

# EPHESIANS

*PART OF SOMETHING BIG*





# ***WRESTLING WITH GOD'S LOVE***

**EPHESIANS 1:3-6**

***PART OF SOMETHING BIG***



## Ephesians 1:3-6

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Paul wants us to more fully experience the deep love of God that moved Him to give us in Christ “*every spiritual blessing*”. But this requires effort from us. For those willing to wrestle with more fully understanding the magnitude of God’s love, there is inconceivable delight, assurance and joy.

- **God chose to bless us before we existed.**



## Ephesians 1:3-5

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**What led me to embrace God's choosing me?**

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**1. Biblical texts**



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2. **Recognition of my arrogance**

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**What led me to embrace God's choosing me?**

1. Biblical texts
2. Recognition of my arrogance
3. **Appreciation of the infinite magnitude of God's love**

- God chose to bless us before we existed.
- **God chose to radically transform us.**



## Ephesians 1:3-4

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## Ephesians 2:1-3

<sup>1</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

- God chose to bless us before we existed.
- God chose to radically transform us.
- **God chose to have an astounding relationship with us.**



## Ephesians 1:3-5

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## Romans 8:14-15

<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”







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- **God chose us according to His own pleasure and will.**

## Ephesians 1:3-5

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- God chose to radically transform us.
- God chose to have an astounding relationship with us.
- God chose us according to His own pleasure and will.
- **God chose us that He might ultimately be glorified.**



## Ephesians 1:3-6

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**What my embracing God's choosing me has brought me:**

# What my embracing God's choosing me has brought me:

- Increasing humility

## What my embracing God's choosing me has brought me:

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- **Growing gratefulness**



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- **Expanding peace**

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- **Escalating passion and freedom in evangelism**



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- Increasing humility
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- Expanding peace
- Escalating passion and freedom in evangelism
- **Intensifying security and identity in being an adopted child of God**

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- Magnifying desire to worship God
- **A huge tension**

## **This Week:**

- **Read Ephesians 1**



## This Week:

- Read Ephesians 1
- **Wrestle**

## This Week:

- Read Ephesians 1
- Wrestle
- **Pay attention to your emotions**

## This Week:

- Read Ephesians 1
- Wrestle
- Pay attention to your emotions
- **Ask God to give you a greater experience of His love**