

Sunday, June 7, 2009—Praying the Powerful Prayers of Paul—Ephesians 3:14-21—A Prayer to be Strengthened in Your Inner Man—Part 2

Introduction

- Last week we began looking at the prayer contained in Ephesians 3:14-21.
- Like the prayer in chapter one, Paul prays that God the father would grant unto the Ephesians a strengthening with might by his Spirit in their inner man.
- We also spent a lot of time looking at where this strengthening was going to occur in our inward man. God is working in the world today but not in the physical way he worked with Israel under the Law in time past.
- I Thessalonians 2:13-- it is faith in the words on page that activates the power of God in your inner man.
- If the Holy Spirit works in our inward man in accordance with God's Word than we need to in the Word daily not just on Sunday morning.

Ephesians 3:17

- “That” is going to tell you the purpose and the intent of what was just said.
- The result of being “strengthened with might by the Spirit in the inner man” is “that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith”
- Dwell—means to settle down in a fixed dwelling; to dwell fixedly in a place.
- I Corinthians 6:19—through the indwelling Holy Spirit God establishes a dwelling place in every believer.
- Ephesians 2:21-22—God lives in and dwells within his body by the Spirit.
- Where does Paul want Christ to dwell? In their hearts. Notice that Christ dwelling in your heart is consistent with being strengthen with might by his Spirit in your inner man.
- Jeremiah 17:9—is a sad commentary on the human heart. As believers we need to guard and lead our hearts, not follow them.

- Through the Holy Spirit Christ lives in our human spirits, brings our minds, and emotions to conformance with his written word.
- How is Christ going to dwell in our hearts? By faith. We have already seen that the Word of God will effectually work in you that believe.
- In the scriptures faith can mean in the sense of knowing something exists even though it is not seen. It is an unseen reality based upon projected truth from God's word. Faith can also mean a body of truth, the truth revealed for the Church the Body of Christ. Both ideas are in play here, our it is our faith resting in the faith or truth for the current dispensation of Grace that allow Christ to dwell in our hearts.
- Have you ever been somewhere and not felt at home? Christ indwells us through the Holy Spirit but that doesn't mean have let him set up residence, move furniture, and throw away the trash in our hearts and minds.
- "that ye being," notice that the Ephesians and therefore us have already been rooted and grounded in love.
- Rooted--means to cause to strike root, to render firm, to fix, establish, cause a person or thing to be thoroughly grounded.
 - Colossians 2:7—notice the connection between being rooted and established.
- Grounded—means to lay the foundation, to found, to make stable, establish.
 - Luke 6:48
 - Colossians 1:23
- We have already been rooted and grounded in love upon our salvation.

Ephesians 3:18

- Because we having been rooted and grounded in love Paul prays that we might comprehend with all saints the dimensions of Christ love.

- Comprehend—means to lay hold of, to lay hold of so as to make one’s own, to obtain, to attain, to seize upon, to take possession of, to lay hold of with the mind, understand, learn, perceive.
- Paul is clearly praying that the Ephesians would mentally comprehend and know some things. Look at the use of the word “know” in verse 19.
- Paul wants the saints to comprehend and know that love of Christ which passeth knowledge.
- Breadth—suggesting great extent, width
- Depth—of the deep sea, metaphorically advanced truths
 - I Corinthians 2:10—the deep things of God.
- Height—of measurement, of place i.e. heaven, metaphorically or high rank or station.

Ephesians 3:19

- Paul prays that we might know something which passeth knowledge. In other words, he wants us to know something we can’t know.
- What it is that he wants us to know? The love of Christ. Can you know this love through human view point, emotion, or reason? No, it has to come through your spirit communing with God’s spirit in your inner man over the pages of Scripture.
- The love of Christ:
 - Romans 5:8-9—if he loved us when we his enemies by wicked works how much more does he love us now that we have been justified His blood?
 - Romans 8:35-39—how great is this love?
 - II Corinthians 2:15—the love of Christ constrains us.
- Now we to the ultimate purpose of this prayer that the Ephesians would filled with all the fullness of God.
- Filled—means to be stuffed full to capacity, to be full to the point of overflowing.

- Fullness—deals with what one is being filled with. In this case it deals with the fullness of God.
- Ephesians 1:23—the Body of Christ is the fullness of God. Coupled with Ephesians 3:19 this speaks of believers being perfectly identified with the fullness of God, which is Christ's body, the Church.
- Ephesians 4:13—Paul's goal for believers is consummate identification with the fullness of Christ.
- Colossians 1:19—Christ himself is the indwelt fullness of God.
- Colossians 2:9—In Jesus Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.
- We observe that that the fullness of Deity dwells in Christ and His Church in the present dispensation of Grace. God's total purpose, since the Mosaic Law was fulfilled at Calvary and the Messianic kingdom was rejected, is centered in Christ and his Church. The person who looks for the fullness of God in the Old Testament Law during the Church age, will find only emptiness. The person, who expects to find the fullness of God by endeavoring to keep the legalistic precepts of the Messianic Kingdom, during the Church age, will find only frustration and emptiness. There is only one place to find the fullness of God today and that is in the Body of Christ, the Church.
- Paul's prayer is that we as believers may be filled unto the end of having all the fullness of God. God is the one who fills us with this fullness which resides in Christ and His Church.

Praying Ephesians 3:14-21 for Yourself

Adapted from *Discover the Power in the Prayers of Paul* by David Bordon

Dear Heavenly Father,

In the name of Jesus Christ, I praise and thank you that saved me for from all of my sins and made me a part of your eternal purpose in Christ. Father I pray along with the Apostle Paul that you would grant unto me a mighty strengthening in my inner man according to your riches in glory. By the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit working in conjunction with the Word of God allow Christ's life to be made manifest in my mortal flesh. Help me to be rooted and grounded in love and allow Christ to dwell in my heart by faith. Father, cause me to comprehend with all the saints the breadth, length, dept, and height of Christ's love so that I might be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now unto you, Father, I offer this prayer knowing that you are able to do exceeding abundantly above all I could ask or think according to that power that worketh in me. Remind me daily that you are at work in my inner man when I by faith apply your word to the details of my life. By Jesus Christ your eternally exalted son, let there be glory in the church throughout all ages world without end.

Amen

Praying Ephesians 3:14-21 for Others

Adapted from *Discover the Power in the Prayers of Paul* by David Bordon

Dear Heavenly Father,

In the name of Jesus Christ, I praise and thank you that saved _____ for from all of their sins and made them a part of your eternal purpose in Christ. Father I pray along with the Apostle Paul that you would grant unto _____ a mighty strengthening in their inner man according to your riches in glory. By the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit working in conjunction with the Word of God allow Christ's life to be made manifest in _____ mortal flesh. Help _____ to be rooted and grounded in love and allow Christ to dwell in their heart by faith. Father, cause _____ to comprehend with all the saints the breadth, length, dept, and height of Christ's love so that they might be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now unto you, Father, I offer this prayer knowing that you are able to do exceeding abundantly above all I could ask or think according to that power that worketh in _____. Remind _____ daily that you are at work in their inner man when they by faith apply your word to the details of their life. By Jesus Christ your eternally exalted son, let there be glory in the church throughout all ages world without end.

Amen