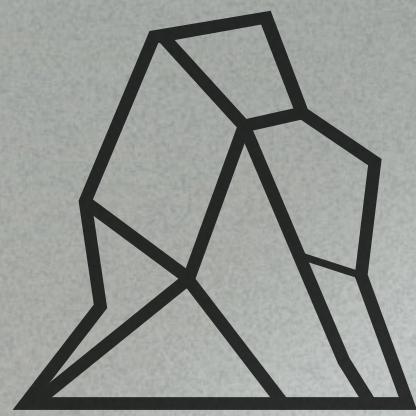




EPHESIANS SERIES
**BUILT ON
BIBLICAL
BEDROCK**
THE CHURCH THAT PLEASES GOD

Chosen in Christ Before the Foundation of the World

Ephesians 1:1-6



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THE CHURCH THAT PLEASES GOD

TODAY'S MESSAGE | AUGUST 22, 2021

Chosen in Christ Before the Foundation of the World

EPHESIANS 1:1-6

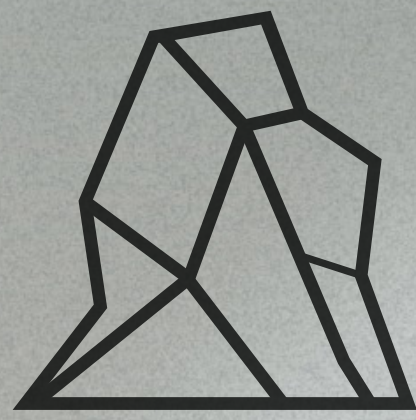
Ephesians 1:1–6 contains the theme of the whole letter; the rest of the epistle simply explains it. Ephesians is about God choosing us and blessing us in Christ so that we can live holy lives before Him. We must therefore thoroughly understand our spiritual blessings in Christ:

1. The **ORIGIN** of our **Spiritual Blessings**: God chose us in Christ before Creation. Out of love, He predestined us. (vv. 1-5)

- Romans 8:29-30 tells us that “those whom God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son... And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified”. God’s decision was to choose us, and the process was to predestine us.
- Jesus talked several times about the precedent work of God in salvation in John chapter 6 (vv. 37, 39, 44, 65).

Some people are disturbed by this truth. We shouldn’t be. How should this doctrine change and affect us? Here’s a few important implications (out of many):

1. Instead of *pride* → a deep and honest **Humility**: “Why me?”
2. Instead of *complacency* about life on earth → **Excitement** about life on earth: “God has a plan that involves me, and I’m excited about my part!”
3. Instead of laziness in evangelizing for God → **Passion** about the Gospel: “God has made sure that all believers’ efforts will bear fruit. God and I won’t fail!”
4. Instead of fatalism → **Joy!** “God is for me, not against me. Whatever does or doesn’t happen to me, God will always be on my side!”



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2. The **OBJECTIVE** of our **Spiritual Blessings**: God wants us to become holy and blameless before Him. (v. 4)

- Our holiness matters to God. Being holy isn't just an expectation from God, most of all we have enablement from God (Ephesians 2:10). As Hebrews 13:20-21 says, "Now may the God of peace... equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ..."

3. The **OUTCOME** of our **Spiritual Blessings**: The outcome of our predestination is our adoption as God's children. But the outcome for us should be "the praise of His glorious grace"! (Ephesians 1:5-6)

How do you know you are part of God's remnant? How does God prove to the world those who are really His? Throughout Christian history, we have seen two common ways (among many):

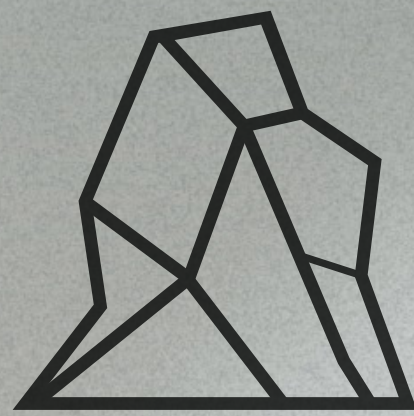
1. One is the filter of Persecution: when being identified with God leads to horrific suffering or execution, those who gladly bear it are proven to be truly God's. We see this in Afghanistan, Iran, China, and other closed countries or settings today.
2. The other is the filter of Convenience: being a worshiper of God in a time of ease requires voluntary, loving, and consistent small sacrifices over time. Because worship and sacrifice are inseparable, God's elect gladly bear with inconveniences because that's their joyful sacrifice (2 Corinthians 13:5).

The first happens in a setting of pain; the second in a setting of peace or even prosperity. But either will reveal those who are truly God's.

Final Thoughts

God the Father has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing, so that we will become holy and blameless before Him. He chose you before the world was made – out of love. Let that both humble and excite you.

Christian, you've been set up. God set you up. Not for your harm or undoing but for your blessing. May you now spend the rest of your life in grateful joy and service to God!



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How will you answer this: “why will I work so hard to share the gospel if the elect will get saved whether I witness or not?”
2. If someone asks for your counsel saying, “I am sure I have received Christ by faith, but how can I be certain that I am one of God’s elect?” How will you assure them?
3. Before prayer, go around and ask people to share how the truth of God’s choosing us before creation has positively affected them. Then pray a prayer of thanksgiving for each person accordingly.

Download the study guide: bit.ly/EphesiansStudyGuides

The Shepherd's Voice

by Emerson Manaloto



Our Three-Year Discipleship Thrust

*“...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also”
(2 Timothy 2:2).*

The DMG or Disciple-Making Group Ministry has already launched the GCF's three-year Discipleship Program at the first half of this year to establish discipleship relationships among spiritual and biological family members. Amid the pandemic and community quarantine, two GCF-wide webinars on *“Inter-Generational Discipleship”* and *“Family-Based Discipleship”* were conducted to encourage church leaders to journey together with the younger generation in the congregation and inspire also parent leaders to disciple their own children at home.

We envision that the *GCF leadership will double in number as more potential young leaders from each of the clusters and families are developed and growing towards spiritual maturity and kingdom impact by the end of 2023.* And the strategy to reach this goal is through the three-level inter-generational discipleship relationships established by both church shepherds and “house shepherds” (aka trained parent leaders).

To fulfil this God-sized vision, our elders, pastors, and Growth Group leaders will work together to shepherd the flock by feeding, leading, and caring for them. As Christ's undershepherds, they will teach God's Word during various meetings; develop potential leaders through intergenerational discipleship; and then also visit and pray for them. Generally, they will oversee God's people to ensure that they all flock into the big gathering during worship services to graze in the green pasture and then are led back to their respective sheep pens or small gatherings for discipleship in Growth Groups.

The Inter-Generational Discipleship or IGD is simply defined as “the passing on of our faith from one generation to another in the church or at home.” IGD is also related to “Family-Based Discipleship” (FBD). FBD can either be inter-generational, if the discipleship relationship to be established is among younger members of the family (e.g. *Parents disciplining their children*), or within the “same-generation” at home (e.g. *Spouses disciplining their partners*).

While disciplining the next generation through IGD may be harder when compared to disciplining someone from the same generation, our flock needs more of that kind of discipleship relationship in order to grow towards spiritual maturity and kingdom impact. It is essential for our church to have a succession plan where the older generation of leaders will pass down their wisdom to the potential young generation of leaders, whether that be in the church or at home. So, who now in your spiritual or biological family are you specifically thinking of establishing a discipleship relationship with and when are you planning to begin? It is never too late to start today!



WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING



Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

If you are led to give, you may do so through the following means:

Account Name: Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.

BDO

BDO Corporate Center
Savings Account: **000661590216**

METROBANK

Ortigas Sapphire
Savings Account: **629-3-62919733-9**

CHINA BANK

Ortigas ADB
Savings Account: **1112-02006218**

BPI

Ortigas Emerald
Peso Savings Account: **9823 0217 01**

UNIONBANK

UB Plaza
Checking Account: **0005-9001-0426**

ROBINSONS BANK

Main Office
Savings Account: **1000-3010-0017-355**

PAYPAL

Please visit **gcf.org.ph/give**

Scan QR code below:

GCASH



PAYMAYA



Send a copy of your transaction document to **finance@gcf.org.ph** so your giving can be properly recorded and an official receipt can be sent to you.

GCF BAYANIHAN FOOD STALLS

The GCF Mercy Ministry continues to accept donations, here's how:

For In-Kind Donations: drop off at the GCF Lobby from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

For Cash Donations: give via the GCF bank accounts (gcf.org.ph/give).

Email your deposit slip to finance@gcf.org.ph with the subject "*For Bayanihan Food Stall*". For questions, contact the Mercy Ministry at 0917 532 7672 or mercy@gcf.org.ph

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

You may also give to support the church family's COVID relief efforts.

Just indicate "**For COVID-19 Fund**" when you email your transaction document.

CHURCH UPDATES



NO ON-SITE CONGREGATION UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION

Available during the 5:00 p.m. service only until further notice

REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS DEVOTIONALS

Mondays and Fridays | 8:00 p.m. | Livestream on GCF Facebook and YouTube

MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICE

Wednesdays | 8:00 p.m. | via Zoom

THE GCF FAMILY'S HOUR OF PRAYER

Thursdays | 8:00 p.m. | via Zoom

LIVEstream (YouthLIVE Worship)

Saturdays | 5:00 p.m. | on youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive

KidsLIFE ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays | 1:00 p.m. | on Facebook at @GCFKidsLIFE

LOOK UP AND MOVE OUT

Let us plant churches with a high view of God and a high view of God's word!
Visit bit.ly/GCFChurchPlanting to find out more!

TELECONSULTATION SERVICE

For appointments or questions, please contact:

gcfocstef@gmail.com (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 nn) • gcfocluan@gmail.com (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)

FAMILY GGEX (GROWTH GROUP EXPRESS)

Every Sunday Morning | 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 nn) | GGEx Leader: Pastor Emerson Manaloto
Zoom: bit.ly/FamilyGGEx • Passcode: familyGGEx | Contact Marj: 0917-779-1549

GROWTH GROUP LEADERSHIP TRAINING (LEVEL 1)

August 22, & 29 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Pre-registration required: bit.ly/GGLT1Aug2021
For Inquiries, contact: 0917 779 1549

LIVING A LIFE OF TRUE WORSHIP (7-WEEK ONLINE BIBLE STUDY)

August 1 – September 12 | 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. | Pre-registration required:
(Precept) Ms Goldie/Jen: 0917-773 2378 • (GCF) Marj: 0917-779 1549

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Message us your prayer requests at:

Facebook: Greenhills Christian Fellowship | E-mail: pray@gcf.org.ph

ONLINE VISITOR'S CENTER

We are so glad you're here today! We want to personally welcome you via Zoom after the 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Worship Services.

Zoom Room: bit.ly/WelcometoGCF | **Welcome Form:** bit.ly/GCFWelcome



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605

Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

☎ (02) 8632 1357 📠 8632 1354 to 56 🌐 gcf.org.ph ✉ email@gcf.org.ph