word!" When someone says that he is admitting that his church is dysfunctional. A church should not be good with just word but also with spiritual gifts, fellowship, love and more. They all should be rich in a church. **A church should be able to do all things and fun because of its richness.**

Let us now examine the glory Paul speaks of. We can look at from different angles but in the Book of Ephesians Paul speaks of riches of glory. A church that has seen the glory of God shows its characteristic which is riches. When the sun shines its lights upon the nature, it reveals the beauty of the nature. When a light goes through a prism, it reveals the rainbow colors. Likewise when the glory of God is shone, the riches are revealed. You go "Wow! God did this for me! This is beautiful!" We should enjoy the grace of God. **Poverty and deficiency are not suitable for church. A church is supposed to be rich!**

Not only Paul speaks of riches of glory but he also talks about the praise of glory in verse 12. This is the seventh blessing. It helps us to understand the identity and honor as a believer. Let me illustrate this blessing. Suppose there is ball in a ball room. Ladies and gentlemen are dressed up and they are dancing to the waltz. They are spinning and dropping a female partner if she is heavy. Everyone is having a great time. All of sudden a trumpet sounds and the music stops. Everyone turns their heads to one place. Who is on the scene? It is the prince. When the prince joins the ball, everyone stops dancing and pays him their attention. The praise of glory is like that. The Christian walk of believers should be filled with self-respect, pride, and honor like the appearance of prince. It should be impossible for believers to compromise with the world and to bow their heads down to the world. No not in the church. "Who am I?" **I rather die of starvation than to compromise with the world. This precious identity attracts the things of God thus making a church powerful.** Without the precious identity believers in a church cannot have a right Christian walk or use the things of God in a right way.

We are supposed to say to God, "You are the praise of glory," but **God has called us "you are the praise of glory."** This is incredible proclamation. When I first came across it in Ephesians, I spent much time looking through Scriptures because of this single phrase. I was thinking that it cannot be true. I said to myself, "We are supposed to give praise to God. How can He call us that we are His praise of glory?" At the end God conclusively showed me that He is right in **Zephaniah 3:17 "The Lord God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quite in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy."** I really understood this by having babies. When I look at my son, sometimes I yell out of love. He is so cute that he makes me smile from ear to ear. I love him even in my sleep and I sing to him out of my love for him. It dawned on me that's how God loves me. "Oh, my God love me so much like that. God is praising me!" Do you believe the Creator God is praising you?

Finally, let's look at **verse 13 "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise." What sealed the promise of God that He saves you according to His will in any circumstance and according to the messages of truth? The Holy Spirit sealed you!**



This is Holy Spirit approval! A glorious church that has the authority as heir of God receives immediate approval from God whenever it prays! God seals it with the signature of the Holy Spirit.

Let's suppose I am a CEO and I have two people working for me. Mr. Lee doesn't do a good job in whatever he does and his proposals are always in mess. He always seems to create problems and can't seem to tie the ends. On the other hand, Mr. Cho is always on the top of the ball. He does a good job in all things and he makes lots of profit for the company. When both men submit their proposals, how would I handle it? I would tell Mr. Lee, "OK. You can put the proposal down over there. Please come back later" and I would not approve his proposal. However, when Mr. Cho submits his proposal to me, I would say, "Oh good! Come!" I would approve it right away! It is the same with God. **When God sees a church that moves according to His will and in His glory, God seals it with the approval of the Holy Spirit. The speed, power, and depth of God's works are different.**

I have been praying for my church for the last seven years according to the principles of Ephesian Church. Now, when a new member joins our church, he/she becomes a minister no later than in six month. There is, of course, varying degree of levels but they gladly offer themselves up to become ministers. This is an example of how fast God works in a church that He approves. I pray immediately, "God, I pray in the name of Jesus," then He replies "Ask whatever you want. I will fulfill it." The promise of God that He answers our prayer 100% is fulfilled and through which we see that He is our guarantor of inheritance. We just go "God really does fulfill His word." He is our guarantor. He redeemed us. What does redemption mean? It means that He paid for our price to give us everything we have. All we have to do is praise His glory everyday "God, you did it!" God you did it! Just open your mouth to praise Him in awe.

It is true God has given us eight blessings we just looked at. Now, **it is time to start using them and revealing them. We already have them in us.** We just need to learn how to use them. Believe this word is embodied in you. This is not an option. This is not my philosophy of ministry. God has given this incredible blessings to churches that pursue the glorious church according to Ephesians.

What is the first blessing? We are predestined to become holy and blameless. The main flow of any church should be pure and holy. How do we embody this? First, we are sons and daughters of God. Let's elevate the level of church members to be at least heirs whom have spiritual authority, personnel authority, and material authority. Such believers have an immunity against sin to the point that Jesus became a lump of sin and they became a lump of righteousness. That's the goal to reach! We should become holy and blameless that we have glorious fellowship in the holy of holy, in the mercy seat/*hilasterion*. Your everyday prayer, worship, and life should take place in the mercy seat. In addition, with regard to wisdom and insight may God open up revelation for you and fill you with the wisdom to carry out His revelation to you. When you commit your motivation, process, and goal of life to God, you can see and hear the revelation from God and receive His wisdom. May God also fill your church with the authority of King that sums up all things! May God bless your life and your children to become His inheritance! Please do not forget your identity. You have holy identity that you are the praise of God's glory. May you never compromise with the world! Don't be a shame! Finally, God guarantees the inheritance of God by the immediate seal of the Holy Spirit of promise to His church. So, all we have to do is just praising Him. "God, you did it!"