

PART 6 HANDOUT EPHESIANS 3:14-21. Get Your Hands On Your Wealth!

In Ephesians 3 Paul Presents God's Marvelous Plan for the Gentiles. "The Mystery" of the Church. Previously Hidden In Christ is Now Revealed. The Gentile Believers are Now United to the Jewish Believers in One Body, the Church. Now Paul Explains the Tremendous Impact of this Fact through his 2nd Prayer **READ Ephesians 3:14-21**

Paul's prayer in Chapter 1 focused on Enlightenment; **This Prayers Emphasis is on "Enablement"**.

- It is More than Just Knowing...**It Is About BEING**...About Laying Our Hands on What God has for Us...and By Faith Making it a Vital Part of Our Lives.
- Paul is Saying, I Want You to Get Your Hands on Your Wealth...And Start Using It!
- **POINT:** *If the Inner Man Is What God's Spirit Empowers It To Be...The Outer Man Will Be Filled to The Full Measure and Experience Gods Power Each and Every Day.*

KEY: Our Prayers, need to focus on the Deeper Needs of Our Hearts. Ask God's Help on Our Inner Person

Vs 14-15. Paul's Invocation. **"I Kneel Before the Father"** *is a powerful statement the expressing Deep Reverence to God. His Posture of Humility He Ask for Spiritual Strength to know Christ's Immense Love.*

- **POINT:** *For Us It's a Call to Recognize God's Authority and To Model a Humble, Worshipful Attitude in Prayer, Drawing Strength from God's Holy Spirit.*

Vs 16-19. PAUL'S PETITION. *There are 4 Requests in Paul's Prayer*...These 4 requests are Interrelated

- He Prays that the Inner man Might have Spiritual Strength Which will, in Turn, Lead to a Deeper Experience with Christ. The Deeper Experience Will Enable Them to Apprehend, Get a Hold of, God's Great Love, which will Result in they're Being Filled With the Fullness of God.

VS 16 *"...He may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,"* Romans 8:9; Acts 1:8

- The Power of the Spirit is Given to Us According to the Riches of His Glory. When Christ Returned to Heaven *He Sent the Spirit to indwell and Empower Believers*
- His Holy Spirit Power is Unlimited...However, to Access this Power, Believers Must Obediently Walk with the Spirit. Submit to God's Word and Resist Fleshly Desires.

POINT: It is NOT Necessary for Us to Try to Work Something Up...The Power Was Provided At Salvation As Believers We just Need A Clean Heart and Yield Control to What God Wants to Do In and through Us.

- *When We Yield to the Spirit He Guilds US, andt We Succeed In Living This Life to the Glory of God.*

In Vs 17 Paul uses 3 Pictures here to Convey this Idea of Spiritual Depth. And the 3 Pictures are Hidden in the **3 Verbs: Dwell, Rooted, and Established (Grounded)**.

The Verb Dwell Literally Means to Settle Down and Feel at Home. Allowing Christ to Dwell in Your Life is the Key to Growing and Maturing in Christ! *It's Allowing His Word to Guide Your Actions, Words, and Attitudes so His Peace, Wisdom, and Love Flow Out to Others...* It's About making Christ the Central Reality of Your Life...*NOT Just an Occasional Visitor.*

- *Paul is Praying For is A Deeper Experience Between Christ and his Children!. Not Just A Surface Relationship, But An Ever Deepening Fellowship.* An Important Aspect of God...He Dwells and Communes in the lives of those who are Live by Faith and Walk in Obedience!

The Verb "ROOTED"The Tree Must get its Roots Deep into the Soil, if it is To Have Both Nourishment and Stability...Likewise...The Christian Must have his Spiritual Roots Deep Into the Love of God Ps 1:1-3

KEY: One of the Most Important Questions WE Can Ask OURSELF is, "From What Do I Draw My Nourishment and My Stability?" If there is to be Power in Our Christian's Life...Our Roots Must Go Deep Into God's Word, Communing With God in Prayer and Fellowshiping Together!

Paul's 3rd Verb Established/Grounded is an Architectural Term... It Refers to the Foundations in which We Build. As We Go Deep Into His Word...And Allow It to Penetrate and Change Our Hearts to Be More Like His... ***We Will Stand Firm...Victorious Against Every Adversity of Life!***

Verses 18-19 Speak to Apprehending Gods Power. The English word Comprehend and Apprehend both Stem from the Latin word "prehendere". **Which Means to Grasp. Eg: Monkeys Tail**

- A Key Difference is that The Word "Comprehend" carries the idea of Mentally Grasping Something While "Apprehend" suggest Laying Hold of it for Yourself & Not Letting Go.
- **KEY: It is Possible to Understand Something But Not Really Make it Your Own.**

Paul's Concern is that We Will Not Just Comprehend Mentally...But More Lay Hold of the Vast Expanse of the Love of God and Work It Out In Our Lives!

- God Wants Us To Claim Our Inheritance! *"To Grasp the Love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. SO that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. In Christ...This Is Our Inheritance God Wants Us to Claim as We Walk through Both the Good Times and Difficult times.*

In Christ, We never have to worry about having inadequate Spiritual Resources to meet the Life's demands

- We Just Need to Know His Promises & In Faith Trust Him and Act Upon Them! Philippians 4:13

Paul Concludes his Point by saying, *"That you may be Filled to the Measure of All the Fullness of God."*

- Nature Abhors A Vacuum:. That's why air or water automatically flow into an empty place. Likewise: the Divine Nature Abhors a Vacuum. *God Wants Us to Experience His Fullness...and the Measure of Our Fullness is God Himself.*
- **Key to Pleasing God is Realizing the Measure of Our Fulness is God Himself!**
- Paul tells us that The Only True Measure to Our Spiritual Life is Christ. Gal 6:14

Paul Concludes in Verses 20-21 After Contemplating the Believers Riches in Jesus Christ...Paul Now Burst Forth a Fitting Benediction to His Prayer. **The best way for us to grasp some of the greatness of the Benediction is to look at it in an outline form: *Now unto him that is Able... to Do All...Above All ... Abundantly Above All ... Exceeding Abundantly Above All.***

Paul shares the exciting truth that this Far Above All Power is Available to Us! *It is Even Above All That We Ask or Think.* In other words, the Power of Christ, Like the Love of Christ, is Beyond Human Understanding or Measurement.

This is the Kind of Power You and I Need if We are to Walk and War in Victory! Some power is dormant; Available, but not being used, like the power stored in a battery. **But God's Energy is Effectual Power...that is Power at Work in Our Lives!**

- God Does Not Want His Power in Our Lives to be Dormant...Like an Unused Battery! God Wants Us to Take Full Advantage of His Power Daily in Our Lives.
- **KEY:** It is the Holy Spirit who Releases the Resurrection Power of Christ in Our Lives.

However...Many Christians have been Cut Off from their Source of Power. Unbelief, unconfessed, careless, living, worldliness, and action or attitude...All of these Rob us of Holy Spirit Power...And a Christian Robbed of Power Cannot Be Used By God!

- It is amazing that what we do in His power today will glorify Christ throughout all ages, world without end. He is able to do all, above all, abundantly above all, and exceedingly abundantly above all!

LIFE POINT: The Power of the Spirit Is NOT A Luxury...It Is A Necessity!

This Year I Pray that We Will Get Our Hands On Our Spiritual Wealth by Opening Our Heart to the Holy Spirit...Praying as Paul did for Strength for the Inner Man, for a New Depth of Love, for Spiritual Apprehension, and for Spiritual Fullness!