

Now To Him Who Is Able - Week 2

Pastor Matt Dean

October 15, 2023

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family 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.

(Eph 3:14–21)

- Last week — “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...”
- What does it mean for Christ to dwell in our hearts through faith?
- How do we experience “Christ in you the hope of glory?”
- How do we “live by faith in Jesus who loves us and gave His life for us?”

This morning – focusing on this reality – that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith That in this we would live out this truth.

“...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.” 3:17b-19

What does it mean to be rooted and grounded in love? To what end?

What are our lives like when we are filled with all the fullness of God? What is this process?

¹³ By this we know that **we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.** ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ **So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**

(1 Jn 4:13–16)

We abide in him and He in us – we have the Holy Spirit.

We confess and do believe.

So... We have COME TO KNOW AND BELIEVE (RELY UPON) the love that God has for us.

How does this happen? How do we “come to know and rely upon” this time of love?

Think of it this way — what are other things we have come to know and rely upon?

If you sit in a chair — what is the expectation? How do you know the outcome? Consistent experience.

It is this with God — only infinitely better and eternally sure. He never changes. He is always good. Always God. Always right. Always perfect. Always trustworthy.

When pain or disappointment happens in life? Where do you go?

Can you say with honesty — you have come to know and rely upon the love God has for you?

“...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.” 3:17b-19

Being rooted and grounded in love...

- Takes time and requires ongoing faith to choose, to believe, to reconcile, to remember

To what end are we rooted and grounded in love?

“...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.” 3:17b-19

To understand the magnitude of God’s love – to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge...

WHY?

That we may be filled with all the fullness of God

WHY?

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. (Eph 3:20-21)

As we move forward in faith together –

- Strengthened at the core of who are are – with power - by His Spirit - that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith.
- With Christ - dwelling in our hearts through faith – we would be rooted and grounded in love.
- With the presence of Christ and the love of Christ as our new foundation for living... that we would have STRENGTH TO COMPREHEND with ALL the saints — the magnitude of Christ love –
- That we would be filled with all the fullness of God.

Strength – God’s strength - indeed is required to comprehend the magnitude of Christ’ love.

John Piper – in the mid 90’s was reflecting on this as he preached to his congregation, he points out four ways we can see the magnitude of Christ’s love. (I’m paraphrasing). He says we can see it by.

1. What it cost Jesus – his life.
2. How undeserving we are of his love...
 - a. “The more undeserving we are, the more amazing and deep is his love for us. So we will see the depth of Christ’s love in relation to how undeserving are the objects of his love”
3. What we gain through His love
 - a. “And if we are rescued from eternal torment and given a place in the presence of God with fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore, we will know a depth of love that surpasses all others”
4. We see the depth of love by the freedom by which He loves us.
 - a. Love is deep in proportion to its liberty.
 - b. So we will see the depth of Christ’s love for us in his freedom: "No one takes my life from me; I lay it down of my own accord" (John 10:18).

What can God do through you – when you live in this reality of God’s love for you?

How can you know with confidence – that Christ dwells in your heart through faith?

When Paul prays this ... now to him who is able? What’s next?

We see a context for what follows “now to him who is able?”

- God’s glory in the church
- God’s glory in Christ Jesus

Now and forever.

Unity in the Body of Christ

⁴ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were

called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism,⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

(Eph 4:1–6)

What follows a life being rooted and ground in love? What does it mean for you to experience the glorious reality of Christ dwelling in your hearts through faith? How does God get glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus now? And forever?

When we walk in a manner worthy of our calling.

Humility.

Gentleness.

Patience.

Bearing with one another in love.

Eager to maintain unity

Remembering what it means to be one in Christ.

⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism,⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph 4:4-5)

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