

AN ENLIGHTENED HEART OF HOPE PART 16 EPHESIANS CHAPTER ONE

Ephesians 1:18 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*I ask that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know **the hope of His calling** ...*

PEOPLE WONDER, WHAT IS 'THE CALL'

Firstly we must establish that 'This Call' is NOT the general calling of God for people to 'come to Christ'. It is a call to Believers. Paul is writing to the Ephesian Church.

*But even as believers we think about 'a calling' as -
'A call on our life' – as a vocation.*

One lady on Google wrote,

*'I keep thinking that I'll soon figure out **my calling!**'* Katherine Pasour

WE FEEL '**CALLED**' TO DO SOME GREAT TASK IN LIFE LIKE ...

- Florence Nightingale (1820 – 1910) founder of modern nursing
- Emmeline Pankhurst (1858 – 1928) Leader of The Suffragettes

*As young, zealous Christians we used to talk about '**The Call of God**' on our lives, which was always in relation to OUR MINISTRY. We said things like, 'He or she has **the call of God on their lives**'. We got that from scriptures like the following ...*

- Romans 1:1 Berean Study Bible
*Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, **called to be an apostle**, and set apart for the gospel of God*
- 1 Corinthians 1:1
*Paul, **called to be an apostle** of Jesus Christ through the will of God ...*

But **this call in our text is bigger than you or your ministry** ... and greater than anything you could ever accomplish in this life ...

THIS IS '**HIS CALL**' –

THIS IS GOD'S CALL OF YOUR LIFE

SLIDE NB: THIS IS NOT GOD'S CALL **FOR** YOUR LIFE ...

THIS IS GOD'S CALL OF YOUR LIFE ...

*It's not you doing something **for** God ...*

*It's God doing something **with you** ...*

IT'S NOT A CALLING FOR YOU TO 'DO' ...

IT'S A CALLING FOR YOU TO **BECOME SOMETHING GOD WANTS TO **MAKE YOU**.**

So, what is this truth?

What does God want to **make me**?

This truth is clearly stated in the following verse ...

Romans 8:28-29

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are **the called according to His purpose**.²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined **to be conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

NB: *'The Called according to **HIS PURPOSE**' ... not mine.*

Romans 8:28-29 PARAPHRASED **SLIDE**

The called according to His purpose ... He ... predestined **to be conformed to the image of His Son** ...

This is the goal of the call Paul is speaking about here -

IT IS THAT WE SHOULD BECOME EXACTLY LIKE THE GLORIFIED SON OF GOD ... JESUS CHRIST.

NB: Even though this process of becoming like Jesus has begun now in our lives by the work of the Holy Spirit in us ... **THIS CALL IN EPHESIANS IS ABOUT A FUTURE EVENT ...**

Ephesians 1:18 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*I ask that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know **the hope of His calling** ...*

THIS IS **'THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING'**

'HOPE' ALWAYS REFERS TO SOMETHING IN THE FUTURE ...

Romans 8:25 NIV

*... If we hope for what we do not yet have, **we wait for it** patiently.*

Titus 2:13 English Standard Version

Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ...

So this call is not talking about something God has called you **to be here and now** as much as something He has called you **to finally become** – something He will perform that we cannot ...

THIS IS ALSO CALLED, 'BEING GLORIFIED' WITH JESUS

Colossians 3:4 **SLIDE**

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

WE WILL BE EXACTLY LIKE HIM IN EVERY WAY - SPIRIT SOUL & NEW-BODY ... THAT WE WOULD SHARE HIS GLORY.

Romans 5:2

... We ... rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 8:18 Berean Study Bible

I consider that our present sufferings are not comparable to ... the glory that will be revealed in us.

THIS GREAT CALLING OF 'YOU' HAPPENED BEFORE TIME BEGAN

2 Timothy 1:9 **SLIDE**

He has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

SLIDE THIS MEANS YOU WERE CALLED BEFORE YOU BECAME A BELIEVER.

YOU WERE NOT CALLED BECAUSE YOU BECAME A BELIEVER ... YOU BECAME A BELIEVER BECAUSE YOU WERE ALREADY CALLED.

When you first believed, you simply surrendered to God's call of 'you'. You just slotted into His eternal plan for all His people. Look at the following verse ...

ROMANS 8:30

*[Those] whom He predestined, these **He also called**; whom He called, these **He also justified**; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*

SAME SLIDE LOOK AT THE ORDER: (1) Predestined (2) Called (3) Justified (saved). The call came before our experience of salvation. Look at the final goal: (4) Glorified – This is what we are called for.

PAUL PRAYS WE MIGHT KNOW THIS HOPE OF HIS CALLING

Ephesians 1:18 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

I ask that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that ... you may know the hope of His calling, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints.

**TO KNOW WHAT?
TO KNOW THE CERTAINTY OF HOPE**

THIS CALLING WILL MOST CERTAINLY HAPPEN

This hope is not a possibility but a future certainty ...

This hope is based on ‘Faith’. It has the solid foundation of faith.

Hebrews 11:1

... Faith is the substance of things hoped for ...

Or Paraphrased ...

THE HOPE OF GOD IS EMBEDDED IN THE SOLID SUBSTANCE OF FAITH ...

It cannot be removed ... It is a certainty.

1 Corinthians 13:13 Amplified Bible

... There remain: (3 eternal substances) Faith, Hope, Love ...

NB: Faith is again the basis of Hope.

Hope is the optimism of true Faith that God has already imparted to us at salvation.

SLIDE Faith is like the root of a tree ... Hope is like the buds that appear as the promise of tender fruit to come ...

Peter calls it a living hope -

1 Peter 1:3 Berean Study Bible

... By His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope ...

THIS IS WHAT JOB SO WONDERFULLY EXPRESSED ...

Job 19:25 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*... **I know** that my Redeemer lives, and in the end He will stand upon the earth.*

Note Job's Faith in his Present Redeemer and his Hope in Future Redemption.

**TO KNOW WHAT?
TO KNOW THE GLORY OF THIS HOPE**

NB: OUR TEXT TELLS US WHEN 'THE EYES' OF OUR HEART HAVE BEEN ENLIGHTENED ... WE KNOW

Ephesians 1:18 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*I ask that **the eyes of your heart may** be enlightened so that ... you may know the hope of His calling, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints.*

THIS WORD 'KNOW' IS 'eidon' ...

IT MEANS TO HAVE SEEN OR PERCEIVED ... to have had revelation by illumination ... not by intellectual study ... but by having had an epiphany ...

In 2 Timothy 1:12 Paul said -

*... **For I know** ... and I am persuaded ...*

NB: The heart knows ... the head needs persuading ...

BUT THE HEART LEADS & INSTRUCTS THE HEAD & GUIDES IT TO COME TO A CONCLUSION.

**ROMANS 8:28
AND WE KNOW ...**

YOU BECOME AN ENLIGHTENED SOUL ... WITH YOUR EYES FIXED & FOCUSED ON AN ETERNAL, GLORIOUS GOAL, THAT NOTHING CAN EVER CHANGE.

THIS IS AN AWAKENING ...

THIS IS ILLUMINATION ...

THIS IS INSPIRATION ...

may be enlightened (*pephōtismenous*) Verb - Perfect Participle, Middle or Passive voice - Accusative Masculine Plural

From phos; **to shed rays ... to shine ... to brighten up.**

DID YOU KNOW YOUR HEART HAS EYES?

YOUR HEART HAS THE ABILITY TO PERCEIVE SPIRITUAL & ETERNAL TRUTH & HOPE ...

BUT EYES NEED LIGHT

This happens by the enlightenment of the heart, with the light of the Holy Spirit. A light rises in our heart ... a veil is lifted ... and we begin to perceive ...

Like in salvation 'I once ... was blind, but now I see'. So it is here ... being enlightened ...

SLIDE I begin to perceive ... to know - the eternal glory that waits for me up ahead ...

We become enlightened and can perceive His - and our - future glory.

BECAUSE OF THIS ENLIGHTENMENT ...

- We should be *the most inspired and inspiring people in the world* –

BECAUSE WE NOW HAVE THE MOST WONDERFUL EXPECTANCY

- We should be the most positive ... optimistic people in our community ...

There is no room here for pessimism no matter what happens around you or to you ...

Unfortunately, many theologians are like a blind man looking for a black cat in a dark room ... and the cat's not even there ... but they find it!

THIS IS AN ETERNAL CALL

THIS IS ETERNITY INVADING TIME ... SHINING ON YOUR PATH ...

Eternity shines in your heart – enlightening your heart ...

Your heart becomes distracted from every-day mundane events ... from all the enjoyment this world has to offer ...

Your heart is arrested ... you rise from kneeling in the dust ... looking up at His - and your - Eternal Glory.

ONCE YOU HAVE SEEN THE FINAL GOAL YOUR MOTIVATION HAS CHANGED FOREVER

Hebrews 11:13 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but **having seen them from afar, and having embraced them, and having confessed that they are strangers and sojourners on the earth.***

SEEN FROM AFAR ...

This is not about the details of what we are called to.

The heart doesn't necessarily know all the details ...

The mind wants to know these things ... but the heart carries a deeper general vision ...

THE ENLIGHTENED HEART PERCEIVES THE ULTIMATE GLORY ...

THEY BECAME STRANGERS & PILGRIMS

I tried to live a normal life ... but eternity kept on calling ... calling ... calling ... It took my breath away ...

At times I thought there was something wrong with me ... not realising my heart had been enlightened and I was called to His Glory ...

When you see this ... your life will change ...

THIS ENLIGHTENMENT IS AN ONGOING THING

'ENLIGHTENED' IS IN THE PERFECT TENSE, MEANING IT HAPPENS ONCE & CONTINUES TO SHINE FOREVER.

Your focus is captured forever more.

His Light shining in your heart will never stop shining ...

You are done-for ...

Ruined to this world ...

THIS MAKES IT EXTREMELY UNCOMFORTABLE TO BACKSLIDE

You can try it but you will be of all men and women ... most miserable ...

You have this enlightenment in your heart, which you are trying to bury ... to hide under a lampstand ... for whatever reason ...

This is of itself tiresome ... wearisome ... exhausting ... draining ...

*You can get to a stage where you are afraid to pray ... to fellowship with the Father ... because **THIS CALL RISES IN YOUR HEART ... ARRESTS YOU ... You cannot be 'normal' anymore!***

I'm not talking about being a religious fanatic ... or some super-spiritual flake ... but being a real person with a superior call ...

TRUE SPIRITUALITY KNOWS HOW TO ENJOY TRUE HUMANITY -

*Its desires ... joys ... humour ... personality ... expressions ...
But here's the point - It has its eyes on the eternal goal ... which brings huge inspiration ... huge enthusiasm (God within) ... and is not **possessed** by these joys of life ... but enjoys them.*

LOOK FORWARD ... EMBRACE THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING

**IT'S TIME SOME OF US STOPPED BEING REMORSEFUL OVER OUR PAST FAILURES ... OUR LIFE IN ADAM.
IT'S TIME TO FORGET YOUR PAST FAILURE & WALK FORWARD TOWARDS THE FINAL GOAL ... THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING ...**

You don't need to try to clean your act up before you see this calling ...

No! This vision causes you to let things go ...

The old dying flesh starts to fall away without you focusing on it ...

AN ENLIGHTENED HEART OF HOPE

GOD GIVES YOU THE ULTIMATE OPTIMISM

This will sustain you through distress ... poverty ... death & destruction ...

This supernatural optimism is obsessive - your heart rejoices in hope ...

Your heart catches a glimpse of his eternal glory and gets hooked ...

THIS CALLING FROM BEFORE TIME, CALLS US FROM THE FUTURE, AT THE OTHER END OF TIME ... BECKONING US TO COME.

CAN YOU IMAGINE GOD CALLING YOU FORWARD? -

'Come on ... I have so much for you up ahead ...'

'COME ON' He says, with raised eyebrows and an expectant look ...

'COME ON' ... with arms outstretched ... reaching for us ...

'COME ON' ... I'VE GOT IT ALL HERE WAITING FOR YOU ...

HEART TO HEART

***Heart to Heart ... I feel your Glory clothe me
And you take ... all my shame
Here I rest ... In all that you've done for me
And I hear you call my name***

(Chorus)

***And your Spirit deep within me
Whispers to my heart
Come and leave this lonely world behind
And I look past far horizons ... to see The Final Goal
When I'm with you on That Day
And my tears are wiped away
And forever we will stay ... Heart to Heart***

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