Ephesians – Key Points

Chapter 1 / Blessings & Purpose
We read in chapter 1 that both God's blessings and purpose for His people have no limits from our human perspective. From the beginning of time, God chose us, and purposed us for His plan through Jesus Christ, His son and our savior. This plan and purpose includes the ultimate blessing of salvation (in baptism) through Jesus which forgives our sins and seals our souls with God. Because of this, as Christians we can begin to truly have insight into the desire of God's heart. Paul also includes a special note of encouragement regarding his prayer for them; that they will continue to be blessed by God and be faithful in their spiritual purpose as they live day to day.

Pondering More… Do I really acknowledge and live out daily the purpose God has for me as a Christian? If not, what seems to be keeping me from doing so?

Chapter 2 / Spirit of Unity
Throughout Old Testament times, Jews (God's chosen) were separated from the Gentiles (any non-Jew). However, based on God's plan of salvation (manifested in the New Testament), all people were to be saved through Jesus Christ. Since the beginning of creation, it was God's desire to have universal unity between Himself and all that He created. Despite the selfish ways of mankind and the ungodly influences of this world, God's sovereign will prevails in us, all of us, being united as one in Christ through baptism.

Pondering More… How often do I look at other people around me with an “Us & Them” perspective?

Chapter 3 / The Mystery Made Known
Before Christ came into the world, God’s promises were mainly for the Jews as His chosen people. However, the Old Testament, while giving allusions to the coming of Christ, never makes it overtly known of what is to come with God's greater plan of redemption for the world. This “mystery” made known through Jesus Christ shows that God's redemption is for all people; it makes us all one in Christ; as Christians we can reveal our redemption to others; and we come to know the nature of God’s love through Jesus.

Pondering More… In freely admitting that the mystery has been revealed and there is nothing to question, what causes me to still have occasional struggles with my salvation as a Christian?
Chapter 4 / The Body in Motion
As Christians, we are “one body with many parts” with Christ as the head. Each part in its own place; serving its individual function, yet all working together in harmony. As a Christian body, we are bound together by a common faith and common purpose all through Jesus Christ. With Christ as the “head” of this body, and we being the many parts of this body, it is our responsibility to live out our individual function/purpose while at the same time encouraging and supporting others in their individual function/purpose. God's gift of grace is free to us, but it does come with obligations and responsibilities in being a functioning part of the collective body of Christ living life in this world. Paul gives specific instructions on what to do and what NOT to do, as well as indicating that this all has to be done consistently and in love despite the challenges and conflicts that will occur in life for us as individuals and as a church.

Pondering More... What is my “part” belonging to the body and am I functioning properly?

Chapter 5 / Taking a Walk
Paul continues to encourage us with a model of how to “walk” through daily life as a Christian, and we find that walking in love is the first priority in being imitators of Christ. God is love; ergo all we do must be in love. Next we must walk in the light, which goes back to chapter 4. There is no shade of gray in God’s eyes, and there is no negotiating on this point. Paul warns us to learn and be mindful of what God wants, period; and not to be influenced by any other source. Finally, Paul mentions walking in wisdom and this takes us to the everyday practical application. We are called to make choices and live out daily life based on the wisdom God blesses us with. This walk should be reflected in our overall character and all we do. Paul also gives instructions on the relational foundation between husbands and wives. Based on God's expectation and the example of Christ, we are to submit to each other in the marriage relationship out of love and respect for one another, and more importantly, out of our love and respect for God.

Pondering More... If God was to talk with me about my daily “walk,” what would He say?

Chapter 6 / Honor, Respect, & Preparing for Battle
The last chapter of Ephesians begins with more on relational expectations on the part of children and parents, and slaves and masters. God’s expectation is clear in each perspective as to what should be done and just as important, how it should be done towards one another. These roles and responsibilities are designed according to God’s plan and all go back to God knowing first and foremost what is best for us as His children. Finally, Paul makes us aware of the spiritual warfare going on in the world. In dealing with this daily conflict we have to know that God loves us and provides the armor we need to battle all of the evil that comes our way. The key to this though is that we can't just know about the armor, we have to put it to use in order for it to be effective. Paul finishes with reminding us that prayer is one of the most powerful things we will ever know. As a spiritual weapon against evil, prayer conveys strength, encouragement, and love.

Pondering More... How can I actively encourage my Brothers and Sisters as we face spiritual battles together in this world?