

Series "Our Riches In Christ"
"Prayer, Power And Purpose"
Ephesians 3:14-21
Study-10

Paul 1st Prayer: Ephesians 1:15-23 – To Know Him And The Power!
Paul 2nd Prayer: Ephesians 3:14-21 – To Utilize The Power!

Ephesians 3:16

Ephesians 3:1-13 – Paul's autobiography of his role to the Gentiles.
Ephesians 3:14-21 – Paul prays a second time for the Church.

Thought Of The Passage: "Prayer Reveals Our Dependence Upon God In Which We Realign Ourselves With God's Priorities, All For His Glory."

- 1. Verses 14-15 – Attitude Of Prayer**
- 2. Verses 16-19 – Requests Of Prayer**
- 3. Verses 20-21 – Glory Of Prayer**

1. Verses 14-15 – Attitude Of Prayer:

Ephesians 3:14 – "For this reason," – for what reason? This takes us back to Ephesians 3:1 where Paul spoke about his role in God's plan of salvation; of receiving the revelation that Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ, Ephesians 2:11-22.

"I bow my knees before the Father," – The Bible records many different postures in prayer:

1. David sat before the Lord in prayer, 1 Chronicles 17:16.
2. Solomon kneeling on his knees with hands spread towards heaven, 1 Kings 8:54.
3. Abraham stood and prayed, Genesis 18:22.
4. Jesus fell on His face and prayed, Matthew 26:39.
5. Paul kneeling and praying, Acts 20:36 Daniel, Daniel 6:10.

"I bow my knees before the Father," – The bowing of the knees is a sign of submission, Psalm 95:1-6.

"I bow my knees before the Father," – Bowing the knee is also at a time of intense passion and emotion, being broken-hearted, Ezra 9:5-6.

Prayer without the Word is lacking the light.

Word without prayer is without the heat, power.

Ephesians 3:15

There can be only 2 choices for a Father:

1. Father of The Saved; The Heavenly Father; God the Father –

This is where all fatherhood has its origin, Ephesians 1:4-6.

2. Father of The Unsaved; Satan – Those that are not born again fall into this next category. Jesus said it this way – John 8:42-44.

“every family in heaven and on earth,” – Paul looks to the body Of Christ; those on earth and those in heaven, 1 John 3:10.

2. Verses 16-19 – Requests Of Prayer:

Ephesians 3:16

Paul makes 4 prayer requests of the Lord – **Strength, Depth, Comprehend, fullness.** Each builds on the other:

1. Prays for Strength – Verse 16: “according to the riches of His glory,”

“strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man;”
– The inner man is the base where Christ works in our lives.
When we are born again, God regenerates the dead spirit of man. We become alive by the Holy Spirit, 2 Corinthians 4:16.

2. Prays for Depth – Verse 17: Notice what he says, “so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;”

There are 2 Greek words:

1. The first word “Dwell” – means “to stop over, an alien who is away from home, a stranger who stops by, temporary abode.”

2. The second word for “Dwell” – means “a residence versus a lodging, permanent as opposed to temporary.”

Do we allow Jesus to have full access to the rooms of our heart, to let Him be a guest or a permanent resident with free run of the dwelling?

“Heart” – is the real you and me, the center of control. This is the place that Christ wants to work. This is where the changing of the life takes place, Romans 7:22-23.

2 Samuel 6:10-11 – “Remained” – “to remain, stay, to dwell, have one’s abode, to be inhabited.”

2 Samuel 6:12

“being rooted and grounded in love,” – This is where real “depth” comes from, understanding God’s love for us.

Paul uses 2 metaphors: Botanical, and Architectural:

- 1. Being rooted** – Love is the soil, it is where the tree gets its nourishment, stability and its life from, Colossians 2:7.

A Tree – Colossians 2:7 – “having been firmly rooted”

- 2. Being grounded** – He uses an architectural image; The laying of a foundation. “That in order to go high you have to go deep,” Matthew 7:24-27. Jesus spoke about laying a foundation.

- 3. Prays for Comprehension – Verses 18-19:** “comprehend” – “to lay hold of so as to make one’s own, to obtain, attain to, to take into one’s self, appropriate, to seize upon, take possession of.”

“with all the saints” – notice that Paul is speaking about all of us as a group.

Ephesians 3:18-19

- 1. “breadth,”** – broad; God’s love is so broad that it encompass all of mankind this goes with the theme of the book which is both to Jews and Gentiles.
- 2. “length,”** – long; It will last for eternity.
- 3. “height,”** – high; High enough to take a sinner to heaven.
- 4. “depth,”** – deep; Deep enough to reach the most degraded sinner.

“and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge,” – To know what we can’t know! He is speaking about experience the love of God that surpasses human knowledge. To enjoy it, to be a recipient.

4. Prays for Fullness – Verse 19: “that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.”

“fullness” – “to fill, to make full;” It is used of a person filled with anger, they are dominated by and controlled by. It means that a person is totally dominated by Him, nothing left of self, Colossians 1:19; Colossians 2:9.

3. Verses 20-21 – Glory Of Prayer:

Ephesians 3:20

Paul gives a 7-point overkill, lest any doubt God’s ability!

1. “**Now to Him who is able”**
2. “**Now to Him who is able to do far more”** – Beyond and more than.
3. “**Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly”** – more than is necessary.
4. “**Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond”**
5. “**Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask”**
6. “**beyond all that we ask or think,”**
7. “**according to the power that works within us,”**

Ephesians 3:21

“Amen.” – “so be it!”

Application:

1. Attitude Of Prayer: The Word Of God Working Through A Genuine Relationship With The Heavenly Father Will Drive Us To Prayer.
2. Requests Of Prayer: **Strength** – The Holy Spirit Empowers Us; We Have **Depth** – Christ Dwelling In Us; **Comprehend** – Love Has Mastered Us We Experience His Love, Thus We Are Filled With His **Fullness**.
3. Glory Of Prayer: Ephesians 3:20 – “Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,” – God Receives The Glory When We Acknowledge Our Weakness And Yield To Him And Depend Upon His Power.