

## **Ephesians. The Identity of the Church that Overcomes Living the Message**

*Houses of Light Church • April 6, 2025*

**Focus: Ephesians 2:4-13**

### **I. Introduction:**

- A. Over the last 4 weeks in Ephesians, we've received powerful truths! Today we will be doing a brief review of these teachings and see how we can apply them to our lives in a practical way.
- B. In Ephesians, Paul shows us the difference between our past reality (before Christ) and our present reality (in Christ). We can see this clearly in the following chart:

	<b>Past Reality</b>	<b>Present Reality</b>
<b>1</b>	Dead in our sins. (Ephesians 2:5)	Christ gave us life! God resurrected us and by His grace we have been saved through faith! (Ephesians 2:5-6, 8-9, Romans 6:3-4, Colossians 3:1)
<b>2</b>	We lived in the world, separate and far away from God. (Ephesians 2:12)	We are close to God because He brought us near to Him through the blood of Jesus. (Ephesians 2:13, Hebrews 10:19-22)  He seated us in heavenly places! (Ephesians 1:13, 2:5-6)
<b>3</b>	We were hopeless and lost. (Ephesians 2:12)	We are God's masterpiece (His "poema"), created for Good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do! (Ephesians 2:10, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Philippians 2:13, Hebrews 13:21)
<b>4</b>	We were uncircumcised (we were not set apart for Him). (Ephesians 2:11)	Our hearts have been circumcised in Christ. He set us apart! (Colossians 2:11, Romans 2:28-29, Deuteronomy 30:6)
<b>5</b>	We did not belong to the people of Israel. We were not citizens. (Ephesians 2:12)	The Father grafted us into Israel's story through Christ. We are now citizens of His nation, members of His family. (Ephesians 2:19, Galatians 3:7-9, Galatians 6:7, Romans 4:11-12, 9:6-8)
<b>6</b>	We could not partake in the covenants or the promises God gave His people.	In Christ, we are no longer strangers to the covenants of promise, but are actually part of the new covenant! (Ephesians 2:13, Romans 11:17, Genesis 12:3, Galatians 3:8-9, Luke 22:20, 2 Corinthians 1:20)

### **II. Preparing ourselves to be the church that overcomes**

- A. When we understand the greatness of the goodness, love and mercy of God towards us in Christ, our response should be to change our mindset and lifestyle. We can no longer continue living with our old mindset (ex: poverty, orphan, or victim mindsets). We are responsible for walking in our new identity:

**Romans 12:2** - *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

- B. Our minds need to be renewed. This is like “resetting” our understanding so we can start to live our lives from our new identity, which will bring transformation to our lives. We can no longer live in our past reality, but rather in our present reality in Christ. Only in this way can we be the church that overcomes and is prepared in the midst of the challenges of this life and the challenges of the end times.

### III. Applying the message by faith

- A. Do we really believe what God says about us? Do we believe He will fulfill his promises? On the one hand, we know God has done these things in our lives through Christ, but on the other hand we have to ask: are we actually experiencing this reality? God did all of this by joining us with Christ, but it is by faith that we can embrace, receive, and enjoy it. Faith rests on the reality of what God has already done.

**Galatians 2:20** - *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*

- B. All of the promises God gave us are “yes and amen” in Christ, (2 Corinthians 1:20) and there will still be trials and challenges. This is how Abraham’s faith was tested, and so too our faith will be tested as we wait to see the final fulfillment of the promises God has made.

**1 Peter 1:7-9** - *“so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”*

- C. All of the blessings are already ours, but we need to learn to walk in them. We experience all of these blessings when we put them on and believe them by faith. We need to believe Him and walk in this truth — even while we wait!\
- D. When we find ourselves in a vulnerable moment that’s when we need to really apply our faith and what we have learned. For example: In a moment of fear, financial difficulty, when we think we have nothing, when our families are not walking with Christ, when we are sad, alone, or hopeless — in these circumstances we apply our faith and declare the words and promises God has for us in Christ. These are the moments where we cling to the truth and we pray every single one of these promises.

### IV. Our hope is in Christ

- A. We will rejoice in the riches of the grace of God. Now that we are near to Him and His promises, our hope is unshakeable:

**Colossians 1:27** - *“To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”*

- B. When Jesus shed His blood, He guaranteed the New Covenant so that everyone who is in Him would receive the rewards of His sacrifice.

**Hebrews 9:15** - *“Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.”*

- C. Without Christ, we didn’t know or experience any of this, but now we are His people and we can partake of His promises!

### V. Conclusion:

- A. In conclusion, we can say that God has given us a new identity in Christ. When we receive salvation through faith, we are victorious by the blood of Jesus. God made us new creations, His masterpiece created for good works. We are not spectators or consumers of this promise! We need to understand the great purpose of His work in us and become partners and consummators of His marvelous plan.

### Reflection Questions:

1. How can we identify the benefits we have in Christ?
2. Which of these benefits or blessings are we applying to our lives?
3. What changes have we made in our lives?
4. Are we growing or have we only been spectators? How do we start to grow?

**Announcements:**

1. HOLY58 & Y.A.S. invites middle & high school students, along with all young adults to a special service on Wednesday, April 9th at 7:00 PM! We will be hosting the Circuit Riders – a ministry focused on reaching young people in schools and universities to empower and activate every believer to inspire this generation to love like Jesus.
2. Prophetic Ministry: Wednesday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m. • Healing Ministry: Thursday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m. Sign up in [www.heartbeatprayerroom.la](http://www.heartbeatprayerroom.la)
3. Resurrection Day: 'Amazing Love' Join us and bring a friend for a special time on Sunday, April 20, as we celebrate the miracles of Jesus.
4. Do you want to be baptized? We invite you to attend our preparation class on Thursday, April 24 at 7:00 PM in the overflow. Baptisms will take place during the service on April 27. Please register at [www.housesoflight.org](http://www.housesoflight.org).
5. Family movie night! We invite you to a special screening of the movie King of Kings on May 3rd at 3:00 p.m. at AMC Northridge. You can buy tickets by calling us at 818-999-3621 Monday-Wednesday, 9AM-2PM.