

TODAY'S TOPIC:

GLORY

IN THE CHURCH!

PART 2

LAST WEEK'S

REVIEW:

CHAP. 3 ENDS-

WITH A 'GATEWAY' PRAYER...

A DECLARATION OF

GOD'S DESIRE...

A PROMISE OF OUR POTENTIAL

AND... HOW TO GET THERE!!

Eph 3.14-21 - 14 For this reason [vs 1] 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 [1] 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 [2] that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 [3] 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; [4] 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.

'GLORY'

IS GOD'S SELF-REVELATION:

SO... THE QUESTION IS:

HOW MUCH GLORY...

CAN WE...

WILL WE...

EXPERIENCE...

IN OUR SOULS...

IN THIS LIFETIME?

PAUL SAYS:

THAT'S... ACCORDING TO...

"THE POWER

THAT WORKS WITHIN YOU!!"

*To get your mind from being
self-focused to God-focused...*

TAKES... A MIRACLE...

RAW... POWER!

THE EFFECT OF THAT POWER?

IT ENABLES FAITH

[or...trusting God]

IN OUR HEARTS...

WHICH MAKES OUR SOUL-REALM

'CHRIST-COMPATIBLE'!

WHAT DOES THAT FAITH

LOOK LIKE?

YOU FIND

THAT YOU HAVE THE ABILITY... TO...

TRUST GOD...

WITH... YOUR...

ENTIRE...LIFE!

THE SPIRIT ...REVEALS HIM...

THEN... YOU SEE HIM...

THEN... YOU TRUST HIM...

*WE 'FAITH PEOPLE' ...
CAN IMAGINE SO MANY THINGS!
BUT ...
CAN WE ... IMAGINE ...
WHAT OUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
OUGHT TO LOOK LIKE?
LIKE ... JESUS KNEW THE FATHER?
LIKE ... PAUL KNEW CHRIST?
OR ...
THE APOSTLE JOHN
RECEIVING REVELATION
ON PATMOS?
THEN ...
TOGETHER
WITH ALL THE SAINTS
'WE BEGIN TO EXPLORE ALL THE
DIMENSIONS OF CHRIST'S LOVE'
AS A TEAM SPORT ...
EXPERIENTIALLY!!
CHRIST'S LOVE IS NOT A DOCTRINE!
IT'S ... A PERSON!
IT'S ...
JESUS, HIMSELF!!
WE ONLY KNOW CHRIST'S LOVE ...
TO - THE - DEGREE*

WE EXPERIENCE CHRIST'S LOVE!

TODAY!

Col 2.9-10 - 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

You ARE... WHAT? You ARE ... WHAT?

You ARE ... COMPLETE in Him!!

THAT'S BIBLE!

HE'S ALREADY IMPARTED... ALL HE IS...

INTO... OUR SPIRITS!

BUT...

WHAT ABOUT OUR SOULS??

WHAT ABOUT OUR BODIES??

Eph 3.19 - 19 ...to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; [4] THAT YOU MAY BE FILLED WITH ALL THE FULNESS OF GOD.

This prayer has now reached its height.

This statement is the climax

of [arguably]

the MOST CLIMATIC PRAYER in the Bible!!

There's no greater request than this one:

TO FULLY MERGE

HUMANITY AND DIVINITY...

THE HUMAN SOUL... AND DIVINE SPIRIT...

IGNORING THE LIMITS BETWEEN THE TWO??!

This prayer = God's promise that it's possible.

His desire that it happens!

THIS PRAYER EQUALS...

The end that God had in view

when he sacrificed His Son.

And since He paid such a high price...

We can take it as a responsibility...

To see this prayer fulfilled!

HOW?

[1] BY THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT...

[2] THROUGH FAITH [or trusting God]!

'THE FULNESS OF GOD'

Is the sum total

of all His combined powers and energies!

The power that surpasses all galaxies

and super gaseous nebulae!!

BLACK HOLES!!??

THIS 'FULNESS' ALSO INCLUDES

All the attributes of his divine nature.

Everything that makes God... God!!

Dt 10.9 - 9 Therefore Levi has no portion nor inheritance with his brethren; the Lord is his inheritance, just as the Lord your God promised him.

Ps 73.25-26 - 25 Whom have I in heaven but You?

And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.

26 My flesh and my heart fail; But GOD is the strength of my heart and MY PORTION forever.

Rom 8.17 – 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ...

POSSESSORS... OF GOD!!

PAUL:

"I've lost everything...

for the surpassing value of knowing Christ!"

"For me to live is... ministry?"

"Marriage?" "Money... comfort... or pleasure?"

"FOR ME TO LIVE... IS...

C-H-R-I-S-T!!"

THIS IS SAYINGTHAT...

Everything that makes God, God...

is HAVE-ABLE ... POSSESSABLE...

by any of us... in this world... in this lifetime!!

The WHOLE GODHEAD is our possession...

Already in our spirits...

BUT...

desiring to be ... hoping to be... yearning to be...

introduced...Into our souls!!

"THAT YOU MAY... BE... FILLED!"

SO THAT...

NOT ONE PART OF US

Is NOT flooded... NOT saturated...

With all that makes God, God!!

Can we believe that

this 'most climatic'

'ultimate request' prayer

Will really be answered for us?

OR...

Was it written... for... no reason??

Why would the Holy Spirit... in agreement

With the Father and Son...

Write this through Paul...

IF HE DIDN'T... WANT IT... ANSWERED?

ONCE... JESUS SAID:

"Be perfect as the Father is perfect!"

Why did Jesus command that?

Was that command a possibility??

... or an impossibility?

TO THE FLESH? It's... IMPOSSIBLE!

BUT BY... THE SPIRIT...

THROUGH... FAITH?

A-PIECE-A-CAKE!!

"That you might be filled...

With all the fullness of God!"

Why did the Holy Spirit

even write this down?

THIS PRAYER SETS THE BAR!

IT DECLARES GOD'S SINCERE INTENTIONS!

IT MAKES US A PROMISE

OF OUR TRUE POTENTIAL!

SO... HOW??

HOW DO WE GET TO VERSE 19?

By walking our way through

verses 14 through 18!!

WE FOLLOW

THE LINKS ON THE CHAIN

TO THE LAST ONE!

Appeal to God's desire

To reveal Himself...

Pray for power to trust Jesus more...

Which enables him to dwell

in our hearts [soul-region] through that faith...

Where we get to know His love

And become securely bound to it...

And then... joining with the whole church...

TOGETHER...

WE SEE HIS LOVE IN ALL ITS DIMENSIONS...

And know [by experience] in our hearts

What we could never figure out

In our heads...

grasping the love of Christ...

NOT with our brains...

but experiencing His love IN OUR HEARTS...

AND AS WE DO...

God... fills every part of us

With every part of Himself...

AND...

OUR SOULS...

OUR MINDS/WILLS/AND EMOTIONS...

BECOME... CONTINUALLY FLOODED... WITH

ALL THAT GOD IS!!

Eph 3.20-21 - 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works [Energie'o: Operative. Displaying activity with results] in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

SO...

EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANTLY MORE!

OF WHAT?

LIFE'S PLEASURES? RICHES?

MINISTRY SUCCESS? GLOBAL MINISTRY?

**THE RUSSIAN FABLE ABOUT

THE FISHERMAN AND THE FISH**

What's YOUR greatest request???

God can't give you more than

ALL OF HIMSELF...

BUT HE CAN GIVE MORE...

Than what you understand that to mean!

EVEN OUR THINKING AND IMAGINATION...

CAN NOT LIMIT GOD...

WHEN IT COMES TO HOW FAR

HE'LL REVEAL HIMSELF TO US!!

FIRST LIMIT:

ACCORDING TO

THE RICHES OF HIS GLORY!

The riches of

GOD' LIMITLESS DESIRE FOR SELF-REVELATION

TAKES YOUR PERSONAL POTENTIAL

FOR EXPERIENCING GOD...

IN YOUR SOUL-REALM...

BEYOND ANYTHING YOUR

THINKING OR IMAGINATION

CAN POSSIBLY COME UP WITH!

THE SECOND 'LIMIT':

Eph 3.16 - 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...

Eph 3.20 - 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...

Eph 1.16-21 - 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 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, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling,

What reaches ahead to take hold

Of an object.

what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance

The inheritance that 'hope'

reaches ahead ...to get hold of:

THE ABUNDANT REVELATION

OF GOD, HIMSELF!

in the saints,

The INTERNAL POSSESSION...

of all that God is!!

19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power

toward us who believe, ACCORDING TO the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

I don't think we could

forever enjoy eternity...

EVEN THOUGH...

[Sin is past...Tears are gone...

old things are passed away...

All things have become new...

Earth's relationships rekindled...etc.]

EVEN IF...

our inheritance

was blessed and beautiful...

AS LIFE UN-ENDING... CONTINUES...ON... AND ON...

IF OUR INHERITANCE WASN'T...

GOD... HIMSELF...

SOONER OR LATER...

IT WOULD GET 'OLD' AND BORING!

OUR INHERITANCE?

GOD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

POSSESSING GOD, HIMSELF...

IS THE ONLY

REAL, SUSTAINING, LIFE-GIVING JOY

OF AN ETERNAL EXISTENCE!

BUT...

how does this kind of offer...

NOT quench hope

instead of inspiring it...

After we've already experienced

so many defeats along the way??

HOW DO WE KNOW

IT CAN REALLY

HAPPEN FOR US?

BECAUSE...

IT HAPPENED... FOR...

CHRIST...

ANOTHER HUMAN BEING...

JUST... LIKE... US!!

HE...

is God's proof ...

THE EVIDENCE...

THE SECURITY...THE PLEDGE...

of the ability of God's power

to assist

the rest of us human beings...

who are also...

just like Christ!

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER

Makes limitless revelation...

realistically obtainable!

God isn't taunting us here!

BUT HE IS LAYING DOWN A CHALLENGE!

HE IS DARING US TO SEE

IF IT'S REALLY TRUE... OR NOT!

HOW?

What's the first link in the chain?

The first domino to fall!??

THIS PRAYER! THIS ATTITUDE:

"GOD!

IN VIEW OF
THE RICHES OF YOUR GREAT DESIRE
TO MANIFEST YOURSELF...
I ASK...
THAT I BE STRENGTHENED WITH MIGHT
IN MY INNER MAN...
ENABLING ME...
TO TRUST JESUS ENOUGH...
FOR HIM TO DWELL IN...
AND TAKE OVER...
MY ENTIRE SOULISH REALM!!"
THE HOLY SPIRIT
IS THE KEY, FOLKS!
THE HOLY SPIRIT
IS THE KEY!
COMBINING OTHER TRANSLATIONS...
GOD CAN DO...

'Superabundantly, far over and above anything we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—infinately beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.'

****NARNIA: FURTHER UP ...AND FURTHER IN!****

Eph 3.20-21 - 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.

GLORY IN THE CHURCH
WANT TO GET TO CHAPTER 4?
THEN...END CHAPTER 3... WELL!

Through this prayer...

*The Church is to become
God's greatest showcase of God's
self-revelation and manifestation...*

On earth!!

GOD'S GLORY...

EXPLAINED IN CHAPTER 3...

WILL BE ...THE CHURCH'S CROWN...

IN CHAPTER 4!

TO ALL GENERATIONS:

To the end of this age!

AND THEN...

FOREVER... AND EVER... AMEN!!

PAUL IS TALKING TO PEOPLE

JUST LIKE YOU AND ME... SAYING...

HERE'S WHERE IT STARTS!

THIS PRAYER... IS THE ...GATEWAY TO...

THE FUNCTIONAL...OPERATIONAL...

BODY OF CHRIST!

NEXT TIME I TEACH:

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 4:

THE BODY OF CHRIST!