

# newLIFE

Who is the Holy Spirit Calling Us to Be?

## Birthmarks of Faith

Message 2

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### ► Outline

*I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to those He called—His holy people who are His rich and glorious inheritance.*

**Ephesians 1:18 (NLT)**

#### A. Introduction

(Ephesians 1:15-17)

#### B. Birthmarks of Faith:

(Ephesians 1:18-23)

##### 1. A defiant \_\_\_\_\_.

(Ephesians 1:18a. C/R: Psalm 62:5; 121:1-2;  
1 Corinthians 10:13; 15:32; Hebrews 12:2)

Defiant Hope = \_\_\_\_\_

##### 2. Immeasurable \_\_\_\_\_.

(Ephesians 1:18b. C/R: Psalm 103:11-12;  
Ephesians 3:17-19)

##### 3. Real \_\_\_\_\_.

(Ephesians 1:19-23. C/R: 1 Corinthians 4:20;  
1 Corinthians 2:3-5)

**Answers:** 1. hope, Christ, Circumstances 2. value 3. power

**Resource Information:** Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. C/R refers to a 'cross reference.' Today's outline and discussion guide are available through the Brookwood Church app.

## ► Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. To connect with others, visit [brookwoodchurch.org/adults](http://brookwoodchurch.org/adults).

### Conversation Starter

Describe a time when you felt tremendous joy.

### Prayer

Pause for a few minutes to quiet your heart and mind. Then ask God for insight and direction as you study and reflect on this week's lesson.

### Bible Study and Group Discussion

#### Read Ephesians 1:18-23.

1. Paul prayed that the Ephesians would understand the hope God provides. How does the hope of God give you strength?
2. How do you feel knowing you are one of God's holy people?
3. As believers in Christ, we've been marked as His and have the Holy Spirit in us. How have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your life?
4. Paul prayed for the Ephesians to understand or see God's power. Many times, we don't understand what God is doing in our lives. Describe a time you struggled to understand how God was working in your life. How did you process this and move forward?
5. We are God's inheritance. Even in our brokenness, He loves us, which should bring us great joy. How do you express this joy to God? Spend a few minutes praising God for His love and His desire to be close to us.
6. Being part of God's inheritance gives us hope of receiving His eternal blessings. Describe how this assurance helps you draw closer to God.
7. The power of God is available to us through the Holy Spirit. This is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. Do you believe this? How can you strengthen this belief?

8. As we grow closer to God and hear from the Holy Spirit, we feel promptings from Him. How do you respond when you feel the Spirit's promptings urging you to act?
9. To grow in our understanding of the Holy Spirit, we must surrender our lives to God. How do you practice this in your life? What's something you're holding onto that you need to surrender to God? Pray now and give that to God.
10. Paul reminds the Ephesians about God's power and Jesus' death and resurrection. The Gospel message is meant to be shared as Paul regularly did. Describe a time that you shared the Good News of Jesus with someone. Pray and ask God for the opportunity to share the Gospel with someone this week.

### Spiritual Practice

*A spiritual practice is something we can do to help us live in and enjoy God's grace. Our hope is that these would become a regular part of your life, so that walking and talking with God is the most natural thing you do.*

One way to grow closer to God is to spend time with Him without distractions. This week, take 5-10 minutes in silence after you pray and listen to what God is saying to you.

### Memory Verse

*I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to those He called—His holy people who are His rich and glorious inheritance.*

**Ephesians 1:18 (NLT)**

### Daily Reading

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Day 1: Psalm 62:5          | Day 4: 1 Corinthians 2:3-5 |
| Day 2: 1 Corinthians 10:13 | Day 5: Psalm 103:11-12     |
| Day 3: Psalm 121:1-2       |                            |

### Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, April 2, we'll begin a new series, *Examining Easter*. To prepare, read **Matthew 26:47-68**.

