

Title: The Transforming Power of Christ's Love - Part 2

Passage: Ephesians 3:14-21

Introduction:

Prayer of Empowerment

Benedictions

- Benediction = doxology: give a word of glory to God
 - Pointing to not only the past but also what is to come.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

“For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”

“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Overview:

I. Why Paul prays

II. To whom Paul prays

III. What Paul prays

I. WHY PAUL PRAYS

- Prayer of empowerment

Ephesians 3:16

that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with *power* through his Spirit in your inner being,

II. TO WHOM PAUL PRAYS

Ephesians 3:14

For this reason I bow my knees before the *Father*

III. WHAT PAUL PRAYS. (5 requests)

A. Power of Christ

Ephesians 3:16

that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

- Who? Those who belong to Christ
- How? Through His Spirit
 - Granted out of God's mercy to you.
- Where? In your inner being

- Nature of this power? God's resurrection, dominion, authority power
 - Same power that raised you in Christ
 - Same power that rules over all things
 - Same power that will reign over a new heaven and new earth

B . Presence of Christ

- sense of the presence of Christ in our hearts in every way

Ephesians 3:17

so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

- Question: Doesn't Christ already take up residence in your heart already?
- Answer: The Holy Spirit does indeed live in the hearts of His children to those who have been born again through faith in Christ

Romans 8:9

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

- "Dwell" = two definitions
 - 1) coming to take residence for a time (like a foreigner or visitor)
 - 2) permanent residence (the one used here in this passage)
- "Dwell" = Christ takes permanent residence in your life and is Lord of every room in your heart.

John 8:31-32

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide [dwell] in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

- the power of new life is ours...solely by trusting in Christ, solely in who He is and what He provides.

Matthew 5:3

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- humility and full recognition of our hopelessness is foundational to walking in Christ as we fully appreciate God's grace and mercy.

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

- spending time in the Bible, God's Word, is foundational to one's relationship with God.

Matthew 4:4

But he answered, "It is written,
"Man shall not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

C. Passion of Christ

- know the passion of Christ (the truth of His love measured by the cross)

Ephesians 3:18-19

may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

- Passion, definitions:
 - A deep, overwhelming love
 - The suffering and death of Jesus Christ
- Love of Christ
 - Breadth
 - Length
 - Height
 - Depth
- Hymn: “The Love of God” (<https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/28>)
- The love of Christ is based on the character of God and not on circumstances.
 - It is measured by the cross.

D. Person of Christ

Ephesians 3:19

and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

- “to know” = personal, experiential knowledge (not mere head, factual awareness but rather heartfelt experience)
- “know the love of Christ” = personally experience the love of Christ and to know Him

Philippians 3:10

that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death

- greatest joy comes through trials as God always shows Himself faithful

2 Corinthians 1:3-4a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction...

E. Purpose of Christ

Ephesians 3:19

and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

- surpasses knowledge = defies human logic and ability

1 Corinthians 2:9

But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him”

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- The beauty and wonder of God is found through His grace and mercy both today and in the future through the hope of heaven

Fullness of Christ

- becoming more like Jesus

Colossians 1:19

For in him all the *fullness of God* was pleased to dwell

Romans 8:29a

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined *to be conformed to the image of his Son*

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you *will bring it to completion* at the day of Jesus Christ.

Benediction/Doxology

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Psalms 115:1

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

APPLICATION

Share the Gospel

Romans 10:14-15

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

- invite others to church, especially mindful of upcoming Easter season.

Pray the similar pattern for others.

- God, please grant them to know the...
 1. Power of Christ
 2. Presence of Christ
 3. Passion of Christ
 4. Person of Christ
 5. Purpose of Christ