

## **Ephesians 4:7-16 – BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST**

*From a position of being crazy blessed by God we can work to build up the body of Christ in his truth and love!*

### **Receiving Grace & Gifts For Good Work** – Eph. 4:7-12

- Ephesians 2:10; 4:1, Exodus 31:3-4; 36:2
- 1 Corinthians 14:3, Philippians 2:12-13

### **Growing Into The Fullness Of Christ** – Eph. 4:10, 13-14

- Galatians 5:22-23

### **Working In Truth & Love To Build Up The Body** – Eph. 4:12b, 15-16

- 1 Corinthians 12:1-3, John 9:1, 3-4, 29-34; 17:23

*Question: Pray and ask what spiritual gift is the Lord giving you?  
Where in your life do you need to grow more into the fullness of Christ? How can you help build up your church in truth & love?*

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## "CRAZY BLESSED!"

### **Devotional and Outline of Ephesians 1:3-14**

*A believer is crazy blessed in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places! The question is, "Do you live out of these blessings or work for them?" Until you embrace the blessings of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit you will fail in your call to walk in spiritual maturity. The blessed life is one that lives out of what God has **done** for you in Christ more than what you can **do** for God. Learning to walk by grace takes less effort and produces more fruit! Ephesians 1:3-14 is actually one long sentence in the original Greek. Read it slowly and use the outline below to meditate on all the blessings. It should take your breath away as you realize how much God loves you!*

#### **Blessings Of The Father – Eph. 1:3-6**

- A. The Father **chose** us to be **holy** and **blameless** before him – v. 4 (1 Pet. 2:9-10)
- B. The Father **adopted** us as sons according to his good pleasure & purpose – v. 5 (Gal. 3:26-28, Rom. 8:15)
- C. The Father **blessed** us with **grace** in the **Beloved** – v. 6

#### **Blessings Of The Son - Eph. 1:7-10**

- A. The Son **redeems** us out of slavery – v. 7 (Titus 2:14)
- B. The Son **forgives** us our sins – v. 7 (John 1:29, 1 John 1:9)
- C. The Son **frees** us for sonship – v. 7 (Col. 1:13-14, John 8:34-36)
- D. The Son **gives** us **wisdom** and **insight** into the Father's will – vv. 8-9 (Col. 2:2-3)
- E. The Son **reconciles** and **restores** all brokenness – v. 10 (Col. 1:19-22)

#### **Blessings Of The Holy Spirit – Eph. 1:11-14**

- A. The Spirit **seals** us with the Lord's **presence**, **ownership**, and **promises** – vv. 11-13 (2 Cor. 1:22, John 14:15-17, John 17:9, 1 Cor. 6:19)
- B. The Spirit **guarantees** the **Lord's love** now and our **inheritance** to come – v. 14a (Rom. 5:5, 1 Pet. 1:4-5)
- C. The Spirit **empowers** us to live "**to the praise of his glory**" – vv. 6, 12, 14b (2 Cor. 3:17-18, Eph. 3:16, Gal. 5:22-23)

**Question:** Identify any struggles, doubts, or fears you are facing. Are they focused on God, yourself, or someone or something else?

**Devotion:** Pray and read through the following blessings of the Father, Son, and Spirit written in the first person. Underline those that the Holy Spirit seems to highlight for you in each of the three passages. What would change if you believed God for these blessings? Write those changes down under each passage.

**Prayer:** Pray and believe your Lord Jesus for the truth of these blessings and a change in your attitude. Then pray the Holy Spirit will empower you to live differently!

#### **Blessings of the Father (Eph. 1:3-6):**

"Blessed be the God and Father of my Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed me in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose me in him before the foundation of the world, that I should be holy and blameless before him, in love, he predestined me for adoption to himself as a son through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure and purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed me in the Beloved.

#### **Blessings of the Son (Eph. 1:7-10)**

In him I have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of my trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon me, in all wisdom and insight making known to me the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure and purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

#### **Blessings of the Spirit (Eph. 1:11-14)**

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him I also, when I heard the word of truth, the gospel of my salvation, and believed in him, was sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of my inheritance until God redeems possession of me, to the praise of his glory."