



SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In the sermon this week we learned that when we received Christ as Lord in our life we were given:

- A new name
- A new power source
- A new motivation

How has this truth changed the way you view yourself?

WARM UP

Does anyone have a special meaning or story related to their first or middle name? What is it?

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

Read Genesis 17:4-6

Abraham was the first of 5 people in the bible to be given a new name by God: Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah (Genesis 17:15-16), Jacob to Israel (Genesis 32:24-28), Simon to Peter (1 John 1:40-42) and Saul to Paul (Acts 13).

What do you think God's overall purpose was in changing their names?

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

According to Ephesians 3:14-15;

- What is our identity as Christians?
- How does understanding our relationship to God as Father help us to approach Him in prayer?
- In what ways can our biological father affect our relationship with our heavenly Father?

SAY THIS:

In many of Paul's writings he is so impassioned about his message that his words flow seamlessly into each other. It is important for us to slow down and break the passage into bite size chunks, allowing the truth to be revealed more clearly. In Ephesians 3:16-19, Paul is praying for believers (us); let's take a few minutes and list his specific petitions.

ASK THIS:

- How does Paul's prayer differ from your prayers?

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- In what ways does Paul's prayer motivate you to pray differently?

In Ephesians 3:18 Paul is praying that we would be able to "comprehend the length and width, height and depth of God's love".

- How does comprehending God's love help us deal with our personal sin?
- If you were able to comprehend God's love, how would it change the way you view the world? Your neighbors?

Paul also prays that we would be "filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:19)

- How would you describe being filled with the fullness of God?
- For what purpose are we filled with God's fullness?

Have the whole group read Ephesians 3:20 together aloud 3x.

Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that what we ask or think according to the power that works in us-

Read Ephesians 1:18-23

As our group members personally grow in the fullness of God and plug into His power, our group should also naturally reflect a growth in unity, spiritual development and effectiveness. Let's tackle these next set of questions with Ephesians 1:18-23 & 3:20 in mind. **Dream Big!** Through Christ and the power of His resurrection we have no limitations!

- In what ways do we utilize the talents of each our members to strengthen the whole group?
- How could we leverage the talents within our group to provide better organization and efficiency?
- What are some indicators that reveal we have grown together spiritually as a group?
- What are some practices we can implement in our meetings that encourage spiritual accountability?
- What actions do we regularly exercise as a group that clearly exhibits the power of God working through us?
- What direction do you feel God moving our group to make an impact in our community?

CLOSING THOUGHT

Worship in Music is a powerful tool that God's Spirit uses to help encourage, strengthen and reinforce our faith. When we sing together, it unites us and draws us closer to each other and to our Lord who is able! Go to the following link on YouTube and sing along with the lyric driven video of God Is Able by Hillsong United.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bV8fXl5MWk> .