

Ephesians 3:14-21

Title: Let's Pray: Accessing the Unsearchable Riches of God

Summary: We are led in one of the most powerful and effective prayer models in the Bible, and we sharpen our prayer life, and our confidence in the power of prayer as we study this passage before us.

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, “who is God”, “what has He done for us”, and “what does He think of us”.

Duty - is “what does He want us to do”, and “what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn’t ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it”. Along with that will come, “what we need to be on guard of”.

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are “Seated” with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to “Walk” worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to “Stand” against the enemy and his ways.

Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Today's Passage

Ephesians 3:14–21 (NKJV) ¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Outline Ephesians 3:14-21 (Let's Pray):

- Paul Bows His Knee to the Father in Prayer (3:14)
- We Should Ask because we Have the Father's Family Name (3:15)
- Prayer Request #1 – That the Inner Man may be Strengthened with Power (3:16)
- Prayer Request #2 – That Christ Would be at Home in Our Heart (3:17)
- Prayer Request #3 – That We Would Experience His Love (3:17-19)
- Prayer Request #4 - - That We Would be Filled with the Fullness of God (3:19)
- We Should Ask because there is Unsearchable Power Available to Us (3:20)
- We Should Ask because the Revelation of His Glory to Us has No End (3:21)

The Title of Today's Study is "Let's Pray". So let's pray, and then jump into this great Word from the Lord.

Paul Bows His Knee to the Father in Prayer (3:14)

Ephesians 3:14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

For This Reason

Verse 14 Paul says, "For this reason," which he's referencing back to verses 1 through 13 of the chapter, which speaks of the family being one Jew and Gentile together.

A Prayer for Self and Others

Verse 14. Paul prays this for you. You should be praying this for yourself and your spouse, your kids, and your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Prayer Posture

Paul says he bows his knee. I believe this is literally. He is bowing his knee. It's not a figurative idiom, but he's actually bowing his knee and that's the prayer posture that he's in. And many times, people ask, "What is the correct prayer posture?" I answer it as the same way I answer that people say to me, "What's the best Bible translation to use?" To which I saying the best one is the one that you will read and likewise, the best prayer posture is the one that you'll pray. Whether it's bowed, knees lifted, hands or feet up, or a prayer shawl over your head, or going for a walk, whatever it may be. The best prayer posture is where you will be praying.

Whether it is bowed knees or lifted hands, or bowed head, or whatever the position is..... the posture is about what is going on inside the heart, a heart of submission saying Lord I need You, I can't do this, or what I can do, I know will fall so short compared to what You can and will do. So the ultimate posture is one of submission and yield and declaring I need You. To that note, I encourage you to fill out prayer cards that we will pray over in the Corporate Prayer Meeting, as for many the reason people don't fill it out is because they haven't come to a place of submission, that they are crying out to the Lord.... I need You, for everything I have been doing just can't get it done or breakthrough. Prayerlessness is our Declaration of Independence, our

saying we got this, we can handle this.... Or worse, we don't really care (and that is a place that needs a totally heart check).

But I find myself that many times I pray regardless of the prayer posture.

- I like to pray with an open Bible and I use that verse, such as the one before us today, and I use that to guide my prayer. And I asked the Holy spirit to lead that. And so we call it scripture fed spirit led prayer and that's very much what we do on Tuesday night in a corporate prayer setting.
- But I also find in my prayer time, it necessary for me, whether I'm sitting or bowing or standing, that I have nothing around me. Many times even no light. Just totally nothing to stimulate me, nothing to distract me, no phones, not even Bible. Because then I'm going to start pondering the theological and doctrinal threads of the passage that I'm thinking. But I just sit there with nothing.
- But I also find it necessary at times that I do just go. I bow my knee, put my head down on the couch or the floor, and I just think upon the Lord, and I speak to the Lord, and I pray to the Lord.
- But I also find that there's a time that I just need to worship the Lord and that's all I'm doing, is lifting up worship to him. I'm not worried about intercession. I'm not worried about hearing anything for myself. I just worship him and I find myself so lifted up and blessed in that way.
- And there's another thing, as I could talk so much about prayer and the power of it, but I like in Ezekiel 37, the spirit speaking to the prophet Ezekiel, and he tells him to pray over these dead bones. Pray over the word that was spoken to them. And I think there's such a power in taking the past Bible study, such as today's Bible study, and then tomorrow in whatever prayer posture, just taking the points of this Bible study, just taking the scripture of this Bible study, and begin to pray them again. Praying and letting it sink in. That's what the spirit told Ezekiel to do. You preach to these dead bones, now pray over what you spoke. And then we see that these dead bones came alive. It's a, truly one of the greatest prophetic passages of the scriptures speaking of the nation Israel. Being reborn as a nation coming together. But there is a predictive prophecy about that. But then there's what's called the didactic prophecy and that's an application for here and now. And that's an application that take this word and pray over it.
 - Last week. I just had a wonderful time on Monday praying over Sunday's Bible passage. I prayed I'm a gift and so You give gifts. Lord, help me to be the gift to somebody. Besides my Golden Retriever, who else thinks I am a gift hahaha?
 - Then I prayed, Lord, give me a fresh filling of the spirit so I can love and serve as you do.
 - I really pondered where, how was I doing on the progression?
 - I asked the Lord, "Do I see myself as the least of the apostles? That I'm above people?"
 - Lord, where do I see myself as the least of the saints?" Do I see that there are saints underneath me or am I really in a place in my heart that I see I'm the least of the saints, and therefore I can look at everybody are elevated and above me, and I won't ever look down, I'll always look up and I'll always look for the betterment of them.
 - Then I had to spend time. Lord, am I the chief of sinners? Lord gave me a heart, a whole new heart and love for the lost. I prayed, "Lord, let not one last person come into my path that I don't move and be moved in my heart." I continually asked the Lord, "Stir up the passion to pray for the lost."

Ezekiel 37:7-10 (NKJV) ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Also He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ' ' ¹⁰ So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Paul Prays to Father

Verse 14 Paul opens his prayer to the Father. This is his second prayer in the book of Ephesians and in chapter one, the first prayer, in verse 17, he opened that prayer to the Father. The reason being is that's how Jesus taught us to pray. It's the model prayer from Matthew 6. "Our Father who art in heaven." And it's important for us as we open any prayer to the understanding that our prayer is to the Father and he's a good

Father. He paid great price to have you. And when we come to prayer, our asking, our seeking, our knocking, we've come with that. If the Father in heaven did not spare his only Son for us to have us, then what could we possibly ask in prayer that he wouldn't provide to us? That of course being in accordance to his will, but if he gave his Son, is there anything that he would withhold from us? And so the question asks, why don't we pray more and ask more?

***Ephesians 1:17 (NKJV)**¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,*

***Matthew 6:8-13 (NKJV)**⁸ "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. ⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

***Romans 8:31-32 (NKJV)**³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

Let's Pray

Back in verse 12 of this chapter, Paul was speaking of that we have access to the throne that we can boldly come to because the access is through Jesus Christ and that speaks that our sin is covered. We are right standing with God and therefore we can boldly come before the throne of grace and what I like here is Paul says we have access to the Father in heaven and then immediately after he says that he takes advantage of that access and he enters into this prayer and he starts to pray. It's as if he says we have access and then that access that he reminds us, reminds himself, stirs him to immediately enter into prayer.

***Ephesians 3:12 (NKJV)**¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.*

Hey church, why do we wait to pray? Why do we pray after? Why does it so often that people tell us something whether that's face to face or whether it's an email or whether it's a text and they tell us something that's a burden. They ask us to pray or they just share something and then we say, "I'm going to pray about that," which is something that we will do later. Why is it that we just don't pray right there? Why don't we just pray on the spot? If we're honest, half the time we're going to forget or get busy. Yet if we prayed on the spot, our prayer life would double, if not more. So Paul says, hey, we have access. So it immediately takes advantage of the access and he starts to pray. This is a good model for us. We ought to pray on the spot.

Couple studies ago we said we don't say enough, but God. So often we talk about all the woes and all the yields and all the concerns and we discussed how we need to put it into our vocabulary more than those two words. But God, well, let me add to that. Here's two words that we should add along with those and make it a routine and a habit of our life. And those two words are, let's pray. Not three words of let's pray later or those several words of I'm going to pray about that. I might have, we just go to two simple words that we can all remember and say, let's pray.

***Ephesians 2:4 (NKJV)**⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,*

And I would say especially here as we're among each other, Jesus says, "My house shall be a house of prayer." This is the place we should make a house of prayer. But may I also remind you as Paul has been bringing it home again and again and again to us and we continually speak of it, that we are the temple of God now that the living God dwells in us, that we don't have to go to a temple to meet with God. God makes us a temple and there we are meeting with him. So we are the temple of God as we've been told and as we've been promised and as it's been declared, then should we not be temples of prayer, houses of prayer, and then therefore should we not be even more. So let's pray.

I think all of us are guilty of it, and I don't mean to lay a trip on anyone, but churches and people overestimate the power of programs and they underestimate the power of prayer. God has given us this bold access. He calls us in the prayer. Paul shows us here in the book of Ephesians the call to prayer to boldly come before the throne of grace. We're told in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I'll answer you and show you great and mighty things which you do not know." And then nowhere does he say, "Let's start more programs." No, we

always see the simplicity here, the call to prayer, and I like Jeremiah 33:3 when you just think of it for the simplicity of it. "And I'll show you great and mighty things which you do not know."

Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV) ³ 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

There Are Unsearchable Riches – Come Find them

That ties in with chapter three's message. It ties in with the continual message. There's this unsearchable riches of Christ that we as heirs, fellow heirs, have a right to because we are in the family of God and he says, "Come to prayer and I'm going to show you unsearchable riches. I'm going to take you deeper and things you never even dreamt of before. You can read all you want, read all the books in the world and hear all the sermons in the world, but you come in and you ask me about me and you spend a long enough time to sit and listen, just as Jeremiah said, call me and I'll answer you and I'll show you great and mighty things which you do not know." That's a promise in prayer that he will always show us more about him.

Ephesians 3:8 (NKJV) ⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

Verse 14. So now what Paul prays is a prayer of unsearchable riches. No limits, no depths, just simply riches in Christ that are ours as fellow heirs.

We Should Ask because we Have the Father's Family Name (3:15-16)

Ephesians 3:15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

We Have the Family Name

Verse 15 says who the whole family is named. No. If my last name was Rockefeller, Bezos, or Trump, I could go right now and make a nice withdrawal or use the family credit card or the family line of credit. Well, that's the point that's being made here for us. We've been adopted. Therefore we now have the family name. We are now part of the family and our family name is the name of the Father and I can boldly come to the spiritual bank of the Father and make out a withdrawal and it would have no end because the bank of heaven is limitless. It's unsearchable.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

The Riches of His Glory / Unsearchable

Verse 16 says to the riches of glory. We're talking unlimited riches. Heavens declare the glory of God. That's a slim picture of how rich and glorious God is. Anytime you think or forget his glory or the riches, just look up into the heaven and say how vast. It's unsearchable and I think I will make a withdrawal and surely won't even deplete a speck in the vault.

When we look up into the heavens. By the way, it's literally no excuse for anyone because the scriptures say and they're inspired by God, but the heavens speak of his handiwork of his existence and therefore no man can say anything otherwise, no man can say, "I'll believe it when I see it." God says when you see all of creation, it speaks that it's impossible for there not to be a creator. If you look at a masterpiece that was painted, just the painting itself testifies that there was a creator behind it. An artist, when you look at a building and see its construction, though you may never seen the construction crew or the designer of the building. When you see a building standing, you have to look at it and go, there was a creator behind it, and that's what God's saying about creation. When we've looked, just the very fact that there's a creation speaks that there was a creator.

Psalms 19:1 (NKJV) ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

Romans 1:18-23 (NKJV) ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were

thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Speaking of the unreachable and unsearchable riches of heaven, go ahead and imagine filling a bag up of heaven. If you were to go outside with a big hefty bag and you were to fill it up with this heaven that's around us, you could see the simple example is it never depletes. And if you look up when you see his glory, look at his glory and know how rich he is and call upon him for your needs and it will never be depleted.

Prayer Request #1 – That the Inner Man may be Strengthened with Power (3:16)

Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

Inner Man versus Outer Man

Verse 16, this word for might is the word for Dunamis, power and dynamite. The inner man. This is what he wants to give this dynamite power to the inner man. You see your body that you look at and spend so much time looking at and fixing up and preparing to take out. It's just the carrier of what the real person is and that's the inner man. It's the soul in you. That's the real you. Hence why anyone can do great exploits for God regardless of this physical body, regardless of the physique. You could be bedridden, or you can have the strength to climb mountains, but it's the inner man that does the work of the ministry and therefore anyone in this room has the ability to do great and powerful things for the Lord because of the real man. The real woman is what's inside this carrier.

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Paul Speaks from Experience – Desires us to Experience the Same

The word for “might” here is where we get our English word “dynamite”. Paul doesn’t want to give us a little firecracker to be entertained with, he wants us to have a power that can move and level mountains.

Verse 16 says to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man, and this takes us back to verse seven. It was Paul's prayer here for us was what he experienced in his life personally and the power of his life. Cause back in verse seven he says all the gifts and all the glory and everything that he can do and accomplishes because the effect of working of God's power in his life. Paul knows the effect of working of God's power through the Holy Spirit, and he prays something that he's has been proven in his life and therefore he prays it for us. This is my power. I know it, so I pray it for you because I want you to have it too. So powerful, isn't it? You can be in jail, bound in chains and still be giving praise to God and finding unsearchable riches in here.

Ephesians 3:7 (NKJV) ⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

Prayer Request #2 – That Christ Would be at Home in Our Heart (3:17)

Ephesians 3:17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

To Settle Down – Be At Home

The Greek word to dwell means to settle down and be at home with.

Now if you came over my house today Renee would welcome you gladly to sit in the living room which is beautifully and comfortably decorated you would feel so at home she would then invite you into the kitchen

for coffee at the counter and a bite to eat in the dining area then you would feel so at home; But don't go down to the basement she would die if he went down there because it's a mess .

Humorous story I think we can all relate to the spiritual application and that is that there are places we invite Christ into our lives and feel comfortable about it and other places still have doors and locks on it

You realize Christian Christ was always comfortable with sinners we see it with his time that he's with Zacchaeus saying today I must dine with you the accusation that was levied against him was that he eats with sinners and tax collectors

Luke 19:5 (NKJV) ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

Luke 7:34 (NKJV) ³⁴ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'

You know those fixers upper shows those home renovation shows I would be completely settled down and happy to have them come to my house even the basement or my backyard which is pretty sad shape right now. I would love to have them for I would love for them to say I would change this and I would change that and the best of all is on those shows when they say that they don't just tell you what to do they actually help you do it in fact in the most part they do majority of the work if not all the work .

Jesus is comfortable with sinners even Paul the chief of sinners and Jesus says let's change this and let's change that And I will just tell you what needs to be changed I'll help you change it in fact I'll do all the work if you only allow me to do it

So Christian right now what room in your heart needs some work we know the big 3 the lust of the flesh the lust of the eyes and the pride of life let's start there

1 John 2:15-17 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

By Faith

And he says through faith and the faith that you need to have is but what he says needs to go but he says needs to be changed he says it because he's good and he's faithful and the father knows what's best for you and by faith you agree you do know best and therefore I yield to whatever you want to change in my life .

Recommended Book

Pastor Chuck recommends a book called "My Heart, Christ Home" by Robert Munger, as the small easy to read book takes you through a home as if it was your heart, and Christ goes from room-to-room with you speaking of His desire for each room.

- The Dining Room – what is the appetite of the things of the Lord or things of the world.
- The Living Room – where every day He says I will wait here by the fire to meet with you and fellowship
- And it continues on from room-to-room, and I highly recommend this book to you to read and pray over. I highly doubt you can read it and not find God changing something in your life.

Prayer Request #3 – That We Would Experience His Love (3:17-19)

Ephesians 3:17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Ephesians 3:18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—

Ephesians 3:19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Foundation (Root & Ground) is Jesus Crucified

Verse 17, foundation is love and that love is the love of Christ. The root and ground of love of Jesus Christ is his sacrifice upon the cross. That's the foundation of Christianity. It's the foundation of everything; a Holy God stepping down into humanity, taking on sin, becoming sin, and overcoming sin, that man may be forgiven. In John 20:20 when Thomas doubted, Jesus said, "Look at my hands and feet," and when Thomas saw the piercing, that's when his vision became clear. If you ever doubt, if you ever need a vision adjustment, go to John 20:20 and you'll have 20/20 vision again. So Paul's praying that you'd be rooted and grounded in love. That prayer is the foundation of Jesus Christ and him crucified, and you can only build as high as the foundation will provide, but anyone who lays the foundation in Jesus Christ and him crucified can build to this height that Paul is praying us to build to.

John 20:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

John 20:25–29 (NKJV) ²⁵ The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." ²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." ²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Now this is the love of God:

1 John 4:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

4 Dimensions – Out of this World

His love promise to us is beyond a mental understanding. It's four-dimensional. We live in a three-dimensional world, and that is width, length and height. Here Paul adds a fourth dimension of depth, and so what's being spoken here is a prayer for an understanding of a love that's outside of our dimension, and you can have it because God wants to give it. You can love God's way. You see, man's way of love is limited. It's three-dimensional. God's way of Love is four-dimensional. It's unlimited.

Beyond Know in Head – But Experience in Heart

And he wants us to know it experientially, not just in knowledge. That's what the word "to know" means. It's to experience. See, I can know my wife loves me, my wife can know that I love her. We can have an intellectual knowledge of that love, but I surely didn't get married just to know that my wife loved me. I want an experience with her love, and I want her to have the same. God wants us to enter into an experience of love with him.

Prayer Request #4 - - That We Would be Filled with the Fullness of God (3:19)

Ephesians 3:19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Fullness in His Presence

Verse 19, the fullness of God, what does that even mean? What does that even look like? All I know is I want it, and I want God to give it to me. And I'd see the fullness of God. It means more of God and less of me because as he grows bigger, I'm obviously going to grow smaller, and that's what's happened in Paul's life as we studied his progression.

I know that the fullness of God, is found in His presence, and there again I say.... I want the fullness of God, I want to be in His presence.

Psalms 16:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Enlarge Capacity

Paul asks God to enlarge their spiritual capacity and help them grasp the full volume of His love for them!

Any chocolate lovers here? Once, a guy jumped into a vat of sweet, delicious chocolate. He prayed, "Lord, make my capacity equal to my opportunity." God's love is an ocean. Take in all you want. Our only limitation is our appetite! Be "filled with all the fullness of God."

We Pray for Others – Because they Don't Know there is More

Why pray this for someone else? Because man may not know there's more to be had. They are content, and thus we pray that God will take them higher. I don't mean this in a puffed up way, but I met lots of Christians. I have counseling time, and I have times sharing and spending time. And I just can see their content, and then I feel sorry for them, and hence I need to come to this place of prayer because I know there's more. And I know when they have more, they'll be more, but so many people are living with less and they don't even know that there's more and why we need to pray for them and why God gives us this prayer to be praying for others, why Paul was praying it for us, because he knows there's more because he's experienced it, and he wants us to experience it to.

We Should Ask because there is Unsearchable Power Available to Us (3:20)

Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

He is Able

Verse 20, "To him who is able," it says. I can read these four points and say, "No way, all this stuff ain't happened to me," and I can say, "Do you know how spiritual I would be if all these things would come to pass?" I would be like a new man. We would be like new men and women. We can say, "Don't you know how much change this would take?" And Paul, closing the prayer by reminding us that God's able, and yes, praying things with fervency and passion and faith, yes, we can be new people. We can have the fullness of God. We don't have to leave here the same because he who is able, he has the supply. God has the ability. He has the exceeding abundance, he has the riches, he has the unsearchable riches beyond finding out. He's above what we can think, and he has the power through the Holy Spirit working in us to do these things. So Paul closes with the reminder, "He's able," that you can read through these things and say, "No way," whereas Paul goes, "Oh yes," all the way.

This a Prayer not a Teaching

And notice this is a prayer. It's not a teaching. Paul isn't teaching us these things. He's telling us these things can't be taught. They can only be caught. And there's a bag you can fill up that can't be filled, and I say, "Let's go grab our bags and start scooping the glory of God," and we'll notice we won't even put a dent into the heavens, but we will have the fullness of God.

Chapter 4 Duty – Must be with Prayer

We begin chapter 4 next week, where we begin the duty part..... and the Holy Spirit by Divine design, speaks that apart from prayer, all our "duty" will fall so short; but empowered with the faith and prayer that He will do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us..... There is nothing that we can't do, overcome, and spiritually excel in.

We Should Ask because the Revelation of His Glory to Us has No End (3:21)

Ephesians 3:21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

A Promise Forever and Ever

Verse 20 says, "To all the generations forever," and that dispels that this gifts and these promises was for the early church that was given to help get the church going. God is speaking to us. Paul is preaching to us. The spirit says, "Same power for Paul is the same power for you today. It's forever. Therefore, it is for today."

Conclusion

Outline Ephesians 3:14-21:

- Paul Bows His Knee to the Father in Prayer (3:14)
- We Should Ask because we Have the Father's Family Name (3:15)
- Prayer Request #1 – That the Inner Man may be Strengthened with Power (3:16)
- Prayer Request #2 – That Christ Would be at Home in Our Heart (3:17)
- Prayer Request #3 – That We Would Experience His Love (3:17-19)
- Prayer Request #4 - - That We Would be Filled with the Fullness of God (3:19)
- We Should Ask because there is Unsearchable Power Available to Us (3:20)
- We Should Ask because the Revelation of His Glory to Us has No End (3:21)

3 P's of this Passage

Person

- Rooted and Grounded in Love
- God's Power is Working in Them

Position

- Has the Family Name
- Our Position in Him is forever and ever

Promise

- To be Strengthened
- He will do exceedingly above all we could ask
- The Riches of His Glory available to Us

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study