

Sermon Title: Powerful Prayer

Sermon Series: Ephesians – Who We Are

Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-21

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



“Lord, give me strength”

What _____ should we be _____ for?

Ephesians 3:14-15 ESV

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

Prayer for Strength

1. Starts with _____ God.

Psalms 95:6 ESV

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

Ephesians 3:14-15 ESV

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

Ephesians 2:18 ESV

18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Ephesians 3:12 ESV

12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Hebrews 4:16 ESV

16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

“Prayer is the open admission that without Christ we can do nothing. And prayer is the turning away from ourselves to God in the confidence that He will provide the help we need. Prayer humbles us as needy and exalts God as wealthy”

—John Piper

Set aside time to pray.

Ephesians 3:16 ESV

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,

2. Asks God to give us _____.

Luke 6:45 NIV

45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Ephesians 3:17 ESV

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

3. To _____.

Romans 8:9 ESV

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.

Ephesians 3:17-19 ESV

17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

1 John 3:16

16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

1 John 4:7-12 ESV

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Hebrews 12:6 ESV

6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”

“Notice how disciple and discipline are related words. If discipling involves teaching and correcting, people typically use the word ‘discipline’ to refer to the corrective half. Both instruction and correction are necessary for growth.”

—Jonathan Leeman – Rediscover Church

Ephesians 3:20-21 ESV

20 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, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

4. Finishes with _____ directed _____.

Our change in life didn’t come from conformity to rules, but from experiencing love.

Lord, give me strength to know _____, to _____.

Questions:

1. What are some of the things you want strength for?

2. Read Ephesians 3:14-21 - What are some things this passage tells us about God?

Ephesians 3:14-21 ESV

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family[a] in heaven and on earth is named, 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, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 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, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

3. What are some things this passage tells us about ourselves or how we should treat others?

4. How do we define love as a culture?

5. Read 1 John 4:7-12 - What or who defines love in this passage? How can we learn more about or deeply know this love (or what should be the guardrails on how we define love)?

1 John 4:7-12 ESV

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family[a] in heaven and on earth is named, 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, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

6. How does the gospel, the fact that Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead, affect how we love?

7. Our passage shared that God is God, the maker of all in heaven and earth and in response Paul humbly bowed to Him as he prayed. What are some ways we can humbly bow before God in prayer?

8. What are some ways you can make some specific time to pray this week?

9. If God can give us strength to love others beyond what we can ask or think because Christ has loved us, how can we pray for each other specifically love others this week?