



# The Word at Work

## The Good Things We Have in Christ

### Reading the Word

**Key Scriptures:** Philemon 6 (NLT 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.); Ephesians 1:1-18

### **Key Points:**

Notice the order in Philemon 6 (NLT):

**Actions** comes from **Generosity** which comes from **Faith** which comes from understanding and experiencing the **Good Things** we have in Christ.

The '*generosity which comes from faith*' is translated differently and contains the idea of '*sharing our faith.*'

Different translations emphasise different things:

NLT (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) = we generously share our faith because we know what we have in Christ

NIV/NLT (1<sup>st</sup> ed.) = by sharing our faith we come to know the good things we have in Christ

KJV/NASB = sharing our faith becomes effective as we realise the good things we have in Christ

TLB/Msg = as we share our faith other people will see the good things we have in Christ

All are good and all are true!!

### My emphasis for us at this time:

As we understand and experience all the good things that we have in Christ, we will grow in faith and confidence. This in turn will

develop in us a generous-spirit and an open-hearted that will be expressed in reaching out to others, in sharing our faith and in good deeds and '*acts of random kindness.*'

This is a far better motivation for sharing our faith than guilt or duty or obligation!!

Note that we must ***understand*** and ***experience*** the good things

- Too many Christians don't experience the good things because they don't understand
- Many also understand with their head but never actually enjoy the good things

What are the good things? Start with Ephesians 1:1-18 and try to list some of thing good things that it says about us because we are in Christ!

Note, the chapter of Ephesians shows us that desiring to experience the good things in Christ is not wrong.

Because enjoying God's good things is the best way to glorify God – which means show people just how good and great our God is.

### Doing the Word

#### ***To Discuss:***

1. How do people often try to motivate themselves to share their faith? Why is this a better motivation for sharing our faith?
2. What is a generous-spirited and open-hearted person like?

#### ***To Do:***

1. Read Ephesians 1:1-18 and try to list some of thing good things that it says about us because we are in Christ!

*Trevor Lloyd 16<sup>th</sup> September 2007*