

I. GROWTH REQUIRES INNER STRENGTH (v.16)

Paul begins this prayer with strength.

Not outer strength. Not visible strength. Not organizational strength.
But **inner strength**.

He prays that we would be

“strengthened with might by His Spirit **in the inner man.**”

Because church, collapse rarely starts on the outside.
It starts inside.

You can have:

- strong attendance
- beautiful buildings
- active ministries

and still be spiritually weak at the core.

Paul knows that:

- programs can't sustain pressure
- systems can't withstand storms
- routines can't replace power

So he prays for strength where it matters most.

The inner man. That place where faith lives, convictions form and obedience is decided

You can be well-placed and still underpowered.

God does not strengthen appearances but He strengthens hearts.

II. CHRIST MUST DWELL, NOT VISIT (v.17a)

Paul continues:

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith.”

This word **dwell** is critical.

It does not mean to stop by. It does not mean to visit occasionally.

It means **to settle down and make Himself at home.**

This is about **depth of lordship.**

Many believers are saved, but Christ is still treated like a guest.

Guests are welcomed when it's convenient.

Guests are entertained, but not obeyed.

Guests don't rearrange the house.

But when someone dwells they shape the environment.

Paul is praying that Christ would not just be acknowledged,
but **established within.**

Christ doesn't want a room in your life. He wants the house.

III. ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE (v.17b)

Paul now uses two images at the same time.

He says we must be:

- **rooted**
- **grounded**

Rooted speaks of life. Grounded speaks of stability.
One is organic. The other is architectural.

Paul is telling us that love is both:

- the **soil** we grow from
- the **foundation** we stand on

Without love:

- knowledge becomes pride
- service becomes transaction
- obedience becomes duty

But when we are rooted and grounded in love,
growth becomes healthy.

Notice what Paul does **not** say.

He does not say rooted in activity.

He does not say grounded in preference.

He does not say established in comfort.

He says **love**.

Love that comes from Christ.

Love that flows through Christ.

Love that holds us steady when pressure comes.

If love is not growing, something is wrong at the root.

IV. FILLED BEYOND KNOWLEDGE (vv.18–19)

Paul now stretches our understanding.

He prays that we would:

“know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge.”

That sounds contradictory on purpose.

It is a love: you can know but never exhaust you experience but never master

And Paul’s goal is clear:

“That ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”

Not partial fullness. Not seasonal fullness. Not surface-level fullness. God wants to fill what He has established.

This is the climax of spiritual maturity.
Not doing more. Not knowing more. But being **filled more**.

Dry faith is not a discipline problem. it is often a love problem.

GOD WORKS WITHIN US

Paul closes with worship.

"Now unto him that is able..."

"...according to the power that worketh **in us**."

God is not limited by our imagination.

God is not constrained by our expectations.

God works from the inside out.

"Unto him be glory in the church..."

God fills us

so His glory can flow through us.