



September 13, 2015
Celebration | 8:45 am
Elevation | 10:45 am
Pastor David Mitchell

Saying Good Things About Our Father Ephesians 1:3-6

Why can we say good things about our Father: because He has given us every spiritual blessing.

Ephesians 1:3 *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ"*

Blessed =

Some of those spiritual blessings:

- **Our Father chose us.**
Ephesians 1:4 *"...just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love"*
 - **When:** Before the world was created
 - **Why:** So He can make us holy and blameless before Him in love.
Colossians 1:22; John 6:37-39, 44; I Thessalonians 1:4; II Thessalonians 2:13
- **Our Father predestined us.**
Ephesians 1:5 *"He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will"*

Predestined =

 - **Why:** So He could adopt us into His family.
Ephesians 4:14
 - **How:** Through Jesus Christ based on His kind will for what is best for us.
Romans 8:29-30, Ephesians 1:11
- **Therefore, we give thanks for His grace to us from Jesus Christ.**
Ephesians 1:6 *"...to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."*

What we have is not because of what we have done, but because of what our Father has accomplished for us.

What is the most blessed gift your Heavenly Father has given you? How can you share it with others?

Digging Deeper:

Today's passage outlines the foundation and cause of our relationship with our Father in heaven. We are adopted into His family because He chose us, predestined us to make us His holy and blameless children. We have received every spiritual blessing from heaven therefore we are called to say good things about our Father. Becoming a Christian is a major miracle of God's work in and through our lives. Ephesians 1 outlines the work of God the Father, God the Son Jesus Christ and then God the Holy Spirit to accomplish our spiritual adoption.

LifeGroup Discussion:

Ephesians 1:3 says that we have all the spiritual blessings from God. We do not need to ask, but simply understand them and receive them. Read through Ephesians 1:3-14. How many spiritual blessings do you find mentioned by Paul?

Sometimes we may think that some people will never be chosen by God.

Read I Timothy 1:12-17, written to the church at Ephesus. What was the character of Paul before he was saved? What did God do for him even with all those sins? What has God been able to forgive in your life to become His child?

God is the one that makes us "holy and blameless." We do not change people, God does. Read Acts 19:18-20, 23-30. This passage describes how the Ephesians were changed by God when they were saved. What changes do you see in this passage? How has God changed your life?

Read the following passages which define how your life should be holy and different. Which of these verses is most helpful in your life?

- Ephesians 2:13-16 - loving unlovable people
- Ephesians 3:8 - telling others about Jesus
- Ephesians 4:2 - my attitude with people
- Ephesians 4:4 - my unity with Calvary Church
- Ephesians 4:15 - my communication with people
- Ephesians 4:26 - control of my anger
- Ephesians 4:28 - control of my money
- Ephesians 5:22 - how I love my spouse
- Ephesians 6:5-9 - how I work at my job

Next Steps:

1. **Grow Together by joining a LifeGroup.** Come next Sunday, September 20 after the morning services to the LifeGroup Fair and find a LifeGroup in which you can get connected! Learn more at calvarylife.org/lifegroups
2. **Serve Together.** Join us for the "Love Santa Ana" serve day this Saturday, September 19 at 8:00 am at the Pico-Lowell Neighborhood as we serve alongside ten other Santa Ana churches that are committed to showing the love of Jesus to at-risk neighborhoods. Find out more at the Reach Local table in the lobby or visit calvarylife.org/local
3. **Attend the Alpha Course to understand all that God has done to set us free from sin and its consequences.** The Alpha course meets on Wednesdays through October 18 from 6:30 - 8:30pm in the Lobby. For more info, please visit calvarylife.org/alpha