

Open the Eyes of My Heart

April 8, 2018

OPEN

What was the most significant move that you ever made in your life?

What has been your most difficult experience of moving?

Do you like change? Why or why not?

DIG

Read the following text and consider: what is the link between the spiritual progress of the believer and the resurrection of Jesus?

For my determined purpose is that I may know Him that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly, and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection which it exerts over believers, and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed in spirit into His likeness even to His death, in the hope that if possible I may attain to the spiritual and moral resurrection that lifts me out from among the dead even while in the body.

Philippians 3:10-11 (Amplified)

When Paul prayed for the church at Ephesus, what were the reasons ("for this reason" verse 15) that were behind his prayer?

According to Ephesians 1:10 and 22 is God's ultimate purpose for sending Jesus to live, die, and be raised from the dead?

What is the new way of thinking believers should develop? To what end? (see verse 17)

Paul also prayed that followers of Jesus would experience an enlightenment of the "eyes of their heart". What changes in our hearts when we begin to see the...

[a] hope of His calling - v. 18a

[b] riches of His inheritance - v. 18b

[c] greatness of His power - vv. 19c-21

In Ephesians 1:15-23 we discover four results of Jesus' earthly mission. Each of these provide a way for us to know Him better. Look at the following verses and ponder how each progressive truth about Jesus has a practical contribution to your growth in knowing Him.

1. Resurrection – v. 20a
2. Glorification – vv. 20b-21
3. Exaltation – vv. 22
4. Coordination – v. 23

REFLECT

Can you think of a way that God brought great change or destabilization to your life? What was the result?

Did you experience growth in your Christian life? Why or why not?

Strong Lord, repot my ministry so my roots grow deep in the soil where You have planted me. Prune my efforts so the fruits are lasting and sweet. Focus my outlook so I see Your presence in every setting. Amen

~ H. B. London

You can read the other prayers of Paul in the following passages:

- ➔ Romans 1:8-12; 15:5-6,13,33
- ➔ I Corinthians 1:4-7
- ➔ Ephesians 3:14-21
- ➔ I Thess 3:11-13; 5:23-24
- ➔ II Thess 1:11-12; 2:16-17; 3:5
- ➔ Philippians 1:3-11
- ➔ Colossians 1:3-12
- ➔ I Timothy 1:17; 6:15-16



In **Prayer: Finding the Hearts True Home** author Richard Foster writes,

Prayer changes things," people say. It also changes us. The latter goal is the more imperative. The primary purpose of prayer is to bring us into such a life of communion with the Father that, by the power of the Spirit, we are increasingly conformed to the image of the Son.