

Changed 3.

- 1) Who's someone you're a little or a lot afraid to approach or talk to?
- 2) What's something you have that you don't feel like you deserve?

Whether we acknowledge it or not, there are things that are at work within us. It could be the spicy burrito we ate last night. It could also be something that someone said to us that we've never forgotten (good or bad). Christians can be tempted to think they have to do all the work necessary to change, but in reality that's not true. In reality, the only work we have to do is to monitor and be purposeful with what we allow to do work in us. It is the diligent work of filtering lies from truth.

When God works in us, that's where His mighty power begins. God helps us know and determine what's true and what isn't. Those truths about who you are to Him are the seed that grow into the "infinitely more" that God will accomplish in and through us.

Ephesians 3:1-13

"When I think of all this, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the benefit of you Gentiles . . . assuming, by the way, that you know God gave me the special responsibility of extending his grace to you Gentiles. As I briefly wrote earlier, God himself revealed his mysterious plan to me. As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ.

God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by his Spirit he has revealed it to his holy apostles and prophets. And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News.

Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning. God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ

Jesus our Lord. Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence. So please don't lose heart because of my trials here. I am suffering for you, so you should feel honored."

- 3) Paul talks about an inheritance and blessings. What kind of blessings do we not need to wait to inherit?
- 4) Paul says he's not deserving (in fact, he's the least deserving). He says that, inspite of that, God has given him a tremendous honor and responsibility. How does feeling undeserving influence the way you approach what you've been given?
- 5) What do the words Bold and Confident mean to you? What do they look like in your life?
- 6) What would it look like for you to be bold and confident about your relationship with God?

Break.

- 7) What's something you like about yourself? Why are you like that?

Ephesians 3:14-21

"When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him.

Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully.

Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen."

8) What is someone like when they have shallow roots?

9) What changes when someone becomes “rooted”?

10) These verses talk about the “fullness of life”. What would need to change in your life for you to experience the fullness of life more?

11) How has God been working in you (changing you) lately?

Reflection: How would you like to change in the future?

Prayer