

I Am Empowered

Discovering My True Identity | Week 6 | Ephesians 3:14-21

INTRODUCTION

NOTES

As believers, if we’re going to accomplish our mission and shine like we were designed to shine, we need more than encouragement. We need empowerment. When Paul asked God for power in today’s key passage, he didn’t go high...he went low. He didn’t stand tall and scream. He got down on his knees and begged God to strengthen the church with power through the Spirit of God. We would be wise to follow his example if we want to experience the power of Christ in our lives. But what does that look like exactly? That’s what we’re going to figure out in this message as we answer the question: as Paul prayed for the church, what exactly was he praying for?

KEY POINTS

1. He prayed that they would be strengthened with power in their inner being.

That word “strengthened” is the opposite of the word “discouraged” in this context. This means he’s saying, be strengthened with a greater courage...be strengthened with a greater power...and then he points out that the courage and power you need only come through the Spirit of God. He reminds us that if you’re going to experience more of God or accomplish more for God, your inner being must be filled with the Spirit of God.

2. He prayed that Christ would dwell in their hearts through faith.

When my inner being is being strengthened with power by the Holy Spirit, my life becomes a livable place for Christ to dwell.

There are two different Greek words used in the Bible for “dwelling.” The first one gives the idea of living in a place as a stranger or sojourner. This word usually speaks of a temporary visitor. But the second word refers to someone who settles down for good. That’s the word used in verse 17. When Paul said, “That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith,” he was referring to Christ living in our hearts forever. He was painting a picture of our hearts becoming His permanent home.

God’s desire is for Christ not to visit you periodically like a stranger or a sojourner, but for Christ to come to you and move into you and empower you as a permanent resident in your heart.

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3. He prayed that they would be rooted and firmly established in love.

When Christ takes residence in our hearts, we will experience His love in a way we couldn't otherwise. And that experience will change our life.

- When Christ lives in you, you look at serving differently.
- When Christ lives in you, you look at giving differently.
- When Christ lives in you, you'll be motivated to share your faith, and disciple your kids, and prioritize the things of God over the things of this world.

When Paul used the word "rooted" and talked about being "firmly established in love," he was emphasizing the stability that's experienced once someone has truly encountered the love of God. He was saying that once you've experienced the love of God, your life is lived differently. In other words, loved people love people.

4. He prayed that they'd be able to comprehend the depths of Christ's love.

When Paul prayed that the church would be able to grasp and comprehend the magnitude of God's love, I believe it's because he knew that if they grasp it, then they can live it. If they've experienced the love of God, they can demonstrate the love of God. There are certain things we know about God's love today, and yet, I think there's still a lot we haven't fully wrapped our minds around quite yet. When the Bible talks about "surpassing knowledge," I think the vastness of the love of God falls into that category. It's something that's beyond our capacity to comprehend as finite, sinful people, and yet, Paul, in his prayer, asked that God would make it possible, through His Spirit for the church to comprehend God's love. Why? So that we could live out the love of God and share that love with the world around us.

5. He prayed that they'd be filled with the fullness of God.

Paul prayed that we would know Christ's love in such a way that we are filled with all the fullness of God. What does that mean? The fullness of God is best explained as His presence and His power. It's the Person of God and all His attributes. Right here Paul was saying that when we as believers are strengthened through the Spirit in our inner being, and we allow Christ to dwell in our hearts through faith, we will know the love of Christ on a deeper level. When that happens (the process of being filled up to the brim of our lives with the fullness of God) we will experience the fullness of life and power in a way that's impossible to experience without God working in our life!

NOTES

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

All In with Jordan Easley

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. When was a time you experienced the love of God in a radical way?
2. How often do you get on your knees to pray? Is there something you can get your knees before the Lord to talk to Him about today?
3. What is a characteristic of God's love that is difficult for you to grasp? Explain your answer.
