



Week 2: Don't Stop Belonging

Ephesians 1:3-8 (NLT)

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

Is there ever rejection in our relationship with God?

Hosea 11:5-8

Luke 15:11-32 Prodigal Son parable

Our motto for this month is **Don't Stop**. Where does this kind of resolve come from?

Ephesians 1:6 (NLT)

"So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son."

God has already poured out his glorious grace on us, he has already purchased our freedom, he already forgave our sins, he has already showered us with kindness, wisdom, and understanding.

Psalms 34:4 (NLT)

"I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all of my fears."

Why is joy so elusive if we have the assurance of God's acceptance?

In the Prodigal Son parable, what is the example of belonging and joy?

What is the counterexample?

Luke 15:28-31 (NIV)

The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, “Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!” “My son,” the father said, “you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.”

Joseph Myers (Organic Community): “The spirit of abundance is a celebration of possibilities. Abundance knows there are many possibilities—some that are well in place, some that are known, and some that are yet to be discovered . . . God shares with us his generosity, his grace, and his love with a spirit of abundance.”

What is the difference between an abundance mindset and a scarcity mindset?

Which is reflective of the nature of God’s love?

Belonging and joy are a feast, not simply a leftover, and we shouldn’t be afraid to embrace its abundance.

Hope Shot: Our chosenness and belonging means that God’s favor rests on us—we can count on him to protect, guide, and affirm us as his child for the rest of our days on earth and into eternity.

We need to rehearse the truths of Ephesians 1 in order to renew our minds and transform our thinking.