

# From Prayer to Praise

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## From Prayer to Praise: Ephesians 3:14-21

In this part of Paul's letter to the Ephesian church, Paul goes from prayer to praise. Prayer is the right and privilege of every man and woman who belongs to the family of God. In Christ we have access to the throne room of God. Yes, He is approachable, after all, He is our divine Father.

Ephesians 3:14–15 (NASB) For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

### **Prayer For the Strength and Presence of Christ**

- **Strength**

Paul prays that each member will be strengthened with God's power through His Spirit who dwells within. The strength which Paul prays for is God's strength. Paul is not talking about positive thinking or mind over matter or the power of the human spirit. He is praying for strength from above - a supernatural strength.

Paul had come to realize that when he was weak in his strength or spirit, that it was then, he was able to draw from the power of God. In our self-reliance we can soon grow faint and weary. However, we are at our strongest when we lean upon the Everlasting arms!!!

- **Presence**

Paul prays that Christ will dwell in each member. His prayer goes beyond the Lord's presence within us because of the new birth, but that the Spirit of Christ will permeate our whole being. This is only possible through faith.

### **Prayer for Faith and Experience**

- **Faith**

When we fully trust in God's love for us which has been revealed in His Son, Jesus Christ, it allows the roots of our faith to grow deep, and it enables us to stand safe and secure from all alarm. Fully trusting in Christ's love creates a desire for obedience; a passion for worship; assurance in our struggles; and strength for our battles.

Paul prays for each member's comprehension of all that God desires for them. He describes the riches of God's glory in terms of measurement in order to draw attention to the awe of God's goodness, grace, and love: the breadth, the length, the height, and the depth.

Have you ever stood at the edge of the Grand Canyon, or at the height of a mountain, or at edge of the ocean? You can take photos or videos even, you can describe it through creative writing or storytelling, but one can't truly know it without personal experience.

- **Experience**

Paul's prayer for the Ephesians is that they will "know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge." Paul's desire (God's desire) for them is that they'll not merely know the love of Christ intellectually, but rather experientially. The love of Christ "surpasses" biblical doctrine. If we will believe and trust fully in His love for us, then we can surely **"Be filled with the fulness of God."** (Eph. 3:19)

It is at this point that Paul's prayers crescendo to praise!!!

**Ephesians 3:20–21** (NASB) Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

All generations speaks to every member of the family of God, past, present, and future. We are rich because our Father is rich. There is no limitation to His glory, His power, and His resources.

Jesus said that He came so that we could have life and that we could possess it in abundance. The riches He has for us are not made of the beggarly elements of this world. But He desires to give us every spiritual blessing from above.

Tommy C. Hagle shares the following story in his book for the study of Ephesians:

**P**ecos County in west Texas has a famous oil field known as the Yates Pool. During the Depression this oil field was a sheep ranch owned by a man named Yates. Mr. Yates was not able to make enough money ranching to pay his mortgage and was in danger of losing his ranch. Then, in 1926, an oil company asked Mr. Yates' permission to drill a wild-cat well on his ranch, and he signed a lease.

The first well came in at 80,000 barrels a day and some subsequent wells at more than twice that. Mr. Yates owned it all and yet was living in poverty. He owned it, but he did not possess it. He was like many Christians today who have untold spiritual riches, but they don't possess them.

O that "Christ would dwell in our hearts," to the end that we would fully experience the life Christ died for us to have.

This life has been given to the church which is the temple of the Holy Spirit here in this present world.

We have been baptized into His body. We are members one of another. God desires for us, His family, to possess the riches of His glory!

May we too, seek these things in prayer that we may be filled with the fulness of God, and that we'll not just believe that the bible is true, but we will possess these truths and experience them for our life.

If our prayers are fervent, if our prayers are prayed in expectant faith, then they will result in the praise and worship of our God who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think. To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.