

HARVEST ROCK CHURCH

THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION: EPHESIANS 1:15-23 STUDY IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Dr. Ché Ahn

February 19, 2023

TEXT: 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, 16 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in my prayers; 17 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. 18 *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what the hope of His calling is, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

INTRO: Pastor Fred and I just returned from the Asbury Revival. I believe that this is a true historic revival. The revival will be two weeks old this Wednesday, and people from around the world are flocking to Wilmore, Kentucky (right outside of Lexington). People have come from every state and many nations like Brazil and Indonesia. Tucker Carlson from Fox News has reported the Asbury Revival on prime-time television. It is now on the radar of liberal secular media. The New York Times was there this week and interviewed Pastor Fred and me, as we were in line standing in freezing weather. But let me give you ten reasons why I believe this is a historic revival.

TEN REASONS WHY I BELIEVE THIS IS A HISTORIC REVIVAL

- 1. It Is a Youth Revival.** On the second day that I was there, they asked those who are 25 and under (Generation Z) to stand up. I would say around 70% of the crowd stood up. The whole front section of the auditorium (around 700 seats) is reserved for college students only, from Asbury and other colleges. If you were a high school student or a college student, you didn't



*These notes are the intellectual property of Ché Ahn and Harvest Rock Church and may be used as reference material for informational purposes only; however, they may not be sold or distributed without prior written consent.

have to stay in line; you could go up to the front of the line, show your student ID and be seated by the ushers. The choir seats were exclusively for children and up to college age. Those who were allowed to share a testimony up front had to be 25 and under. Historically, revival begins with young people. Whitefield was 21 when he started to open-air preach to the coal miners in 1738, which started the First Great Awakening. John Wesley was 27. Evan Roberts was in his early twenties, and it was his youth group of Moriah Chapel that sparked the Welsh Revival. The Jesus People movement was primarily a revival of teenage hippies and people in their twenties. I was 17 when I got saved in that revival.

2. **Hunger and Sacrifice.** People were standing in the pouring rain to get into Hughes Auditorium. The next day the temperature hit freezing as snow flurries came, and yet the lines were longer than the day before. Fred and I were in line for three and a half hours. I have been in cold weather before, but I have never suffered from the cold as I did that day. My feet were frozen numb. C.S. Lewis: “God shouts to us in our pain.” Gen Z has been hit with the worse divorce, fatherlessness, global pandemic, lockdown, and highest inflation in their lifetime. They are desperate for God. Thousands of young people are flocking to Kentucky. Four auditoriums are now open on the Asbury College campus, and people are lining up for these meetings, filling each auditorium to capacity. 30,000 people came to hear Whitefield preach in Philadelphia during the Great Awakening. Up to 50,000 flocked to the Cane Ridge Revival in Kentucky in 1801, the beginnings of the Second Great Awakening. 50,000 would show up at the Jesus festivals in the 70s.
3. **Focus on Jesus.** The whole nonstop services since Wednesday, February 8 have been one continuous worship service focused on Jesus. You had some testimonies from young people and some preaching. Periodic altar calls were given, but most of the time was devoted to worshipping Jesus. As a result people are falling in love with Jesus or they are returning to their first love. Even when they encouraged the young people to share their testimony, they were instructed in the ABCD’s of the rules of this revival. A: all about Jesus. B: be brief. C: current testimony, especially something that happened in the revival services. D: don’t preach. I think Gen Z is turned off by religion, but they want the real Jesus, and He is revealing Himself powerfully in this revival. Jesus is always central and supreme in every revival. We were even called Jesus freaks!
4. **Holiness and Purity.** The exhortation and altar calls were calls to holiness. This is a Wesleyan seminary, and John Wesley, the great founder of the

Methodist denomination and a leader of the First Great Awakening, the main truth he emphasized is holiness unto the Lord. As a result, there was a lot of deep repentance going on. When they gave an invitation for people to repent—with specifics to Gen Z, like pornography, drug addiction, addiction to computer games or social media—people were asked to stand, and almost 80% stood to repent. The Pyongyang Revival of 1907 was called the Great Repentance Revival. In every revival there is deep repentance.

5. **Salvations, Deliverance and Healing.** Power manifested, people getting saved, but also in deliverance and healing. I didn't see anyone shake or fall, but I saw a lot of weeping, including myself. Many people testified to being healed physically, even though healing was not necessarily being emphasized. Also, major deliverance is taking place. I talked with the person in charge of the prayer ministry, and she said, "70% of the people we prayed for were manifesting demons." It reminded me of the Jesus movement. The emphasis was on winning souls from the platform. I believe that most of the evangelism is taking place outside of the auditorium. For example, I led the waitress to the Lord the last day of my time there. Keep in mind, 100,000 got saved in the first six months of the Welsh Revival of 1904. Twenty million came to know the Lord from 1967-1977 of the Jesus People movement—almost all of it outside of a church building.
6. **Humility.** There was not a focus on a personality. You didn't really know who was leading the meetings. Things were "nameless and faceless." Everyone was giving glory to Jesus. Even the worship team had to go through debriefing, and they were reminded that it is not about you but all about Jesus. No charismatic leader. I think Gen Z have a mistrust for leaders, whether it is their parents who failed them, political leaders, or pastors. The people up front were the worship members, who are all students at Asbury College and Seminary.
7. **A United, Diverse Body of Christ.** Evangelical, I only saw two people there: Annie from Detroit and Pastor Erwin Guevara from SoCal. People from many mainline denominations showed up, primarily non-Charismatic, mostly conservative evangelicals who are hungry for revival. I didn't hear anyone praying in tongues. Maybe 10% of the 2,000 in the auditorium had their hands raised in worship. But it was very powerful, and you can sense the presence of the Lord. The whole leadership team from CMA, Christian Missionary Alliance, came as a group and were standing in front of us the second day.

8. **Supernatural Favor of God.** One student shared how he could not go home to his country for the holidays because he had no money, but then he said, “If I did go, I would have most likely missed this revival.” A spontaneous offering was taken up for him, and one trash bag of money was collected for him. Another had no place to stay, and as soon as he got to the hotel, they said that there was just a cancelation and he got in. Our flight was full. I was on the waitlist, but everyone in first class checked in full. When we got to the gate, there were two cancelations in first, so Fred and I got upgraded! I could hear God so clearly. E.g., losing my license and the Lord spoke that it fell in the crack of your briefcase. The last day, I was at the hotel breakfast area having my coffee and having my time in the Word. God spoke to me clearly, “Go to the person who set up the food and is cleaning after people, and share the Gospel.” It was so easy to share with Heather and lead her to Christ, as people were praying for me and for her.
9. **Presence, Peace, and Open Heaven.** The moment I got off the plane and was walking through the airport, I felt this unusual peace. I felt a peace and a lack of anxiety throughout. We were not anxious about parking or getting a seat. There was a calmness throughout my time there. Gen Z is the most anxious and fearful and depressed generation. Suicide is at an all-time high with this generation. The number-two killer among high school kids has always been suicide, but in this generation, the numbers are higher. The first thing you sensed when you walked into Hughes Auditorium was a manifestation of God’s peace. I could hear the Lord very clearly.
10. **Sacrifice.** People shared how hard it was to get to Asbury. Cars breaking down, no money, coming in faith. All the flights were sold out. Fred and I got a red eye leaving LAX at 12:20 in the morning. We flew three hours to Chicago, and then our flight got canceled and we had a four-hour layover. But we were rejoicing. He gave me Psalm 50:5 at our solemn assembly on January 31: “Gather together my consecrated ones who make a covenant by sacrifice.” I saw thousands of people make sacrifices this week. People were standing in the rain and cold for hours. At that prayer meeting, God asked me what price I was willing to pay for revival. My answer, “Whatever the cost, by Your grace, I will make the sacrifice.” Are you willing to make whatever sacrifice to have revival in your life and in your church?

Conclusion to my report: Over 40 colleges are moving into protracted meetings springing forth from Asbury College/Seminary. It started with Evangelical non-Charismatic Colleges, but now this is hitting Charismatic and Pentecostal colleges



like Lee College and Oral Roberts University. ORU has moved into protracted meetings. It is also hitting churches all across America. Bethel Church, pastored by my friend Bill Johnson, has moved into protracted nightly meetings.

Since my return to California, I believe we will make an announcement on Tuesday night on how we are to move forward as a church. I want the HRC pastoral team to pray and discuss the possibility of nightly meetings before we make a decision. I think that it was very prophetic when Pastor Fred came up to me almost two years ago and wanted to shift our Tuesday young adults service from a regular service to what is now called Presence Night, and they have been doing the same things that Asbury is doing. Extensive worship, a time of prayer, some testimonies, brief exhortations, and ministry time of more prayer. I don't want to do it just because other churches are doing it. I really want to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to our church. If we do agree to hold nightly meetings, we can begin in the fire room and move to the offices and see if God breathes on this.

I fly out to Portland this Tuesday and then to Bethel Church this weekend, but I think it is of the Lord that I am not there. The president of Asbury is not leading this revival, nor is it the chaplain. It started with students, and the established leaders have come around the students, but it is really about how Jesus and the Holy Spirit has been leading them. Our pastors will be there on Tuesday, but I am not making it mandatory. I want the pastors and you to be led by the Holy Spirit if you are to participate. It will also be online, but there is something about being there in person. Now let's get to our text.

Paul writes this to the Ephesians, who experienced the greatest revival in Paul's ministry in Acts 19. It is all about God's love, the Holy Spirit, Christ's riches through God's grace.

Paul moves into prophetic prayer, and it can be divided into five big sections: **1) That you would receive a revelation of the knowledge of God, 2) That you would know God's calling on your life, 3) That you would know your inheritance from God the Father, 4) That you would know the power of the Holy Spirit that is within you, 5) That you would know the authority that you have in Christ Jesus.**

I. MAY YOU RECEIVE A REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

A. TO KNOW GOD *PERSONALLY* IS SALVATION

1. John 17:3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."



B. TO KNOW GOD INCREASINGLY IS SANCTIFICATION

1. Philippians 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.

C. TO KNOW HIM PERFECTLY IS GLORIFICATION

1. 1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

D. KNOWING GOD LEADS TO INTIMACY AND UNION WITH CHRIST

1. Do you know Him as your Friend? John 15:14 “You are My friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”
2. But do you know Him as your Helper? John 14:16 “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it **does not see** Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”
3. The better you know Him, the more you will love Him. The more you will be joyful and satisfied with your life. The more you will fulfill your destiny and calling in life.

II. MAY YOU RECEIVE A REVELATION OF GOD’S CALLING

- A. Ephesians 1:18 *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling.***

B. THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING HIS CALLING**1. YOUR IDENTITY DETERMINES YOUR DESTINY**

2. The word *Ekklesia* is a combination of two words that mean being called out. It means “called out ones.”
3. As believers we have a holy calling (2 Timothy 1:9).
4. **1 Peter 2:9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**
5. **He has called you to be Kings and Priests (Revelation 1:6).**
6. He has called you to be a Holy Nation.
7. We have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).



C. THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING

1. God wants us to know the hope of His calling. What does that mean?
2. **Hope is the confident expectation of good from a Good, Loving Heavenly Father.**
3. The calling we have from Christ assures us of a delightful future.
4. When we were lost, we were without hope (Ephesians 2:12), but in Christ, we have a living hope. **1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**
5. **The reason why people are flocking to Asbury is because hope for His Church and for America has been resurrected!**

III. MAY YOU RECEIVE A REVELATION OF HIS INHERITANCE TO THE SAINTS

A. Ephesians 1:18b what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...

1. **This could mean that God's people are His inheritance. Psalm 2:8 "Ask of Me, and I will give you the nations as an inheritance..."**
2. **Or it could mean that our inheritance is in Christ. Or both!** Paul writes that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs (Romans 8:17; Galatians 4:7).
3. The Promised Land for the people of Israel was their inheritance, what God had promised to His people. But our inheritance is more than land, for He has "blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 1:3).
4. Luke 12:22 And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, do not worry about *your* life, *as to* what you will eat; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and *yet* God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! 25 And which of you by worrying can add a *single* hour to his life's span? 26 If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters? 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. 28 But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more *will He clothe* you? You men of little faith! 29 And do not seek what

you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. 30 For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. 31 But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. 32 Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.”

5. **Luke 12:32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.”**
6. **He has given us His Kingdom (Luke 12:32).**

IV. MAY YOU RECEIVE A REVELATION OF GOD’S POWER THAT IS WITHIN YOU

A. **Ephesians 3:19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His *might*...**

B. **Paul uses four Greek words to convey this power in v.19**

1. ***Dunamis*: power. A dynamic, supernatural power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).**
2. ***Energia*: working as in energy.**
3. ***Kratos*: might or strength.**
4. ***Ischus*: might or power.**
5. **“What is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength.”**

C. **The Church has substituted the power of the Holy Spirit for religion. The Bible prophesies that in the last days, this would be true.**

1. **2 Timothy 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.**

V. MAY YOU HAVE A REVELATION OF YOUR AUTHORITY IN CHRIST

A. **Ephesians 1:20 Which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22**

And He put all things in subjection under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

- 1. You are seated with Him in the heavenly places. He put all things in subjection under His feet, which is the feet of the Church, His Body.**
- 2. When we take communion, we are affirming His defeat of Satan on the cross.**
- 3. Colossians 2:14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.**

CONCLUSION: Be willing to make a sacrifice for revival, and all these promises in Ephesians 1 will come true in your life. Let's pray.