

Ephesians:  
Chapter 1:15-23  
To Know God to Know Hope

Pastor Cory Johnson  
Saturday, June 26, 2021  
Ephesians 1:15-23; Romans 4:5

Ephesians: Apocalypse Now

The purpose of the Church is to make disciples who make disciples.

<sup>15</sup> That is why since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks to God for you. I always remember you in my prayers, Ephesians 1:15–16

<sup>17</sup> asking the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, to give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you will know him better. Ephesians 1:17

The main point is for you to know God better  
Revelation = (Apokalypsis); to uncover or reveal.  
Wisdom = Skill

You know God because you are in Christ.  
You get to know Him better by associating.

<sup>18</sup> I pray also that you will have greater understanding in your heart so you will know the hope to which he has called us and that you will know how rich and glorious are the blessings God has promised his holy people. Ephesians 1:18

Hope: Wanting something to be the case.

Biblical hope refers to promised certainty.  
Your hope is based on the reliability or promise of God.

Dear Mrs. Smith,

"I'm writing in response to this morning's request for forgiveness. I'm sorry to inform you that you have reached your quota of sins. Our records show that, since employing our services, you have erred seven times in the area of greed, and your prayer life is substandard when compared to others of age and circumstance."

“Further review reveals that your understanding of doctrine is in the lower 20 percentile, and you have excessive tendencies to gossip. Because of your sins you are a high-risk candidate for heaven. You understand that grace has its limits. Jesus sends his regrets and kindest regards and hopes that you will find some other form of coverage.”

<sup>5</sup> But people cannot do any work that will make them right with God. So they must trust in him, who makes even evil people right in his sight. Then God accepts their faith, and that makes them right with him. Romans 4:5

The more you get to know God, the more you will experience hope everyday.

Hope quiets our fears when it recognizes the patterns of God’s love.

Hope raises the volume of your faith and love.

<sup>19</sup> And you will know that God’s power is very great for us who believe. That power is the same as the great strength <sup>20</sup> God used to raise Christ from the dead and put him at his right side in the heavenly world. Ephesians 1:19-20

<sup>21</sup> God has put Christ over all rulers, authorities, powers, and kings, not only in this world but also in the next. <sup>22</sup> God put everything under his power and made him the head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is Christ’s body. The church is filled with Christ, and Christ fills everything in every way. Ephesians 1:21-23

How can you develop the skill to know God better?

S.O.A.P.S

- Scripture: Write out one or more verses that are particularly meaningful to you today.
- Observation: Rewrite those verses or key points in your own words to better understand.
- Application: Think about what it means to obey these commands in your own life.
- Prayer: Write out a prayer telling God what you’ve learned and how you plan to obey.
- Sharing: Ask God who He wants you to share with about what you’ve learned/applied.

In Christ, through Christ, or with Christ.

## Session 01

### S.O.A.P.S. Bible Reading

As a follower of Jesus, we should be reading Scripture daily. A good guideline is to read through a minimum of 1-3 chapters in the Bible each day. Keeping a daily journal daily using the S.O.A.P.S. Bible Reading format will help you understand, obey and share even more.

S.O.A.P.S. is:

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- **Application:** Think about what it means to obey these commands in your own life.
- **Prayer:** Write out a prayer telling God what you've learned and how you plan to obey.
- **Sharing:** Ask God who He wants you to share with about what you've learned / applied.

Here's an example of S.O.A.P.S. at work:

- S** – “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord.  
“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9
- O** – As a human, I’m limited in what I know and what I know how to do. God is not limited in any way. He sees and knows EVERYTHING. He can do ANYTHING.
- A** – Since God knows everything and His ways are best, I’ll have much more success in life if I follow Him instead of relying on my own way of doing things.
- P** – Lord, I don’t know how to live a good life that pleases You and helps others. My ways lead to mistakes. My thoughts lead to hurt. Please teach me Your ways and Your thoughts, instead. Let your Holy Spirit guide me as I follow You.
- S** – I will share these verses and this application with my friend, Steve, who is going through a difficult time and needs direction for important decisions he’s facing.