



EPHESIANS 3 PART 2

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

Pastor Steve guided us through the closing verses of Ephesians 3, unveiling the awe-inspiring truth that the depth of God's love and truth transcends our full comprehension. Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21, a magnificent blueprint for spiritual growth and meaningful prayer. Paul, modeling reverence and humility by bowing before the Father, demonstrates an inner attitude of submission crucial for prayer. His prayer unfolds in four progressive requests: first, an inner strengthening by the Holy Spirit; second, for Christ to fully indwell and be at home in our hearts, accessing every part of our lives; third, to be deeply rooted and firmly grounded in love, grasping the immeasurable dimensions of Christ's love—its width, length, depth, and height; and finally, to be filled with all the fullness of God. This journey culminates in the astonishing realization that God's capacity far exceeds our requests or imaginations, working powerfully within us. Just as Psalm 34:8 says, "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good," God's love isn't merely to be examined; it must be experienced. It's through this personal apprehension of His love that we can truly reflect it to the world. Therefore, let us not merely observe but actively take hold of God and experience the transformative power of His boundless love.

Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21 is described as a "blueprint for spiritual growth and meaningful prayer." How does understanding our identity in Christ (Ephesians 1-3) serve as the foundation for such a prayer life?

Study Questions:

1. Paul's prayer mentions a physical posture of "bowing his knees." While physical posture isn't mandated, what does this action symbolize about our spiritual attitude when approaching God in prayer? (Psalm 95:6)
2. The "whole family in heaven and earth is named" from the Father (Ephesians 3:15). What does this reveal about the universal scope of God's fatherhood (by creation) and His specific fatherhood to believers? (Acts 17:28; Galatians 3:26)
3. The Holy Spirit is described as our "resource for true empowerment and change." What specific functions of the Holy Spirit are mentioned that enable believers to live godly lives and be witnesses? (Acts 1:8; Romans 8:16)
4. Paul's second request is "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith" (Ephesians 3:17). While Christ indwells believers at salvation, what does it mean for Him to "feel at home" in our hearts, with "full access to every room and every closet"? (John 14:23; Colossians 3:16)
5. Paul concludes with a powerful benediction, stating God "is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us" (Ephesians 3:20). What does the Greek word "Dunamis" (dynamite) convey about the nature of this power? (Philippians 3:10)