

Praying the Powerful Prayers of Paul

Ephesians 3:14-21--A prayer to be Strengthened in
Your Inner Man

Overview of Prayer

- The prayer contains four major parts.
- According to God the Father's riches in glory Paul prays that the Ephesians would be:
 1. Strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.
 2. That Christ may dwell in their hearts by faith.
 3. Through being rooted and grounded in love might be able to comprehend with all saints the breadth, length, depth, and height and know the love of Christ which passeth all knowledge.
 4. Filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17

- 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.
- Notice that Christ dwelling in your heart is consistent with being strengthened with might by his Spirit in your inner man.
- 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.

Ephesians 3:17

- 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 allows 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 from our hearts and minds.

Ephesians 3:17

- “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 have been rooted and grounded in love Paul prays that we might comprehend with all saints the dimensions of Christ's 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.
- 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.

Ephesians 3:19

- 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.

Ephesians 3:19

- 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.
- 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.

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