

“A New Dimension of Living”
“Ephesians”— Part 1
Ephesians 1:1-3

Understanding the Heavenly Realms

1. A Christian’s Power for Living

Key Verse:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us **in the heavenly realms** with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
Ephesians 1:3

Definition: The heavenly realms = The realms of invisible reality in which the Christian lives right now, in contact with God and in conflict with the satanic forces of evil.

***The least of the spiritual blessings
is greater than the greatest of the
natural blessings or the natural treasures
that can be found on this earth.***

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. We live by faith, not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5:5 and 7

2. The Seat of Christ’s Authority

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand **in the heavenly realms**, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.
Ephesians 1:18-21

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11

3. The New Dimension of the Believer's Life

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him **in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus**, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:1-7

4. God's intent for His Church

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities **in the heavenly realms**, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 3:10-11

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Psalms 104:24

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

Romans 11:33

5. The Realm of Our Spiritual Battle

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil **in the heavenly realms**.

Ephesians 6:12

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

2 Peter 1:3

Application: When you think of spiritual blessings, what do you think about? How aware are you of the spiritual realm? Have you come to realize that God has given you everything you need to live this new life in Christ? When we fail it is not because we lack anything. It is because we are not taking hold of and using what is already ours.