1. Ephesians 1:1-2. Introduction

 “*This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus.*

*I am writing to God’s holy people in Ephesus,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+1%3B1-2&version=NLT" \l "fen-NLT-29168a" \o "See footnote a)] who are faithful followers of Christ Jesus.*

*2May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.”*

 2. Every \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is to those who are in relationship to Christ.

 Eph. 1:3

 “*All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.”*

3. What are the spiritual blessings?

 Eph. 1:4-6

 “*Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. 6So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.”*

 (a). He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us.

 Dt. 7:6: “*For you are a people holy to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his own possession, out of all the peoples that are on the face of the earth.”*

 1Pt. 2:9: “*But you are not like that, for you have been chosen by God himself—you are priests of the King, you are holy and pure, you are God’s very own—all this so that you may show to others how God called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light”.*

 (b). to be \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Lev. 19:2: “*Say to all the congregation of the people of Israel, You shall be holy; for I the Lord your God am holy.*”

 Ex. 19:6: “*and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”*

St. Leo the Great, commenting on Romans 6:4-6 about the Christian dying and rising with Christ, says, “Our task now is not to earn this new life but to live it, to enter into the riches of Christ’s redemptive work and to allow the paschal mystery of his death and resurrection to enter into our daily lives…” (st. Leo the Great).

 Romans 12:1. “*I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”*

 (c). He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us.

 Rm. 8:14-17. “*All those led by God’s Spirit are God’s sons. 15For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father!” 16The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God’s children, 17and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—seeing that[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans8%3A14-17&version=HCSB#fen-HCSB-28133a)*] we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.”*

 (d). We are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Eph. 1:7 “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.”

4. In \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_ we grow in understanding of God’s plan and purposes for us.

 Eph. 1:8-10: “*which he lavished upon us. 9For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ 10as a plan for the fulness of time, to unite[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Eph.+1%3A8-10&version=RSVCE#fen-RSVCE-33375a)*] all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.”*

 “If we claim the gift of God’s Spirit, a wonderful thing happens. We experience his power at work in us, and we find him taking over our struggles and finishing our battles.” (St. Leo the Great).

 How do we grow in wisdom and insight?

 (a). We\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through repenting of sins and making a faith –decision to grow in relationship with Him.

“Unless a person believes in Jesus Christ, true God and true man, and accepts him as their own Savior, the salvation offered to all will be of no avail to that person.” (St. Leo the Great).

 (b).Cultivate a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with him through prayer and the word of God.

 (c). Through the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ we come into contact and experience with the risen Jesus Christ. Pray for a fresh, new release of the Holy Spirit in your life.