



Effective Prayers from Ephesians- Prayer II Ephesians 3:14-21

Pray that we would know the love of Christ.

^{19a} and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge...

Text Message:

- A literal translation is, “to know the love of Christ which surpasses *the* knowledge,” i.e., a particular type of knowledge.
- Remember, knowledge was a big deal at Ephesus, particularly among a group that came to be known as the Gnostics, who emphasized a mysterious knowledge as the key to spiritual enlightenment.
- What Paul prayed for the first-century church in Ephesus is what we need for the church today- to know the love of God experientially and not just conceptually.
- Often, the root of not experiencing Christ’s love is fear.
- St. Ignatius recommended contemplation on four aspects of God’s love (St. Ignatius of Loyola, *The Spiritual Exercises*):
 - 1) God’s gifts to us (life, family, friends, eternal life, etc.)
 - 2) God’s self-giving in Jesus.
 - 3) God’s continuing work in the world.
 - 4) The limitless quality of God’s love.

This week’s Prayer Verse to know the love of Christ:

... and [that you may come] to know [practically, through personal experience] the love of Christ Ephesians 3:19a, *Amplified Bible*

Pray that we would be filled with the fullness of God.

^{19b} ... that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Text Message:

- For Paul and the Ephesian Church, it was not the secret knowledge of the Gnostics, Mystery Cults, or Magic that connected them to God, but His love filling them!
- What an incredible prayer! Can we possibly understand its meaning?
- Yet God is “able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20)!
- The idea here is not one of a “measurable goal,” where we can sit back and say, “We’re filled with the fullness of God!”
- Rather, it is the hunger of the desperate to be continually filled with more and more of God and a warning against the comfort of lukewarmness!
- It is the hope of all who long for, and know within, “There is more!”
- A church that loses sight of the fullness of God will inevitably replace this with something that is “less than.”

This week’s Prayer Verse to be filled with God’s fullness:

... that you may be filled up [throughout your being] to all the fullness of God [so that you may have the richest experience of God’s presence in your lives, completely filled and flooded with God Himself].

Ephesians 3:19b, *Amplified Bible*

Pray that we would experience God’s best.

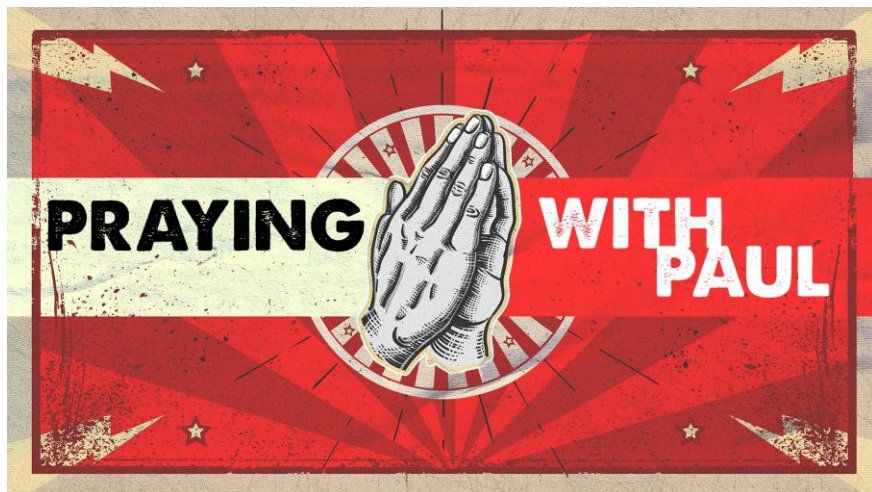
Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

Text Message:

- Imagine the kind of church Paul imagined; a church where:
The love of Christ would be both heartfelt and felt...
The fullness of God would be the ultimate desire...
God’s best would be experienced...

This week’s Prayer Verse to experience God’s best:

Pray Ephesians 3:20-21 above.



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