

EYE OPENER

4th in a series on Ephesians called, “Messages to the Misfits”
Ephesians 1:15-20

I am going to start this morning by telling you about two scenes I would like you to picture in your mind. The first one happened when Laurie and I were sitting on a beach on a beautiful day. Just a short way from us a small group of about 6 people gathered. It was a surfing class. Included were two kids, maybe 11 or 12 years old, a brother and sister. I could see that they were nervous about this first-time adventure. But they were also ridiculously eager. If there had been walls they'd have been bouncing off them. Every instruction the teacher gave they instantly jumped to obey. He had to rein them in because they couldn't wait to get out there in the water. No doubt they envisioned themselves riding the wild surf, which was all of a foot high. They were full of anticipation, enthusiasm and joy, and they were having a ball.

Here's a second scene. The past few years every time Laurie and I fly we get TSA pre-check automatically. We haven't done anything to get that, it has just happened every time we go anywhere. I assume it's a matter of, “Dude is so old he couldn't possibly be a threat to anybody.” We've gotten used to it. We have come to expect it, and to take it for granted. Then last year we flew to Sacramento for a wedding, and got pre-check, as usual. But when we checked in for our return flight, Laurie got it, but I didn't! I felt mistreated. But the next three times we flew, we were right back on track, getting pre-check every time. But when we were to return from vacation last fall it happened again. Laurie got pre-check on our return flight, and I didn't. Now I'm feeling persecuted. This isn't an anomaly, it's a trend. We got to the airport and went to the security line. The pre-check line had one person in it. The other line, the one I had to go through, looked like something out of Disneyland on a busy day. It wound all over the place. Laurie, being the loving wife that she is, sweetly said, “Have fun. I'll wait for you on the other side,” and skated through security. I joined the long, tedious line. I had time to observe. No one was excited. No one was enthusiastic. Everyone just shuffled along like robotic drones, just doing what they had to do. We just had to endure it, just get through the annoying ordeal.

My question for you is this: which people in those two scenes would you want to most closely resemble you as you go through life? Those eager kids, excited about the adventure they were on, or those drones, just enduring the ordeal? Henry David Thoreau said, “None are so old as those who have outlived enthusiasm.” That statement caused me to think about something John Eldredge wrote. He said he is amazed at the level of deadness that many people live with. This is not what God wants for us. Ecclesiastes 9:10 says, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.” That verse calls us to be passionate, to throw ourselves into whatever it is we have to do today. Irenaeus said that the glory of God is man fully alive. God wants us to live with passion, with enthusiasm. He doesn't want us to float through life, merely existing, marking off one more day as though we were in prison, marking the passing of our sentence. He wants us to be alive. Emerson said, “Nothing great has ever been achieved without enthusiasm.”

But as Eldredge pointed out, living with real passion is rare. People seem to only have passion for things that in the end don't much matter. Unfortunately most of the time the circumstances of life do not foster that kind of enthusiasm. They typically are routine, more like a trek through the TSA security line than a surf lesson. Nevertheless, God wants us to get up in the morning thinking, "this is the day the Lord has made, let us be glad in it." He wants us to attack our lives, wherever they may be, with enthusiasm. But since that is not the norm we need to ask how we can live like that. What do we need to have real passion? We will get some clues about that as we look at what Paul prayed for his readers in Ephesus. He wanted them to live passionately following Jesus in a culture that did not look upon that endeavor with any favor at all. So let's look at what he prayed in Ephesians 1:15-20 that would enable them to have that godly enthusiasm.

WE NEED AN EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE

Paul continually gave thanks for the Ephesians because of their faith and love for all of God's people. Some of them may have been having a battle knowing what it means to live in Christ in an environment that was as far from conducive to that kind of life as it was possible to get. But Paul chose to see the positive. He saw that they did have faith, and they genuinely cared for each other. This was a work of God and he was grateful for what he saw in them. He wanted them to know that, because he knew that that would be encouraging for them. Paul didn't get down on the ones among them who might have been struggling. Rather he affirmed them, reminding them of what God had already done in their lives and pointing out the wonderful things that he saw in them.

He then went on to tell them that he prayed God would give them a spirit of wisdom so that they could know God even better. Then he said a kind of odd thing. "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know the hope of his calling." The "eyes of your heart" is kind of a strange expression. My heart doesn't have eyes. It has atria and valves and muscle fibers, but it doesn't have eyes. If it did it would probably say, "Man, it's dark in here. I can't see anything." We should pay attention when we see imagery like this, for it is obviously intended to communicate something. What did he mean when he referred to the eyes of our hearts?

He meant when he wrote about them having a spirit of wisdom and revelation that he didn't just want them to collect a bunch of intellectual knowledge. He didn't want them to see some truths and say, "Oh, okay, I get it now. Thanks, I'll try to remember that." He wanted them to see some things and know them at the level of their heart. He wanted these truths to be so much a part of them that thinking this way, seeing the world this way was their default. He wanted it to be their automatic way of thinking and feeling.

He is going to identify three things he prays for them to know, but what I find interesting is that they already knew all three of them. So do we. They, and we, would not have become believers in Jesus if we did not understand these things. So if they already knew them, why is he praying for them to see them? He wanted them to believe these things at the core of their being, to have those things take possession of their souls. He wanted them to feel these truths at the very center of their soul.

It is possible to know something at different levels. We all can identify points in our lives where something we had seen in the sense of mentally being aware of it, became a passionate conviction in our hearts. For instance, five years ago I knew that having grandchildren was wonderful. I heard that from many grandparents. I believed it to be true. I had zero doubts about it, except for the fact that if you have grandchildren, that makes you old enough to be a grandparent. I had no trouble extrapolating that grandchildren would also have a powerful effect on me. But that knowledge was purely in my head. I believed it. But it was all mental assent.

Then Toby and Anna had those two little girls, and my knowledge of the wonder of grandchildren changed totally. Last week we had the girls overnight one night. At one point I observed as Ella, while watching her favorite movie, *Tangled*, was mimicking Rapunzel's every move as she sang a song. She was so cute, this little three-year old standing doing all these motions while her little one-and-a-half-year-old sister is singing, too, "Gaa, gaa!" It was too cute for words. We have a new rug in our kitchen that slides on our wood floor. Ella said, "This rug is slipperly" (her word for "slippery"). In the middle of the night she woke up crying. Laurie went to console her and said, "What's wrong, Ella? Why are you crying?" Ella said, "I don't know." The two kids are simply too precious for words. I can't even begin to explain how much love there is in my heart for them. The eyes of my heart have been opened to the joy of grandchildren, and I feel it in a totally different way than I once did. It is a way that is so powerful I know that I can talk about it, but you won't really understand it. You can only feel it. I don't have to tell myself to make sure to enjoy those two kids and to love them. I can't stop myself. That's the kind of knowing a truth Paul wanted for his readers. His desire was that these things that the Ephesians were aware of would take root in their hearts in a much deeper and more powerful way. He wanted them to become deep convictions that they felt at the very foundation of their souls, convictions that would impact what they felt, thought, said and did every single day.

WE NEED THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING

One of the big themes in this opening chapter of Ephesians is that God has called us to be his children. Verse 4 says God chose us in Christ before the creation of the world. Verse 5 said he predestined us for adoption to sonship. Verse 11 says, "In him (Christ) we were also chosen, having been predestined." We've been called, chosen by God.

We understand the idea of a calling. My son, Toby, after he graduated from college focused on being a football coach. He loves football, and for two years he had a blast coaching high school football. He'd heard those people who tell you not to focus on what you have to do to make money, but to do what you love and the money will follow. He did that, and what followed was a totally empty bank account. It's great to do what you love, but being able to have a place to live and food to eat also has some positive sides. He realized he wasn't going to be able to make a living as a coach. So he started off in a different direction that he thought might be at least bearable. In the course of that he discovered medicine. And he found a calling. He loved the medical field and felt he was called to be a doctor. That calling filled him with motivation. In pursuit of that calling he worked far longer and infinitely harder than he had for anything in his life. He was called to something. What is it we are called to by God?

Toby feels like being a doctor is his destiny, a job he has been called to do. God has given us a destiny in Christ. What is that destiny? To what has he called us? He has called us to be adopted as his children and to be a part of his chosen people. 1 Peter 2:9 says, “You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” Colossians 1:13 says God, “has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.” We have been called from death to life, from darkness to light.

So God has called us into his kingdom, and that kingdom is eternal. We are in that kingdom right this moment. We will live in that kingdom forever. So God’s calling is forever. So what is the hope of his calling? The hope is that we are in his kingdom, that we can live in light. It is the hope that no matter what happens to us God is with us, his kingdom will not be defeated, and in the end we will live eternally in that kingdom of light. It means that with Paul we can say, “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” We know that departing and being with Christ will be, as Paul said in Philippians 1:23, “better by far.”

Most of the Christians in Ephesus were poor. In the first century Roman Empire there was little in the way of a middle class. We hear about the 1% in our society today. The wealthy weren’t even close to 1% back then. There was a tiny percentage of people who were very wealthy, and then there was the hoi polloi, the many, the teeming masses of the poor, who mostly lived brutish lives with no hope of any kind of improvement. There was a huge chasm between that tiny wealthy group at the top and the masses at the bottom.

The Gospel of Christ does not say, “If you believe, your circumstances in this world will get so much better.” Paul never hinted at such a thing to the Ephesians. But he said, “You have hope of something infinitely better than raising your standard of living a few notches. You have the hope of his calling. And that is more precious than anything on earth. It is also forever.

Hope is essential to the human heart. If we want to live with enthusiasm, then hope is essential. Without hope there is no enthusiasm. When there is no hope, our soul dies and we give up. When Toby was maybe nine years old, he played in a hockey league that had several ten-week seasons each year. I coached his teams. At one point he was on teams that were dramatically different in back-to-back seasons. In the first one he was on a team that was loaded. I knew they were going to be good the first time we practiced. That team roared through its season undefeated. It was great fun. The next season I remember our first practice. I came home and told Laurie, “This is going to be a long season.” We had one kid that could skate, and that was Toby. There wasn’t even one other kid on the team who could play at all. Toby did enough that he kept us in games. We didn’t get blown out every game. But we didn’t win either. After they had lost about five or six straight games, I noticed that fewer and fewer kids were coming out to practice. That trend continued. We had trouble getting enough kids to even show up for the last couple of games. They had lost hope, and when that happens, people give up.

When you start to lose hope, motivation fades. But the reverse of that is also true. We will keep going as long as there is hope. There was a point in my relationship with Laurie before we were married where it seemed like she was coming to her senses and was going to tell me to get lost. She seemed to be letting me know that maybe she wanted to look for greener pastures. But she didn't issue a final, "take a hike." During that period she asked me if I was going to give up. I asked her if there was any hope. I was like Lloyd Christmas in *Dumb and Dumber*. He asked Mary, "What are the chances of a guy like me and a girl like you ending up together?" She said, "Not good." He answered, "You mean, not good like one out of a hundred?" She said, "I'd say more like one out of a million." And he said, "So you're telling me there's a chance! Yeah!" Laurie said, "Well, yes, there is that one in a million chance." I had a slim sliver of hope, and that was all I needed. I didn't give up, and in the end the one in a million chance came through. Hope made the difference.

Having hope is powerful. When Paul wrote Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians he was in prison awaiting trial that could potentially end in an execution. But he had the hope of our calling. So in Philippians 1:12 he wrote, "Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel." He was not wallowing in self pity. He was trying to encourage the Philippians! In Philippians 3:13-14 he wrote, "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Even in an unfair, miserable and ominous situation, Paul was pressing forward. He was the Energizer Bunny, who keeps going and going, no matter what was going on. That's because he had the hope of his calling.

Remember that the Ephesians knew the hope of their calling. They put their faith in Jesus because they understood they could get that hope by doing so, just as we have. But Paul wanted that hope to explode in their hearts, to be not just knowledge, but passion. My brother, Jerry, made some good friends in Seattle. Probably his closest friends were a couple who lived in his neighborhood and went to his church. Over the years Laurie and I got to know this couple. We enjoy them a great deal. They had two kids. A few years ago their daughter was diagnosed with cancer while still in her 30's. She has fought a hard battle with the disease, but the fight is essentially over, and she has lost. She is in the hospital and it appears she won't last much longer. This, obviously, is heart breaking and gut wrenching. It is so painful for her and so awful for her parents to watch their child dying. There is no achievement, no fame, no amount of money, no possession that can help them in that horrible circumstance. There is only one thing that can help, and that is hope. They have the hope of our calling. I know the devastation that the death of a child brings from personal experience, and I can tell you this. In the cold, harsh light of that tragedy you see life more clearly than at any other time in your life. And what you see is that the hope of our calling is the most precious thing one could ever have. In fact, it is so overwhelmingly large it eclipses everything else. You see that all the things that we stress over, all the things we obsess about, all the things that we dream of, don't matter at all. Only having that hope matters.

When the eyes of our hearts are enlightened and we feel the true power of the hope of his calling in our souls, it will make us so very different. It will give us confidence, strength in even the most

difficult of times. It will enable us to be like Paul, rejoicing in the midst of whatever might befall us, and straining forward with all our might toward what is ahead.

WE NEED TO KNOW THE RICHES OF HIS INHERITANCE

The second thing Paul wanted them to know in their deepest parts, was the riches of God's glorious inheritance. An inheritance is a really big deal. Laurie and I were surprised recently by some people we know who had spent a huge sum of money to remodel their house. I expressed my surprise to Laurie because these people are, like us, empty nesters, and they have modest means. We have had to spend some money to update our home because it is old, so we understood that, but these people went way, way beyond updating. When I expressed my amazement to Laurie she said to me, "You have to remember the inheritance they are going to get from both of their parents." She was right. When she said it, I realized they will get an inheritance that will dwarf the money they spent on their house. We anticipate that we will also receive an inheritance one day. We expect it will be large enough to pay for a lavish dinner at In-N-Out.

An inheritance would have been an unimaginable blessing for the Christians of Ephesus. What we have in this country is not totally unique, but it is highly unusual in the history of the world. Because of the freedom and the economic system we have always had, our nation offers the possibility of nearly unlimited upward mobility to those who seek it and are willing to work for it. Most of the human race has not had that opportunity. In the ancient Roman Empire there was basically zero opportunity for it. You were born into a station in life, and you would stay there until you died. There was no hope of moving up. One thing might change that situation, and that was somehow receiving an inheritance. Should you be so fortunate as to receive one, it could change everything.

So an inheritance was a terribly precious, highly valued thing. But we need to pay attention to what inheritance Paul was talking about. At first glance we typically think that he is talking about what we will inherit from God. In Romans 8:17 Paul said we are heirs of God, and as such, then we expect to receive an inheritance from him. But Paul had already talked about what God gives us when he mentioned the hope of his calling. It is not likely that he is saying the same thing again in a different way. So we should take another look at this expression. When we do, we notice whose inheritance Paul wrote about. He said he prays that we would see the riches of his glorious inheritance. Whose inheritance? It is God's inheritance!

Wait a minute. God can't inherit anything. Who can die and leave something to God? Paul was using the inheritance as an illustration. He didn't want us to think literally here. He used the inheritance as a picture of something treasured, the most valued possession. And he wrote that God's inheritance is "in his holy people." Psalm 33:12 says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance." Psalm 94:14 says, "The Lord will not reject his people, he will never forsake his inheritance." The riches of God's glorious inheritance is...us! Paul wants us to not just know, but to feel in our bones the astounding truth that we are God's inheritance...that he treasures us and values us above all else.

How does that help us to live with enthusiasm? There are some truths that come into play here. We were created to matter. Do you remember what Genesis says about how humans were created? We were made in the image of God. There are some impressive creatures on this planet. We went to the Safari Park a couple of years ago with Michael and Carissa. At one point I stood at a spot right next to an area where there were some lions. There was a thick Plexiglas barrier and a lion was lying right up against it, just a couple of feet from where I was standing. That animal was magnificent, a truly impressive beast. He could have shredded me in a matter of seconds. But as powerful, as impressive as that beast is, he is not made in the image of God. Whales are spectacular, dolphins are cute and playful, dogs are loyal and loving, and none of them are the image of God. Only human beings bear the image of God. Dogs, dolphins, whales, butterflies, birds, antelopes, may be beautiful and winsome, but they don't pray. They don't debate issues of morality. They don't ponder theology. They don't seek to gain favor with God. They don't wonder about the meaning of their existence. Only humans do those things, because only humans are created in God's image. Does God matter? You bet he does. Since we are created in his image we also were created to matter. It is built into us. God gave the man charge of the Garden of Eden and of all the animals in it. Do you see what these things mean? God created human beings to matter. It was his design for us. It is built into us. We have a sense that we are supposed to be important.

Our lives matter only when they matter to someone. There is an obvious reality that we forget. When we say we want to matter this begs the question, "to whom?" To matter is to matter to someone. Suppose you somehow ended up on an isolated Pacific island with one other person. The two of you expect you will be stranded there for the rest of your lives. Do you dream of fame or approval there? No, because there is no one for your life to matter to except that one other person, and you matter to them desperately because they don't want to be left alone. Our problem is that we think we want our lives to matter to the mass of people out there somewhere. And that's where the problems come.

The world says we don't matter. The overwhelming majority of us find that the world takes exactly zero notice of us. It says that we don't matter. It could care less about us. Just notice that we have to guard our Social Security Number far more carefully than our name. If someone says, "What's your name?" I don't look at them suspiciously and ask, "Why do you want to know? What are you up to?" But if they ask my Social Security Number they'd better have a rock solid reason for needing it. Doesn't that say to us that to the world we are just a number?

The problem for us is that this insignificance is soul crushing. If you hear those messages of total insignificance often enough and long enough you may for a time buck up and show them, try to prove that they are wrong and you do matter. But in the end you will probably find out they are right, and your insignificance will overwhelm you. You will realize you don't matter at all.

Here is the great news. You matter to God. You are the riches of his glorious inheritance. You are what he treasures. You matter more to him than you ever dreamed. You matter so much to him that he made an unimaginable sacrifice at the cross to have you.

One of the big temptations for people in ministry is to fall into the trap of trying to tie their sense of worth and significance to their ministry. The more visible it is, the more accolades they receive, the larger it is, the more “successful” it is, the more they feel like they are doing something significant, and thus they matter. I know this because I’ve felt the pull of it myself. I’ve also encountered many pastors talking about how Monday they are often depressed. That’s because they didn’t get the results or the accolades they hoped for on Sunday at church. Years ago I had some contact with a young guy who was planting a new church in the San Diego area. He was energetic, intelligent, gifted and a natural leader. As he talked about his plans and dreams I remember thinking, “Watch out, Dude. This may not go the way you think.” Over the next few years I saw him discover exactly what I thought he might. He was doing all right. His church got established and was surviving. But he had envisioned explosive growth. And it didn’t happen. The church would grow a bit, then plateau, then maybe grow a bit more. He began to despair. Then he hit a bump when some people got disgruntled, and he left the ministry, but not before some painful words for him. He struggled on, but then he sort of dropped out of sight. I learned that in discouragement he had given up. What he had not learned was that he mattered, regardless of how big or small his ministry was. He was trying to matter to someone, though as is always true, he never really knew quite who that someone was. What he needed was to know that he was the riches of God’s inheritance. He needed to know he mattered to God, and all he needed to do was be faithful to him, leaving the results of his ministry to God.

WE NEED HIS GREAT POWER

Finally Paul wanted the Ephesians to know God’s “incomparably great power toward us who believe.” His power is incomparable. What is his power like? There’s no analogy for it. There’s nothing we can compare it to because it is infinitely greater than the most profound power we can imagine. There are some incredibly enormous powers in the universe. But God made them. His power knows no limits and is so vast we have no categories for it. It was the power that soundly defeated our most fearsome opponent, death itself.

But notice that this power is “for us who believe.” In other words, that power works in us! This power has put Christ on the throne, ruling over everything that exists. He is stronger than all of it. And that power is at work in us. As we will see in Chapter 2, it is what brought us to life when we had been spiritually dead. And now it is available to sustain us.

The Ephesians were a bit daunted by what they faced. They were a small minority who were not approved of. And their great leader was in prison. The seemingly all-powerful Roman government wasn’t real sure about these Christians and could turn on them at any moment. They weren’t sure they could stand the pressure of being different, following Christ in the face of opposition and disapproval from their culture. Paul reminded them that God’s power was for them.

It is crucial for us to remember that if we are to live with enthusiasm every day of our lives, we need to have a mission that fills those days. Having a mission changes everything. Pastor and author, John Ortberg, tells a story of what happened to him when he was called to jury duty. He was with a couple of hundred people in the sterile basement jury room of the county courthouse and they all had something in common. They wanted to be somewhere else. And then Larry happened. Larry works

for the court with the jury system. He addressed the group that morning. He told them he knew almost no one is happy about a jury summons. But he thanked them and told them about the privilege of serving on a jury and the importance of the system. He talked about the nobility of justice and about the long centuries of struggle to gain justice. He talked about how people around the world were fighting, and in some cases dying, to have the privilege of having a justice system and serving on juries. He told the story of a 95-year-old woman who could no longer drive but took three buses to get to the courthouse so she could serve. When they asked her if she had called ahead to find out if she was even needed that day she said, “I couldn’t. I don’t have one of those push button phones.” She still had an old rotary phone. Ortberg says as Larry talked, people stopped texting, looking at their email, reading their books. They stopped talking to each other. They sat up and they listened, and they were inspired. He said after that when his number was called, he was excited to serve. He says, “A room full of sullen, silent, phone-checking, self-important draftees had been transformed into a community of joyful patriots in a matter of minutes. When people left the courthouse that day they were talking and laughing like old friends.” They had been given a mission by Larry, a mission worth doing, and that *enthused* them.

Unfortunately we can launch off on a mission and run into a brick wall. Like my pastor friend, it can seem to go sideways and totally take the wind out of our sails. We can feel powerless to change it, and nothing can drain the enthusiasm out of our souls like powerlessness. I will give you an example of what powerlessness can do to us. A friend told me that the novels I have written were way better than some best-selling books and that I should promote them much more aggressively. So I started thinking about how I could do that. At every point I thought, “that’s not going to do any good at all.” I could not see how anything I could do would accomplish anything other than me wasting my time. I felt I didn’t have the power to change the situation. I got frustrated, felt powerless, and gave up. If we don’t have power, we can’t accomplish our mission. We will grow frustrated, impatient, hopeless and will give up.

The great news is we are never powerless. We have the power of God at work in us. That doesn’t mean we can do mighty miracles, take control of everything circumstance and bend it to our will. It means we can keep going, regardless of our circumstances. We can be faithful and joyful and enthusiastic, because we have God’s power.

We have to be careful with the concept of power. We think of it mostly as being mighty, being able to have control over things. But I want to warn you about that kind of power. An article in the *Wall Street Journal* a couple of years ago reported on studies of how power affects people. The results were startling. They discovered that people who are given power began to behave like neurological patients who have damaged frontal lobes, which is the part of the brain crucial for empathy and decision making. The article said the effect is “incredibly consistent.” They begin acting like fools, become impulsive, take risks and are much less sensitive and empathetic. That ought to warn us about the effects of power as we usually envision it. We need to be careful about what our mission is. What is it we need power to do? It is helpful for us to remember how Jesus used his power.

In John 4, Jesus had a conversation with a woman with an unsavory reputation that proved life changing for her. This happened while his disciples were making an In-N-Out run to get burgers for lunch. When they came back, He told them he had food they didn't know anything about. In verse 34 he said, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me." The thing that sustained him, that empowered him, was doing the will of the Father.

In Mark 10:45 Jesus said he came to serve people and to give his life as a ransom for many. In other words, his mission was to give himself up to serve and love others. Jesus had unlimited power. How did he use it? By doing the will of his Father, which meant giving himself up in order to love people, even to the point of dying for them when they totally did not deserve that.

This is the power of love, and it is *the most* life-changing power in creation. When we think of God's power in us, that's what we should be thinking. He will empower me to give myself up for others, for in loving them in that way I truly make a difference. Knowing that we have power, the greatest power on earth, at work in us means that nothing can stop us.

CONCLUSION

ASK GOD TO ENLIGHTEN THE EYES OF YOUR HEART

Pray what Paul prayed, asking God to not just remind you of these huge truths, but to cause them to take possession of your heart, to enable you to feel them with passion. This is a prayer God will answer.

REMIND YOURSELF EVERY DAY OF WHAT YOU HAVE

As you start your day remind yourself you have the hope of his calling, you are his treasured inheritance, and his power is at work in you. You have reason to attack this day with eagerness and enthusiasm.

KEEP YOUR EYES ON YOUR MISSION

Your mission, Mr. Hunt, should you choose to accept it, is critical to maintaining your enthusiasm through the sometimes humdrum routines of life. It can infuse even the most insignificant moments with meaning. Keep your eyes on the mission as Jesus exemplified it. The mission is to do the will of God and to give yourself up to love others. You can do that every moment of every day, and that is something that is eternally significant.

THANK GOD DAILY

As you remind yourself of these truths, thank God for the hope he's given you, for the fact that he treasures you, and for his power.