

RAISED TO LIFE

The logo consists of a teal speech bubble shape. Inside, the words "talk it" are in a bold, white, sans-serif font, and "over" is in a white, cursive script font below it.

talk it
over

KEY SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1.1-3

PURSUE GOD

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 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.

Paul was a bold and courageous apostle. He was the great pioneer to the Gentiles, and traveled extensively across Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) and throughout eastern Europe around the Mediterranean Sea to bring the gospel of Jesus to the world. Undeterred by hardship, rejection, or persecution, Paul pressed "on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called [him] heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3.14). He truly had an awakening on that road to Damascus (Acts 9). A revelation that would not only change Paul's course in life, but it would set the world itself on a new trajectory... one we are still feeling the repercussions of today. Paul's letter to the Ephesians is highly regarded as one that was a circulatory letter; or written to be passed around to various communities of believers in different towns across Asia Minor. In an era when paganism was rampant (the Ephesians were well known for worshiping the Greek goddess, Artemis) and where the fear of the gods was predicated on what you could do for them, and if you have done enough- if I work hard enough, sacrifice enough, pray enough, do enough, the gods will be happy, but if I don't, the gods will be angry- Paul opens his letter by calling the people "saints." The Greek phrase here is *hagios* and means, holy, or holy ones, physically pure, morally blameless, ceremonially consecrated, set apart by God and for God. Why is this important? Because Paul didn't see them as sinners, but as saints; holy people. And it wasn't because of what they had accomplished, but what Jesus had completed for them. For us. Making the identity of the believer rooted in the life of Christ and His work on the Cross. This is our good news; we have been raised to life.

LOVE LIFE

What comes to mind when someone says the word, saint?

Have you ever considered yourself a saint? Why or why not?

Knowing what the word saint means, how has your view of yourself and those around you changed?

Life Group Discussion Questions

What words stand out to you in the first three verses of Paul's letter, and why?

What do you think it means to be blessed in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing?