



NOVEMBER THANKFULNESS

A Study of God's Word

For

November



Written & Watercolor Illustrated by



Constance Reeder 

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November Thankfulness

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New American Standard Bible

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A Note from the Author

♥ People have often asked how I spend my time in the Word of God. I have written this little book to share just one of the many ways I've learned to study God's Word over the years.

The best time of day to study may be different for each person, but what takes place during that time will remain relatively the same. Knowledge increases in Jesus Christ, faith in God's word is strengthened, and the wisdom and peace of God begin to prevail in everyday situations.

Your Bible, a pen, and this little book are all that is needed for this study. However, you may prefer to use some colored pencils for the days you are asked to do something special and of course, Google may come in handy as well. But it's up to you how much you choose to do. This study will give you 7-8 days in each section, but don't procrastinate! It's important to give yourself a portion to do each day.

Use this little book as a guide to a specific scripture reading each week. You will see part of that scripture at the top of your chapter page. Take time to pray and ask God for direction, then read the whole suggested scripture, preferably out loud. This helps you lay aside the worries of life and focus on God's Word.

It is important to involve all of your senses while studying God's Word, so take time to write down your favorite portion of the selected scripture in your most beautiful writing on the page provided. In doing this, you will learn to cherish God's Word and to have a deep reverence for everything God says. Let His powerful words exclaim His great love for you and take time to adore and worship Jesus and become more like Him. Enjoy.





Study 1, November 1-7

November 1

Thankfulness for God's Grace

“But God being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),...

Ephesians 2:4-5

♥ **Time in His Word:** After you spend some time in prayer, take time to read Ephesians 1 through 2:10, and note below 3 specific things that God has done for you through Jesus Christ.

♥ **God has:** _____

♥ In your most beautiful writing, write down your favorite verse from Ephesians 1 - 2:10 _____





November 2

♥ So, I went to blueletterbible.org and in the menu under Search, I typed in “grace” in the LexiCone section. Then I chose Strong’s #G5485 for grace.

The second definition begins like this: “of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps...” (you finish it here) _____

What do you think? Isn’t that amazing! Take time to re-read this definition and let it really soak in and then take it back to Ephesians 1:6, 1:7, 2:7 & 2:8. This is so important to take time for!

♥ Now it’s time to really meditate on what God has done. Pray and then write out any revelation God is giving you here: _____

Consider the following verses regarding God’s amazing grace:

- ♥ Jesus is full of this grace: John 1:14
- ♥ Mary knew this grace: Luke 1:30
- ♥ Joseph knew this grace: Acts 7:10
- ♥ All of us can know this grace: Romans 5:2





November 3

♥ Pray for your family to grow in grace: Father, I pray that my family may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. II Peter 3:18

Write a love note to God giving thanks for His amazing grace:

Romans 12:2 says, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

♥ A great way to be transformed by the renewing of our minds is by simply spending quality time in the Word of God. It searches every part of us and links us up with God's thinking - and we can then choose to let go of our old ways.

List below at least two ways that you can link your thoughts up with what you have learned about God's grace thus far.





November 4

♥ Let's pray. Now let's study some additional scriptures that contain the word "grace", #G5485. By looking at scriptures, we will gain a much deeper understanding of grace from God's Word.

"Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: ..."

Romans 3:24

What do you learn about "grace" from this verse? _____

If we are justified by His grace, we must ask what "justified" means? In blueletterbible.org I found that "justified", #G1344, means to "justify; be freed; be righteous; justifier."

♥ Now taking this definition back to Romans 3:24, what more can you learn from this verse about grace? _____

At this point you could move on, but I personally like to find definitions for any words in a verse that seem important. In Romans 3:24, "redemption" looks REALLY important - and it is! Look up "redemption", #G629. Write out what you find.

Okay, that's good for today. I am looking forward to tomorrow.





November 5

♥ Now you get to check out a whole chapter of the Bible. Romans chapter 5 gives so much information on grace that we must read the whole thing. Remember to pray and then take your time and really consider what God is showing you and how this chapter can help you to understand "grace", #G5485 better. As you read Romans 5, underline the word "grace". Then read the chapter through again and list below by verse, what you learn about grace. I will do the first one for you - you should find 5 more - get every detail and every comparison relating to grace.

V2 - we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand

♥ If you missed any comparisons with "grace", go back and ask yourself these questions regarding grace, "How much more?" and "Even so, what?".

Reflecting on all you learned yesterday and today, how has your understanding of grace been enhanced and deepened? Tell God:





November 6

♥ **A Story of Grace:** She was 30 years old when she came to know Jesus. She had many years behind her of darkness. Many years of accumulated sin had filled her cup. She was so dead in her transgressions that she didn't know how lost she really was. She felt blind, deaf, numb, and out of control. She had closed out her family completely. She was always on edge about herself, knowing something was wrong, but never being able to put her finger on exactly what was troubling her. Mild depression would come and go. She would find her body constantly ailing with one thing or another, probably related to stress.

One particular day, however, grace came upon her soul and her whole world changed! A simple phone call came from her Grandmother with an invitation to Thanksgiving dinner! Could she even consider it? Wonderful memories of family laughter, games, and gummy autumn smells of homemade pumpkin pies and the turkey baking came flooding into her memory and she could not resist - she had to go. Little did she know Grandma had prayed...

At that family dinner the God of the universe looked upon her and called her by name. He drew her while she was still deep in sin and gave her grace to believe what He said about His Son Jesus Christ. She was saved by grace and she would never be the same.

♥ **How can you relate to this story about God's grace?** Maybe it's similar to your own testimony of how God called you and saved you by grace. Maybe you are doing this study and finding that you have never experienced this grace. Or maybe as a Christian, you are wondering if God would choose to extend more of His grace for this particular time in your life. Now talk to Him...





November 7

Today we will pick up where we left off and look at some wonderful verses that relate to the questions asked yesterday.

♥ Romans 10:8-11 says, "But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

If you have been doing this study and know you have not surrendered your life to Jesus as your Lord and Savior - now is the time! Simply do what the verses above say to do. If you have questions, please contact me @ constancezofolalla@gmail.com.

♥ Romans 5:1-6 says, "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly."

Let us not forget as believers to daily exult in hope of the glory of God and in our tribulations.





November 7 (Cont'd)

♥ 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

If you are a believer in Jesus and you have unconfessed sin that has separated you from being in sweet communion with God, this is a verse to obey immediately. Then believe in His forgiveness and His cleansing and rejoice in the amazing grace of God to give you grace in all situations of life.

This grace is not a license to sin, but instead a way to believe in Jesus and be saved. It is a way to be cleansed when we fall and it is our daily shower, as we make our way through this life on our journey home.

♥ Take time now to talk to God about all you have learned in His Word about His amazing grace. Allow the Word of God to examine you and correct you of any thinking that is not lined up with the Truth in His Word. Write it out and then rejoice and praise God for His Amazing grace. Tell Him how much you love Him because He first loved you. Write out all you are thinking and feeling - don't hold anything back. Thank Him for all the grace He has given you and remember: He is with you.





Study 2, November 8-15

November 8

Thankfulness for God's Blessings

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places in Christ,"

Ephesians 1:3

♥ **Time in His Word:** After spending some time in prayer, let's take a little closer look at Ephesians 1. This time read Ephesians 1 and note below all the blessings God has blessed us with.

♥ Pick 1 or 2 of the above blessings that really stand out to you. Spend time in prayer and meditation specifically on these, thanking God for all He has done by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Write out your prayer or thoughts on these blessings.





November 9

♥ Re-read Eph. 1:1-14 and as you read look for the timing of these blessings; When did God give them to believers? Record the verse and the tense of the verb - I'll do the first one. Hint: V9 & 11 have 2.

V3 has blessed us

V4 _____

V5 _____

V6 _____

V8 _____

V9 _____

V9 _____

V11 _____

V11 _____

V12 _____

♥ Can you guess what I'm going to say next? Yep, re-read Eph. 1:1-14 & this time answer the question, "How did God give us these blessings?" I'll do the first one. Hint: This time V4, 7, & 13 have 2.

V3 in Christ

V4 _____

V4 _____

V5 _____

V6 _____

V7 _____

V7 _____

V8 _____

V9 _____

V10 _____

V13 _____

V13 _____





November 10

♥ You are doing so well! We just have to re-read Eph. 1:1-14 one more time and this time ask the question, "Why did God bless believers in this way?" As before, list what you find below.

V4 that we would be holy and blameless before Him

V5 _____

V6 _____

V12 _____

V14 _____

♥ In your answers above to the question, "Why did God bless believers in this way?" what phrase did you see mentioned three times?

to the _____ of _____

Why do you think God would bless believers "to the praise of His glory"? How would the blessings He bestows on believers, be used to the praise of His glory? Write out your thoughts: _____

Remember the two blessings you picked out at the end of the day on November 8? Take time now to thank God again for these blessings and ask Him to show you how you can use them to the praise of His glory. What a great time of the year to thank Him!





November 11

♥ After reading Ephesians 1:1-14 so many times, we have seen clearly Why, When & How God has blessed believers. Thinking back, have you seen anything about believers? What have believers done to receive these blessings? Write your answer below:

listened to _____
having also _____

What exactly happens when we listen to the Gospel and believe it? Referring to Ephesians 1:1-14, fill in the blanks below:

♥ You were _____ in Him
with the _____ of promise,
who is given as a _____ of our _____,
with a _____ to the _____ of God's own
_____,
to the _____ of _____.

In our study, the word "inheritance" is mentioned twice. What do we learn in these verses about inheritance?

- 1) V11 _____
- 2) V14 _____

♥ I went to "The New Strong's" to get a number for "inheritance" and found that for V11 it is #2820 and for V14 it is #2817. That's enough for today. Tomorrow let's take these numbers to blueletterbible.org and find out the definitions!





November 12

♥ Now that you are really good at looking up definitions on blueletterbible.org, go ahead and look up “inheritance” and write down the two definitions you find in the space below: (Be sure to scroll down through the whole page to get as much definition as possible)

Inheritance #2820 V11 _____

Inheritance #2817 V14 _____

Re-reading Ephesians 1:9-14 with these definitions in mind, what more do you learn about this inheritance offered to believers?

♥ Now let's read three cross-references in the Word of God to gain a little more insight - These are so cool!

♥ Acts 26:12-18

♥ Colossians 1:9-12

♥ 1 Peter 1:3-9

This seems like a short study. But let's call it a day and dream about our blessing of an inheritance in the Kingdom of God!





November 13

Ask God that His face shine upon you and teach you His statutes.

The verses we looked up last night for cross-references were amazing verses that illumined our understanding of the word "inheritance". Re-read these verses again today and then re-read Ephesians 1:1-14 and see how much more insight God gives you right from His Word.

Do you remember the story you read on November 6? If not, take time to go back and refresh your memory. Then continue to read her story here:

♥ **A Story of Blessing:** On the day she was saved, her life was changed and although she could not pinpoint exactly what all those changes were, as the days and months went by a hunger began growing deep within her. A hunger to pray and to know God more, and to understand exactly what Jesus had done for her.

She began attending church and asking questions and one day as she was reading through the Bible with her Grandmother, they came to Ephesians 1. She read of the blessings and the Holy Spirit who was given to her as a pledge to her inheritance on the day she believed in Jesus. There was silence.

She bowed her head in great thankfulness to God. She saw how He had given her an inheritance that her earthly father could not give. He had left when she was only three years old and was no longer in her life, but God had faithfully acted in his place and provided her with everything she needed not only for this life, but for all eternity. Spend time in awe & praise! Meditate on God's love for us!





November 14

♥ What a wonderful time of studying. Now let's take a look at the role of the Holy Spirit in all that we have learned so far. We will want to do some word studies on four different words through blueletterbible.org. Go ahead and look up the following words and record your findings in the space provided for each one:

Spirit, Strong's #G4151 _____

Promise, #G1860 _____

Sealed, #G4972 _____

Pledge (Earnest in KJV), #G728 _____

♥ Now take these definitions back to Ephesians 1:13-14 and see what you can learn about the Holy Spirit. Write your insights out below: _____





November 15

♥ We have seen so much in this second part of our study. We have learned about many of the blessings God has bestowed on believers and the How, When, and even Why of these blessings.

We have also learned about our inheritance and the role of the Holy Spirit in it all. Combining this with God's amazing grace, Ephesians 1-2 fills our hearts with praise for all God has done for each of us through His Son Jesus Christ! We sing Hallelujah to the praise of His glory!

♥ Along with Paul, I pray for you and for myself:

“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe....”

Ephesians 1:17-19...



You are so precious in God's sight. He loves you so much and gave His Only Begotten Son as a perfect sacrifice for you. He has blessed you with EVERY spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ. He has given you an inheritance that is sealed by the Holy Spirit who dwells within you. It cannot be taken away. Your body is the temple of God's Holy Spirit! WOW! Because of Jesus your worth is immeasurable! O how I pray we comprehend this!





Study 3, November 16-22

November 16

Thankfulness for God's Redemption

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. ..."

Ephesians 1:7-8...

♥ **Time in His Word:** We are going to spend a lot of time studying through God's Word regarding "redemption". But first, let's read Ephesians 1-2:10 to refresh our memory.

Going to blueletterbible.org once again, look up the word "redemption", Strong's #G629 and write out the definition below:
aplogtrosis - redemption, a releasing _____

Be sure to include 1. A & B for your definitions.

♥ During this week we will be doing a lot of cross-referencing of other verses in God's Word. But for now, re-read Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:17-18, re-write it below in your best writing, and then diligently pray it over yourself for the study we are about to do on "redemption". This is going to be so good! _____





November 17

♥ Now that we've seen redemption #G629 is a "releasing effected by payment of ransom, deliverance, and from Ephesians 1:7 we know that we have redemption through Christ's blood, and in 1:14 we have a view to the redemption of God's own possession, let's check out some verses in the Bible that will illuminate our understanding even more.

Read these verses & write what you learn about redemption:

Ephesians 4:25-32: _____

1Corinthians 1:26-31 (Re-read Ephesians 2:1-10 along with this):

Colossians 1:9-14: _____

Romans 3:21-26: _____

♥ Okay, let's put this all together. Using the above information, answer the following questions:

Who was redemption accomplished by? _____

How was redemption accomplished? _____

Who is the redemption for? _____

In the Strong's Concordance I read, "This word means to be purchased from the slave market of sin, totally set free, never to be sold again." Think about this. We'll study more tomorrow ☺





November 18

♥ I meditated on the Scriptures we looked up yesterday and I re-read the definition of “redemption” that I found in the Strong’s Concordance. As I thought about it through my day today, I was reminded of the nation of Israel enslaved in Egypt. But then God sent Moses to release them from their slavery and He eventually gave them the Law through Moses. According to the Law they began to offer yearly sacrifices for their sins.

The sacrifices were of bulls and goats and could not take away their sins; these sacrifices merely reminded Israel of their sins year after year (Hebrews 10:1-4). Can you imagine being reminded of your sins, but unable to be cleansed from them?

Let’s take time to read Hebrews 10:1-25 in one reading.

Do you see the redemption story here? What body had God prepared? What more do you learn about how Jesus has redeemed us? (Use the words from these verses to explain):

♥ Spend time in meditation on what we’ve learned and add some more thoughts below. I have found that even after 11 years of studying the Bible and 20 years of walking with Jesus - this is still so wonderful to dwell on - I desire to understand it more!





November 19

♥ Over the past two days, we have done cross-references on some really wonderful verses pertaining to redemption. I think we should camp out here for a while. It's time to really slow down.

On November 17, we looked up Ephesians 4:25-32 and saw that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption - this goes along with our study in Ephesians 1:13-14. We also saw in 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 that Jesus was made unto us the wisdom of God, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

Do you think Jesus was made these unto us before His death, during His death on the cross, while He was in the tomb, or after His resurrection? _____

Why? _____

In Colossians 1:9-14 we saw that redemption is the forgiveness of our sins. Sin is slavery and redemption is deliverance or freedom from that slavery.

Lastly, we see in Romans 3:21-26 that we have been justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus and that Jesus is our propitiation or payment, but only through faith, in His blood, to show His righteousness because of the passing over of the sins done aforetime...

♥ Here we see our justification through redemption. Also, we can't help but be reminded again of how God passed over the houses of the Israelites while in Egypt. They also had to act in faith by putting the blood of a lamb on their lintel and two side-posts in order to spare their firstborn (Exodus 12:21-30). By our faith in Jesus Christ, we are set free from our sins!





November 20

♥ After spending the past three days studying redemption, let's start this day by asking a couple of questions. Write out your answers using Scripture that comes to mind - I have referenced some verses after each question in case you need some help.

Why did we have to be redeemed? _____

(reference: Read Ephesians 2:1-3, 11 & 4:17-24)

Why did God want to redeem us? _____

(reference: Read Ephesians 1:1-6)

When did God redeem us? _____

(reference: Read Ephesians 1:3-4)

If we were enslaved and needed to be set free, who was our slave master, or what did we need to be set free from? _____

What did this slave master demand as a payment? _____

♥ The wages of sin is death and Jesus willingly redeemed us! He paid the price to set us free from our slave master who demanded a payment of death! Jesus redeemed us with His blood.

Titus 2:14 says, "who gave himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good deeds." Oh, how He loves you and me! We truly have so much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving!





November 21

♥ **A Story of Redemption:** When November came, she was determined to prepare her heart to be truly thankful for all that Christ had done for her. She felt that God was calling her to walk even closer with Him than she ever had.

One evening when she had a few hours alone, she decided to get out all of her journals and go through them one by one. She had talked to God through her journals regularly since she had been saved. Now she wanted to spend quiet time with Him and just remind herself of all He had brought her through.

She started at the beginning, when her Grandmother had invited her to Thanksgiving and later that evening had shared Jesus with her. She read of how she responded with a humble, yearning heart to know Him. She read again of how God healed her of her bouts with depression and struggles with anger from feeling so let down by those she trusted.

She read of the day she met a Godly man and later entered into a marriage covenant with him and how God blessed them with four children who also surrendered their own lives to Jesus. She was reminded of how her step-father became a believer as a result of watching her life change.

That evening she read account after account of how God had taken her from darkness and brought her into His marvelous light. She began to understand that her life was a story of redemption. Sin had demanded that she die, but she had been purchased from the slave market of sin by the Only One who could take her place through death on the cross. She had been set free and made righteous by His blood and she was free indeed! Thankfulness flooded her soul and love for her Savior abounded even more.





Study 4, November 23-30

November 23

Thankfulness for God's Praying People

“For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;”

Ephesians 1:15-16

♥ **Time in His Word:** Let's spend time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to lead us into righteousness and true understanding of God's Word as we study about prayer.

Now we will need to read all of Ephesians 1 in one sitting with no interruptions. Read slowly and take it all in. Allow the Holy Spirit time to bring to remembrance all the things He has taught you regarding His grace, blessings, and redemption.

♥ In your very best longhand write out Ephesians 1:15-19a - you will end in verse 19 with "toward us who believe." _____



This is the last part of our study and it's going to be so amazing!





November 24

♥ Picking up with Ephesians 1:15-19a where we left off yesterday, we see right away the words “For this reason...”. These words make us want to ask the question, “For what reason?” Quickly reviewing the previous verses, answer this question: _____

From these verses, why does Paul give thanks for them and mention them in his prayers? “...having heard of _____

What 3 things does Paul ask that God do for these believers?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

What will they know when God enlightens the eyes of their hearts?

will know _____

will know _____

will know _____

♥ Finally, make a list of three people that you will not cease giving thanks for while making mention of them in your prayers. Send a beautiful handwritten letter before Thanksgiving Day letting each one know how thankful you are for them.

What a wonderful way to prepare your hearts for Thanksgiving Day.





November 25

♥ Let's take some time to think about this prayer from an application perspective. How can I apply this prayer to my own life and live with Paul as my personal example? Now re-read Ephesians 1:15,

"For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints,"

Re-read this verse a few times and allow the Holy Spirit time to bring to remembrance people in your life who reflect this verse.

For example, as I read this verse, there are two specific couples who come to mind. Before I ever had the pleasure of meeting them, I was told by others of their strong faith in Jesus Christ. Now that they are in my life, I have seen such faith in action through the amazing love they have for the Body of Christ. This couple truly reflects Ephesians 1:15.

After someone has come to mind, you can now move into Ephesians 1:16, where you see by example of Paul, that you can apply this prayer to your own life by not ceasing to give thanks for them, while making mention of them in your prayers. The specifics of what you will pray for them are contained in the rest of the prayer.

♥ Is there someone who comes to mind that fits the above description from verse 15? I think by applying this prayer in this manner, we can bless those around us whom we see truly living out a life of obedience to God through their open faith in Jesus and by their love for the saints. Now, ask yourself if you meet the description of Ephesians 1:15.





November 26

♥ Ephesians 1:18 says, "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,"

Let's first look up the definition of "enlightened" Strong's #G5461 and write it out here: _____

Now we'll do cross-references of this Strong's #. It may be in the form of a different word, but it will still give a deeper understanding. I'm looking in the NASB version.

Luke 11:36: (illuminated) _____

Revelation 18:1: (illuminated) _____

John 1:9: (enlightens) _____

Hebrews 6:4: (enlightened) _____

Hebrews 10:32: (enlightened) _____

Ephesians 3:9: (bring to light) _____

1 Corinthians 4:5: (bring to light) _____





November 27

♥ Continuing our study from yesterday, let's take the definition and all the understanding we gained from doing the cross-references and see how it helps us understand what Paul meant by "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened.". Write out your new insights here: _____

_____ ♥

Now moving to the next part of verse 18, "...so that you will know what is the hope of His calling.". From Strong's, the word "know" #G1492, means to perceive with the outward senses, particularly with physical sight; perceive with the mind, understand. The word "hope" #G1680 means hope, desire of some good with expectation of obtaining it, and "calling" #G2821 means a calling.

Let's do some more cross-references to better understand this calling of all believers. Be sure to write out what you learn from each.

Romans 11:29 _____

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 _____

Ephesians 4:1 _____

Happy Thanksgiving Day! I'm so thankful for you and your love for God's Word. We'll study more tomorrow. ♥





November 28

♥ Getting right back into our study after a wonderful Thanksgiving Day, let's study the last part of verse 18, "...what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.". The word "glory" Strong's #G1391 means glory, appearance, reputation, glory. It basically refers to the recognition belonging to a person, honor, renown. Now let's look up the word "saints" Strong's #G40 at blueletterbible.org. It means _____

Time to be honest. Do you think the word "saint" describes you? I know I don't always feel like a saint and I tend to think of a saint as someone who has lived a life extremely pleasing to God and then did a miracle of some kind. Let's see if we can answer the question, "Who is a saint?" from the Book of Ephesians.

♥ Back to cross-references. Read the following verses and record who the saints are. Read as much as you need to figure it out. I actually read the whole book of Ephesians, just to get true clarity. I'll do some of them for you.

Ephesians 1:1 _____
Ephesians 1:15 These are believers in Christ just like the Ephesians
Ephesians 1:18 _____
Ephesians 2:19 Believing Jews and believing Gentiles
Ephesians 3:8 _____
Ephesians 3:18 _____
Ephesians 4:12 Believers in Jesus Christ
Ephesians 5:3 _____
Ephesians 6:18 _____





November 29

♥ **A Story of Prayer:** As the years passed by, she began to realize the importance of prayer. She found that when she spent time in the early mornings with God and in His Word, she felt more ready for whatever came her way that day. There were still those periodic hard times, but they did not affect her in the same way.

Some mornings she would simply write out Scripture in her journal and then make a list of all that God had promised in those verses and all that He required of her.

Other mornings, she got on her knees and wept before His throne on behalf of her children, her marriage, her relationships, the lost, and her church body. As she remained faithful to this time of prayer, she realized God's steadfast faithfulness and became very acquainted with how much He loved her and how much she could trust Him.

One particular morning, she prayed specifically for her son who was having headaches and pains in his legs and arms. It was so abnormal for his young healthy body to be so sick. As she prayed, she felt the Holy Spirit tug on her heart to look in the top drawer of her son's end table next to where he slept.

As she tip-toed silently across the bedroom floor to the table, she found herself wondering what she would find there. She quietly opened the drawer and found a model car her son had been making to surprise his Dad, along with the tube of glue! She knew instantly the fumes had been leaking out during the night and were causing the headaches and pain in his body. She quickly removed the glue and left the room. She found herself overwhelmed with gratitude and wept with tears of joy for the all-knowing and faithful God who called her His own.





November 30

♥ Paul continues this particular Ephesians prayer with, “and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.” I will stop at this point in the prayer, but let’s not overlook the “surpassing greatness of His power”.

According to Paul, it is a power that is toward us who believe, and it is the same power that God used to raise Christ from the dead and seat Him at His right hand in the heavenly places! (Ephesians 1:20) This is worth meditating on for sure!

What seems too big to you? What is too overwhelming to bring to God, or maybe as in the story yesterday, what is there in your life that you can’t fix because you just don’t have the understanding?

♥ The story I’ve been writing in the midst of this study is fictional in some places, but it also has parts of my personal testimony interwoven throughout. The story of the answered prayer for my son is true and is only one of many times God has spoken clearly to me by His Holy Spirit and answered my prayer.

However, there have been other times in my life where praying was just too hard. I was overwhelmed and exhausted and I was too tired to get up and then fall to my knees. But there, in my heart or in my journal I’ve learned to whisper or write two simple words. “Help me.” Although God is sometimes silent, He always hears His children and He always provide what we need.

Thank you for taking time to study God’s Amazing Word with me. I pray that you will continue to study with me as I put together new Bible Studies. If you have any comments, please contact me at constanceofolalla@gmail.com. I would love to hear from you. ♥

-Constance

