

Daily devotions for 2019



Day 55
Ephesians 1 part 2

Where do you start?

*“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

There are loads of inspirational poster and signs you can buy for your home or your bedroom wall. Some of them are rules for families. Others have pictures of cats on them. There’s one that says, “Wake up and be awesome.”

The idea is to start the day with a determination to bring energy and determination. Sometimes that’s easier said than done.

After saying hello at the start of the letter, Paul goes straight to praising God. It’s a way of stating his starting point. Whatever else is going on and whatever else he might say, he wants to be clear: you start by praising God.

Importantly, he doesn't say why. Paul doesn’t justify why God should be praised. He just should be. He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has blessed us, too, through Jesus Christ. But Paul doesn’t suggest that these are reasons to praise.

It’s important that we praise God. He is God, after all. Praise him because of who he is. Otherwise, we end up thinking of praise as being like a transaction. It can end up being that we only praise God once he has done something for us. Thanks are important, but praise is just praise. It is a thing in its own right.

How wonderful that the God who is worth so much praise has chosen to bless us, over and over again, and to send Jesus for us, too.

Prayer

Mighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, help us to praise you. You are amazing. Amen.