



Discussion Questions

TALKING POINTS

Sermon Title: A Prayer of Benediction and Doxology

Date Preached: 7/21/24

Speaker: Josh Ratliff

Outline: Ephesians 3:14-21 | A Prayer of Benediction and Doxology

- ❖ ***Praying for the Strengthening of the Saints (Eph. 3:14-19)***
 - God's authority over all peoples assures the Church of his ability to answer prayers (vv. 14-15).
 - How we pray believers are strengthened... (vv. 16-19)
 - ... from God's wealth of glory
 - ... with power through the Holy Spirit
 - ... in their mind, will, and desires
 - ... resulting in Christ's indwelling presence
 - ...to know Christ's love intimately and be completely full of God!
 - **Question:** Look at Paul's bold benediction! Do our prayers reflect a vision for our church community like this? How can we pray more effectively over one another?
- ❖ ***Proclaiming The Glory of God in Prayer (Eph. 3:20-21)***
 - Prayer for inward growth is never too bold, for God's provision is unfathomable (vs. 20).
 - The glory of God in the Church is the ultimate desire of a maturing prayer life (vs. 21).
 - **Question:** Where have you placed limitations on God's ability to answer our prayers? Where do you need to confess His power today to do abundantly more than what you can ask or imagine?
 - **Bottom Line: Strength, knowledge, and the fullness of God are ours for the asking.**

Questions for reflection or discussion:

- How does Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21 challenge your current understanding of the power and potential of prayer? Share a time when you experienced God's response to prayer in a way that exceeded your expectations.
- In verses 16-19, Paul prays for believers to be strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit. How do we go about becoming more receptive and responsive to the Holy Spirit? What areas of your life do you feel need strengthening by the Holy Spirit? Who in your life can pray with you over these things?
- Paul prays for believers to be rooted and grounded in love, and to also know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. How does knowing the love of Christ impact your daily life where you work, live, and play? Rather than just avoiding conflict or maintaining neutrality with others, how can we be more active in showing others the love of Christ?
- God is capable of doing abundantly more than we can imagine. What ongoing trials or confusion is present in your life that you believe you may have given too much ground to? Knowing with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26), how can you, alongside others in the group, pray more boldly for healing and direction in these areas this week?