

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

**Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 3:14-19 – the hidden strength every believer needs**

Today's Message:

**“Spiritual Strength”**



## INTRODUCTION

Last week, Paul taught us the mystery of the Church. This incredible truth should not make us proud but grateful that God included us. Thus far in Ephesians, we have been on Church Age doctrinal high ground. Knowledge and doctrine are essential to the Christian life and spiritual maturity. Yet many believers know doctrine in the head but lack spiritual power in the inner man. We must guard our inner life and allow the Holy Spirit to strengthen us. A weak inner life will collapse under external pressure. Today, we will learn how Paul prayed for the believers to be strengthened in the inner man, rooted and ground in Christ's love, and filled with all the fulness of God. This is God's message to you...

## LEARNING TOGETHER

### ❖ The Text Ephesians 3:14-19

#### A. Inner Man Strength – God's first great work is strengthening the unseen life.

1. Many believers focus on the outside while God focuses on **INSIDE** strength.

#### For this cause

Paul prays before he preaches. Believers have been given so much! If only we would let God rule us from the inside.

- **Ephesians 3:14** – For *THIS CAUSE I bow my knees* unto the Father of our Lord Jesus...
- **Ephesians 3:15** – Of whom **the whole family** in heaven and earth is named,
- **Ephesians 3:16** – That he would grant you, ACCORDING TO the riches of his glory, to be **STRENGTHENED with might by his Spirit** in **THE INNER MAN**;
- **Ephesians 3:17** – That Christ may **DWELL in your hearts by faith**; ...

“According to **the riches of his glory**” – *not* “out of” – **according to** His abundance!

“**Strengthened... by his Spirit in the inner man**” – God goes to work on the inside of us!

“That **Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith**” – Christ wants full access and control!

#### The whole family

Every believer belongs to one redeemed family under God – our identity is found in Him!

#### Comparing Scriptures

- **2 Corinth 4:16** – ...our outward man perish, yet **the inward man is renewed...**
- **Colossians 1:11** – Strengthened with all might, **according to his glorious power...**
- **John 14:23** – ... IF a man **love me**, he will keep my words... **we will come... abode**

#### Proverbs 4:23

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

#### Biblical Examples

- **Joseph – Gen 39:20-23** Through life pressures, he remained inwardly strong.
- **Daniel – Daniel 6:10** Before the lions, he built strength privately in prayer.

**“... STRENGTHENED with might by his Spirit in THE INNER MAN;”**

*Spiritual weakness often hides behind outward activity, but God always deals first with the inner man.*

*A person may look fine on the outside but inside they are weak, and the foundation may be cracking.*

*How is your private walk with God? Keep **your heart** with all diligence! For **out of it** are the issues of life!*

**B. Rooted Deep – our inner life of strength and stability is found in Christ.**

2. Deep and anchored love *in Christ* and a comprehension of our vast and **LIMITLESS** reality in Jesus Christ allows us to rise above challenges and live a victorious life!

**Comprehend what?**  
Not **the love of Christ** exclusively... but based on the contextual reading of the words... the dimensions of what we have **in Christ!**

**Important Note**  
Paul leaves dimensions open first because the revealed work of God in Christ is too vast for one immediate label!

**Romans 8:38-39**  
For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, **Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

- **Ephesians 3:17** – ... that ye being **ROOTED** and **GROUNDED in love**,
- **Ephesians 3:18** – May be able to **COMPREHEND** with all saints what is the

**W1828**  
"Comprehend"  
To take, hold or contain in the mind.

**BREADTH,** [we have been adopted by the Lord of the universe!]  
**and LENGTH,** [eternity is forever, and we are already in heaven!]  
**and DEPTH,** [our Head is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven above *the deep!*]  
**and HEIGHT;** [our Head will rule the universe with us together!]

"Rooted... **in love**" – agricultural – a believer must draw life from **the deep love** of Christ!  
"Grounded... **in love**" – structural – Christ's love is **the foundation** of all spiritual stability!  
"May be able to comprehend..." – a vast and broad spiritual reality! **Romans 8:38-39**

**Comparing Scriptures**

- **Psalm 1** – the rooted tree survives because supply runs below the surface!
- **Jeremiah 17:8** – Roots near water endure drought – challenging outside pressures!
- **Matthew 7:24-25** – Foundations are tested when storms come – live on the **ROCK!**

**Biblical Examples**

- **Job – Job 1:20-22** Everything visible shook, but his root in God held!
- **Stephen – Acts 7:59-60** Even while dying, his rooted love gave inner strength!

**Practical Application**

- Storms do not create weakness. They reveal it, and your inner man condition.
- Deep roots must be built long before difficult seasons arrive. They will come.
- The love of **Christ in us** must govern our reactions when life becomes difficult.

**C. Filled Beyond Measure – the Christian life is to be lived out of overflow.**

... and at the center of that vast purpose stands the love of Christ.

**John 1:16**  
And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

**Colossians 2:10**  
And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

3. God wants you to know by experience Christ's love and be **FILLED** with Him for greater spiritual usefulness! (*in other words, God wants you to live a Spirit-filled life!*)

- **Ephesians 3:19** – And **TO KNOW** the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be **FILLED** with **all the fulness of God**.

"To **know** the love of Christ" – God wants believers to experience His love **PERSONALLY!**  
"Which **passeth** knowledge" – Christ's love can be known without ever exhausting fully!  
"Filled with **all** the fulness of God" – God desires mature believers; let Him fill you up!

**Biblical Examples**

- **Moses – Exodus 34:29** Time with God left visible evidence of God on **OUTSIDE!**
- **John (Baptist) – Lk 1:15** A life filled early became a life yielded to God's purpose!

**"...that ye might be FILLED with all the fulness of God."**

Many believers stop growing too early. God's plan is to use you until He takes your last breath! Before God enlarges what He does through you, He deepens what He does within you. Is your inner man strong? Is your life full of Christ – or merely busy with religion?