

Summary

Paul writes to the small, seemingly insignificant house churches in Ephesus, praying that they would understand the immeasurable hope, power, and authority they possess through Christ. Despite being small gatherings of a dozen or fewer believers in a world with less than 10,000 total Christians, Paul reminds them that Jesus sits at the right hand of God with authority far above all earthly powers, including Rome. The church is Christ's body on earth, carrying divine power and authority beyond imagination. Paul's prayer has been answered throughout history as these small churches became the most powerful force for good in human history, establishing hospitals, ending slavery, creating orphanages, and transforming society. The message challenges believers today to have God-sized hope and dream impossible dreams, trusting in the immeasurable power available through Christ.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with grateful hearts, acknowledging that You are the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory. As we gather to discuss Your Word, we ask that You would give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation as we come to know You more deeply. Open the eyes of our hearts that we might perceive the hope to which You have called us and understand the immeasurable greatness of Your power that works within us who believe. Help us to be open to what You want to teach us today and to see ourselves and our purpose through Your eyes rather than the world's perspective. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's the smallest group or team you've ever been part of that accomplished something you're proud of?

Key Verses

1. Ephesians 1:15-23
2. Psalm 110:1
3. Isaiah 11:1-9

Questions

1. Paul describes the early Christians as 'saints' - simply believers who follow Christ. How does this understanding of sainthood change how you view yourself and other believers?
2. The churches in Ephesus were small house churches of about 12 people or less, yet Paul prayed they would understand their immeasurable power. What challenges do you face in believing God can use you significantly despite feeling small or insignificant?

3. Paul prays for the Ephesians to have 'wisdom and revelation' and for 'the eyes of their hearts to be enlightened.' What areas of your faith do you feel need more spiritual enlightenment or understanding?
4. The sermon mentions that Jesus has authority 'far above all rule and authority and power and dominion.' How does this truth impact how you view current world powers, governments, or influential people?
5. Paul tells these small churches they are 'the body of Christ' and 'the fullness of him who fills all in all.' How does this identity challenge or encourage you in your daily life?
6. The message shows how small churches throughout history became 'the most powerful force for good in the history of mankind.' What examples of Christian impact in the world today encourage you most?
7. The pastor asks if we 'imagine us capable of making impossible impacts in our world.' What would it look like for our church or small group to dream 'God-sized dreams'?
8. Paul's prayer was answered beyond 'the most extravagant first century imaginations.' What seemingly impossible thing would you like to see God do in your community or through your life?

Life Application

This week, identify one area where you've been thinking too small about what God might want to do through you. Spend time in prayer asking God to give you 'wisdom and revelation' about His purposes for your life. Then take one concrete step toward a 'God-sized dream' - whether that's serving in a new way, reaching out to someone who needs hope, or joining an effort to address a need in your community. Remember that you carry the same power and authority that transformed the world through those small house churches in Ephesus.

Key Takeaways

1. Saints are simply all believers in Jesus Christ who choose to live lives reflecting His teachings - this includes every Christian today
2. Jesus sits at the right hand of God with authority far above all earthly powers, making believers part of the most powerful force in existence
3. Small, seemingly insignificant churches throughout history became the most powerful force for good in human history through God's power
4. The church is Christ's body on earth, carrying divine power and authority beyond human imagination
5. Christians should have God-sized hope that drives them to dream impossible dreams and attempt great things for God

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for this reminder of who we are in You and the incredible hope we have as Your body on earth. Help us to never see ourselves as small or insignificant, but to understand that we carry Your power and authority. Give us the courage to dream God-sized dreams and to step out in faith, knowing that You can do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine. May we be faithful like those early believers, trusting that You can use us to continue being a powerful force for good in our world. Fill us with wisdom, revelation, and hope that reflects Your greatness. In Your mighty name we pray, Amen.