

Ephesians 3:11-21 The Fullness of God

Verse 14

For this reason – Paul picks up with the thought he began in 3:1.
I bow my knees before the Father – There is no set posture for prayer in the Bible but praying on one’s knees speaks of great sincerity and earnestness. Often prayer was given while standing (Mark 11:25, Luke 18:11).

Verse 15

From whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name
God is the prototype of all fatherhood. Every human family exists as a family with a father because of God’s relationship as a Father.

Verse 16

According to the riches of His glory – Paul has just mentioned that God’s riches are unfathomable (3:8).
To be strengthened with power – Power = *dynamis* from which we get the word dynamite!
Through His Spirit in the inner man – The indwelling Holy Spirit strengthens our “inner man” or our inter-most being as opposed to just our physical bodies. Outer is physical, inner is spiritual (2 Corinthians 7-18).

Verse 17

So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith – Paul now begins to transition from Position to Condition. All believers are indwelt by Christ and the Holy Spirit; that is their position. The idea is that Christ might be “at home” in the personality of the believer. Our faith is the means by which we open the doors of our hearts for Christ so that Christ might dwell in us.
That you being rooted and grounded in love – Rooted like a plant and grounded as in laying a foundation of a building. Rooted and grounded are participles that indicate past action with continuing results.

Verse 18

That...you may be able to comprehend with all the saints – Literally, “that you may be strong enough” to comprehend. As they understand the mystery of Jew and Gentile together in the body of Christ they can begin to grasp God’s love for all. The measurements describe the immensity of God’s love for us.

Breadth – Broad enough to embrace both Jews and Gentiles in the church.

Length – Long enough to stretch from eternity to eternity.

Height – High enough to raise both Jews and Gentiles into the heavenly places.

Depth – Deep enough to rescue all who believe from sin and Satan’s grip.

Verse 19

And to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge – Paul’s prayer is that we might begin to know that which is unknowable. The more we understand God’s love for us the more we realize how vast and unknowable it actually is.

That you may be filled up to all the fullness of God – The preposition for “to” is *eis* which denotes a goal. As we begin to grasp and experience the love of God we begin to be filled with the love of God and more fully experience eternal life (John 17:3).

Verses 20-21 Doxology

Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think – *Exceeding abundantly* is a combination of three Greek words. *Hyper* = above, *ek* = beyond, and *perissou* = abundantly, into one word *hyperekperissou*! God is able to answer our prayers far beyond anything we can imagine.

According to the power that works within us – The indwelling Holy Spirit. Power = *dynamis*!

To Him be the glory in the church – God’s glory is revealed in His formation of the church and when the church responds to Him in love.

And in Christ Jesus – Jesus is the One who made the union of Jewish and Gentile believers possible.

Note the Trinity revealed in this passage:

Paul prays to the *Father*,

Concerning the indwelling power of the *Holy Spirit*,
Made available through the *Son*.

Empowering by the *Spirit* – verse 16

Indwelling by the *Son* – verses 17-19a

Up-filling by the *Father* – verse 19b