

L87 | Ephesians | "The Strength of Christ in Your Heart" | Eph. 3:14-21

I. Intro/Review:

- The counsel of God before the world began regarding the eternal purpose of the Godhead in Christ Jesus
 - We have obtained an inheritance in the gathering together of all things in Christ
 - We are to know the hope of His calling
 - The household of God (divine familial governance)
 - Thus a habitation of God through the Spirit - holy temple in the Lord
 - We are to know the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints
 - His inheritance involves that which He was doing in time past and that which is but now
 - We are to know the exceeding greatness of His power to usward who believe
 - He quickened, raised, and seated us together with Christ
- The dispensation of the grace of God - the mystery of Christ
 1. Definition
 - Was not made known unto the sons of men in other ages
 - Now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit
 2. Substance
 - Gentiles should be fellowheirs
 - The same body
 - Partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel
 3. Paul's ministry
 - Preach the unsearchable riches of Christ among the Gentiles (hostile territory)
 - Make all men see the fellowship of the mystery
 - Make known the manifold wisdom of God to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places
 - Those that have rule over the Gentiles
- Eternal Purpose in Christ Jesus, Who Created All Things
 - Boldness
 - Access with confidence
 - By the faith of Him

II. Preview:

1. Set up

- :13 - "wherefore"
- Paul's ministry to these Gentiles preaching, making known, and granting access to God

- **"faint not at my tribulations for you"** - Eph. 3:1 - "the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles"
 - 1 Cor. 9:19-23
 - 2 Cor. 4:11-12
 - Gal. 6:14

- **"which is your glory"**
 - Eph. 1:12-14
 - Salvation to the day of redemption
 - The glory to know

- **"faint not"**
 - Prayer
 - Substance - Requests
 - Strengthened in inner man
 - Christ may dwell in your hearts
 - May be able to comprehend
 - To know the love of Christ that passeth knowledge
 - Filled with all the fulness of God.

- Paul's desire to pray
 - Eph. 3:1 - "For this cause I Paul
 - Eph. 3:14 - "For this cause I"

- The cause -
 - "ye faint not", (v16)
 - "your glory", (v16)
 - Access, inheritance, vocation
 - Eph. 2:21-22 - "holy temple in the Lord...builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." (v17)

2. Structure of the Prayer

1. v14-15 - whom and glory

2. v16-19 - requests
 - i. Strength with Might in the Inner Man
 - ii. Christ may dwell in your hearts by Faith
 - iii. May be able to comprehend
 - Rooted and Grounded in Love
 - Comprehend breadth, length, depth, and height
 - Know the love of Christ that passeth knowledge
 - iv. Filled with all the fulness of God

3. v20-21 - Future glory
 - i. God is able

3. Substance of the Prayer

III. Sermon:

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole

**family in heaven and earth is named,
{Ephesians 3:14-15}**

- **"for this cause"**

- The knowledge of Christ at the right hand of God in whom God has trusted all things to, that is, His eternal purpose by which His faith you have boldness and access with confidence.

- **"I bow my knees"**

- But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not **bowed** the knee to the image of] Baal. {Romans 11:4}
- For it is written, [As] I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall **bow** to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. {Romans 14:11}
- For this cause I **bow** my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, {Ephesians 3:14}
- That at the name of Jesus every knee should **bow**, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth; {Philippians 2:10}

- **Structure of Prayer**

1. v14-15 - whom and glory

- i. **:14 - "Father of our Lord Jesus Christ"**

- Provision in Christ - boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him

- ii. **:15 - "of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,"**

- Purpose in Christ - divine family
- Eph. 1:2-6 - "unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself"
- **"of whom"** - Father by Jesus Christ
- **"the whole family"**
 - **"in heaven"** - those that "sleep in Jesus", "asleep in Christ" {1 Cor. 15:18; 1 The. 4:14}
 - **"earth"** - those in this life

2. v16-19 - requests (what we ought to ask)

- i. Strength with Might in the Inner Man
 - ii. Christ may dwell in your hearts by Faith
 - iii. May be able to comprehend
 - Rooted and Grounded in Love
 - Comprehend breadth, length, depth, and height
 - Know the love of Christ that passeth knowledge
 - iv. Filled with all the fulness of God

1. v20-21 - Future glory

- i. God is able

**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 3:16}**

- **:16 - "that He would grant you"**
 - To give you, to administer, to let have
- **"according to the riches of His glory"**
 - Eph. 1:18 - "...and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,"
 - Prayer off of a prayer
 - **"the riches of His glory"**
 - All that He has purposed **in Christ** before the world began.
 - All that He has provided **by Christ** through His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.
 - All that He will shew **through Christ** Jesus in the world to come
 - Emphasis in the glory and exaltation of Jesus Christ
 - Eph. 1:19-23
- 1. **"to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man;"**
 1. The request of "strength"
 2. The means "by His Spirit"
 3. The place "in the inner man"
 - **"to be strengthened with might"**
 - **Who strengthens?** - the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, through the Lord Jesus Christ and the knowledge which His Spirit gives to the inner man.
 - **Why strength?** -
 1. Susceptible to weakness in the inner man
 - Worry, anxiety, fear
 - 2 Cor. 4
 - Ps. 42 & 43
 2. His purpose needs His power
 1. Make all men see fellowship of the mystery
 - How do they see? - Eph. 2:10 - "for we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."
 2. The prince of the power of the air in opposition to have us "faint"
 - **Kind of strength?** - not physical strength

- "spiritual" - Eph. 2:1-3 (contrast)
 1. Dead in trespasses and sins
 2. The course of this world
 - i) According to the prince of the power of the air
 - ii) The spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience
 3. The lusts of our flesh
 - i) Fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind
 - Eph. 3:19 - "filled with the fulness of God"
 4. By nature the children of wrath
- Eph. 3:16 - "according to the riches of His glory"
 - Contrast to the course of this world and lusts
 - To show the kingdom of His Son (Col. 1:13 - "translated...kingdom of His dear Son")
- **"strengthened with might"**
 - Eph. 1:19 - "...according to the working of His mighty power,"
 - Eph. 3:20 - "...according to the power that worketh in us,"
- **"by His Spirit"** - the administer of the strength
 - The Holy Spirit but also that which the Spirit binds Himself to that is the revelation of God in Christ and His eternal purpose therein.
 - Medium of the Word of God
 - Eph. 1:13-14
 - Eph. 1:17 - "spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: the eyes of your understanding (heart) being enlightened;"
 - The Spirit gives the "spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him" that we may understand and our hearts may see.
 - Such knowledge, wisdom, and understanding is the strength we need for His purpose and for the fight.
 - 2 Cor. 3
- **"in the inner man"**
 - Man is always concerned about the external
 - Men getting strong or honing their fighting skills
 - Women adorning their body with apparel, immodest
 - Christ didn't die for your external, temporary, earthy (although He will redeem it) - He died for your soul, He regenerates the soul, He circumcises the heart, He

quicken the spirit, He renews the mind

- Reasonable Service
 - Rom. 12:1-2
 - You to glorify God in your body by virtue of your glorifying of Him in your spirit and soul.
 - He wants your heart
 - The heart once blind, your mind once fulfilling its lust, and there love for the lusts of the flesh
 - Eph. 2:22 - "in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."
 - We are not to think because we have the Spirit the moment we believe the gospel that that is it - the doctrine of the sealing and earnest of the Spirit.
 - We are not to think once we are a believer that our inner man is strengthened otherwise Paul would have no need to pray these things.

**That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,
{Ephesians 3:17}**

2. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;"

- Strengthened with might by the Spirit in the inner man provides that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith.
- Do we not already have Christ dwelling in us the moment we believe the gospel?
 - Rom. 5:5 - "...by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."
 - Rom. 8:9 - "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His."
 - 1 Cor. 3:16 - "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"
 - 1 Cor. 6:19-20 - "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."
- So what is this then? Can we lose the Spirit? Are we really not sealed? - God forbid.
- What is this then? Why is Paul praying for something that you already possess?
 - The danger is to think - I already possess this, Paul's prayer is for the unbeliever; however, he speaks to the believer.
 - Not solely the doctrine of the indwelling of the Holy Ghost

- For those in Christ you may have thought I am saved that is enough, I am going to heaven, I am justified before the sight of God!
 - Yet, what is enough? Enough for you?
 - The weakness of the church throughout history is to think that God's purpose is simply to save you, to justify you.
 - His purpose isn't simply to save you, it isn't simply to place you in the heavenly places, but the greatest work of Almighty God is to fill you with His fulness.
 - His purpose is to seat you in the heavenly places saved and filled with His fulness.
- Here is where you move from "carnal" to "spiritual" - from a child to growing up
 - 1 Cor. 3, 13
 - Eph. 4
 - The "spiritual" isn't simply one that is a Christian, that has believed the gospel, but one that is strengthen "that Christ may dwell in your hearts".
 - The "spiritual" isn't just the one that lives in the Spirit, but walks in the Spirit - not one that just is in Christ, but Christ is in them.
 - Paul seeks for the confidence of this in the believer
 - Not in the Corinthians
 - But in the Philippians and Colossians (Php. 1 & Col. 1)
 - Sounds like this - Php. 3
- **"that Christ may dwell"** - the Spirit's teaching of the Father's exceeding greatness of His power, according to the working of His mighty power
 - The excellency of Christ Jesus my Lord!
 - This knowledge when believed causing great change in the life of the believer
 - Working ill to Charity
 - Stealing to labor and giving
 - Greediness to abundant giving
 - Corrupt communication to edifying speech
 - Sinful Anger to Not giving place to the devil
 - Bitterness, wrath, clamour to kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness
 - Filthiness, foolish talking, jesting to thankfulness
 - Depression to Contentment
 - Anxiety to Joy
 - Sentence of death to die is gain
 - Fear to Power
 - Sin to Righteousness
 - Ungodliness to Godliness
 - Affection on things, earthy/worldly to things above/Heavenly

- Sleep to awake
- Darkness to light
- Faith in the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord sees the kingdom of God's Son that we have been translated into and it seeks those things above - first and by seeking those things above does a great work on our deeds.
- This isn't the law of "thou shalt not", this is law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus that baptized into Christ and gives us light of how we ought to walk in view of the one we are in!
- **"in your hearts"** - inner man - "the eyes of your understanding be enlightened"
 - Pro. 4:23 - "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."
 - No room for any but Him and to do all things from that heart, thus "heartily"
- **"by faith;"** - Eph. 1:13, 19

IV. Conclusion: