

Ephesians 3:13-21

13 Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory. 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

- I. Therefore - What's it there for?
 - a. Paul is in prison
 - b. He has spent the last part of chapter 2 and the first part of Chapter 3 talking about this new man that God created when Jesus Christ removed the barrier between the Jewish Man & the Gentile Man.
 - C. Even more than that, this new man or creation that He has created was something that He kept hidden from the Rulers and Authorities in the heavenly places.
 - d. He also new and understood that he was a prisoner of Jesus and Jesus had purpose in his imprisonment.
- II. Therefore...Lose heart - ekkakeo (ek-kä-ke'-o) - to be **utterly spiritless**, to be wearied out, exhausted
- III. Paul also tells them that his "*tribulations are their glory*"
 - a. Paul wrote the book of Philippians about a year after he wrote Ephesians, but it was during the same imprisonment while writing Ephesians. Look what he had to say:
 - i. **Philippians 1:12-14 (NASB95)** 12 Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, 13 so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, 14 and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.
 - b. In order to understand let's remember this principle:
 - i. **1 Corinthians 12:26-27 (NASB)** 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. **27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.**
 - ii. **27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.**
 1. I am in Christ's body but the truth is I have my own individual:
 - a. Walk

b. Identity

c. Spiritual Gift

2. Yet God has also done this miraculous thing where He allows me to have my own individual walk, identity and spiritual gifting but He's also allowed me to share those things inside of this thing that is bigger than me which is His body
3. Here is the key, how well He uses me inside the larger entity that is His body is going to depend largely on my individual, wholehearted fellowship with Him.
 - a. **Philippians 3:8a (NASB95)** More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...
 - b. **2 Peter 3:18 (NASB95)** but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.
4. What Paul understood was that as he was following what God had for him in his walk with the Lord. As Paul grew in his trust and for him, God was using it for the glory of the body as well. Hence Paul's words that his tribulations were their glory.

IV. 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,

- a. **Family** - patria (pä-tre-ä') lineage running back to some progenitor (common ancestor), ancestry
- b. Footnote on every is "Whole"
- c. **Name** - onomazo (o-no-mä'-zo) to bear the name of a person or thing

V. 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

- i. **That He would grant you** - Paul prays that God might give the church at Ephesus some things:
- ii. **According to the riches of His Glory**
 - i. **According** - (kata) means in proportion to one's generosity! Not stingily. Not just a portion but a proportion! If I am a billionaire and I give you ten dollars, I have given you a portion (very small portion at that) out of my riches. But if I give you ten million dollars, I have given to you according to or more proportionate to my true wealth.
 - ii. In other words God has given each of us this uncommon ability to be strengthened with His power because He's given it to us in direct proportion to the riches of His glory.

b. How is one "strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man?"

iii. It will not be in the way that the world would assume!

1. **2 Corinthians 12:9 (NASB)** And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

iv. Let’s look in Hebrews for a possible way to see this power with skin on:

1. **Hebrews 11:31-34 (NASB)** 31 By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace. 32 And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

2. So what is God telling us through Paul here? That our spiritual strength (true strength) comes from **submitting** to His Spirit through trust. **When we do this:**

v. 17 **so that** Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

1. **Dwell** - katoikeo (kä-toi-ke'-o) It means to live or dwell in a place in an established or settled manner **as opposed to sojourning or making only an occasional visit.**

2. What is the thing that causes Jesus Christ to be more than an occasional visitor in my heart...MY FAITH OR TRUST.

- a. **Revelation 3:19-20 (NLT)** 19 I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference. 20 “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

vi. Big Question - If it’s my faith in Him that causes Him to move from an occasional visitor to a trusted friend that I share all my meals with then how does my faith or trust grow in Him?

1. The same way it grows with anyone, you spend time with Him.
 - a. Jesus Christ is the Word - Spend time getting know Him and His character in the Word.
 - b. Prayer
 - c. Utilizing the spiritual gift He gave you.
 - d. Trials - There is a unique and special thing that is only accomplished through trials.

- i. **James 1:2-3 (NASB95)** 2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. **Footnote = Steadfastness**

2. How can this possibly help my trust to grow? It seems illogical!
 3. Many Times what it takes for us to know that someone can be trusted completely we need to be placed in hopeless and dark times. It is only in those times that we find out how much we can trust another individual.
 4. This is how He works! Many times we need to go through some difficult times, in order for us to realize something, that in our lowest, deepest and darkest times that our souls may experience we can look around and we realize something. We realize that He is there. He came there with us and is walking us through it.
 - a. **Hebrews 2:17-18 (NLT)** 17 Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. 18 Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.
 5. As we grow in our trust of Him, as we grow in a healthy, vibrant, engaged relationship with Jesus Christ something begins to happen inside of us: we become *“rooted and grounded in love”*
 6. Which then leads us to being able to:
- II. **18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.**
- a. **18 may be able to comprehend**
 - b. **Untranslated** word at beginning of verse 18 - hina (he'-nä) - that, in order that, so that
 - i. The best way to translate this then is to say *“so that you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth”*
 - ii. In other words what’s being said here is the more that I fellowship (allow Him to dwell) with Christ the more I am going to be rooted and grounded in love, the more that I am rooted and grounded in love, the more my mind, heart and soul is expanded to begin to understand how incredibly wide, long, high and deep His great love is.
 - c. What we’ve seen in these passages is several “so that” clauses. It’s the idea that there’s been something happen which then causes several other things to happen (ripples in water so to speak).
 - i. Rock thrown into the water to cause the ripples (inflection point)?
 1. **16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man**
 2. **17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,**

3. 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,
4. Which then leads to trying to: 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.”
 - a. Know - ginosko (ge-no'-sko) - to be intimately acquainted with someone.
 - b. Genesis 2:7 (NASB95) Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.
 - i. Being = Soul
 - c. There is an incredible phenomenon that happens to us as we study and spend time with our soul’s first Love, we are changed.
 - d. This idea of really studying and learning the character of Jesus Christ transforms our inner man. Something happens to our souls our inner person when we allow Him to draw us closer to Himself: that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.”
 - e. Filled - pleroo (pla-ro'-o) to fill to the top: so that nothing shall be wanting to full measure, fill to the brim. To fill, diffuse throughout one’s soul.
 - f. As we spend time with Him, inevitably our soul’s are filled simply because it has fellowshiped with it’s Creator.
 - g. We begin to overflow because of it.
 - h. Is there any other person or being that exists that can do this for you or I? NO! Only the Eternal Creator of your soul can.

ii. Exodus 34:28-29 (NASB95) 28 So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread or drink water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments. 29 It came about when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the testimony were in Moses’ hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him.

1. Moses has been on Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights with God. What was that like?
2. This was 40 days and 40 nights of uninterrupted fellowship with God.
3. What was going on in Moses? What happens to a person when they spend time with the One who created them?
4. Shone - The Hebrew verb for shone ([qaran](#)) means to send out rays, to radiate light from the surface.
5. What had happened to Moses?

III. 20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.