

Series: The Wealth and Walk of a Christian
"Prayer for Spiritual Strength" # 11
Eph. 3:14-21
10-1-17 Sun AM

1. Two things we should desire from the life of Paul, 1. We would view life and death as he did, and 2. To be able to prayer as he did.

Paul know **begins the prayer** he started in 3:1, thanking God for the truths shared thus far.

The **first prayer** in Eph. 1:15-23, was for spiritual enlightenment. Here, the prayer is for spiritual strength.

You can call it, "**the deeper life**," but not so much getting more of God, but appropriating what we know and letting God have more of us.

TT- Paul makes 4 requests for the Ephesian Christians and for us. Each one of these requests builds off the previous request, and these are things we should pray for others. Notice the word "that"

I. That they would be strengthened in the inner man [v. 16].

1. The source of this strength "Spirit"

The presence of the Holy Spirit is evidence of salvation but also the power to live the Christian life.

The power of the Spirit in the Christians life is the best kept secret to the average Christian.

2. The supply of this strength "According to the riches of his Glory."

Because Christ went up, the Spirit came down, and this power is available to us. According to, not out of? In proportion to his unlimited riches.

Acts 1:8, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit is come upon you."

3. The subject of this strength "inner man."

God lives and works thru the inner man. That part of man that was dead, but quickened by God and made alive. Where his thinking, personality, and emotions are.

The inner man is renewed by the Word, prayer, worship, service, fellowship, witnessing, and etc...

Turn to 2 Cor. 4:16-18

I. That they would be strengthened in the inner man

II. That Christ would be at home in their hearts [v. 17].

1. At birth Christ comes in to live in our inner man [**Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:13**].
2. Christ may dwell [be at home] in our hearts? Dwell means to settle down and be at home. Christ finds comfort and satisfaction in a clean vessel.
3. Rooted means stability and strength that comes from growing in the inner man. Speaks of securely settled.
4. Grounded means having a solid foundation that will withstand the trials of life. This speaks of being deeply founded.

III. That they would understand the love of Christ [vs. 18-19a].

1. Comprehend? Paul prays they might understand and apprehend the love of Christ.

If we are not growing in the inner man and Christ doesn't feel at home in our hearts, then we are not going to grasp the dimensions of His love.

2. Comprehend what? His love is four dimensional-

We are told to understand them, yet they can't be measured [v.19a]. This is a figure of speech telling us his love is vast and complete

Romans 8:31-39

IV. That they would be filled with all the fullness of God [v. 19b-21].

1. Filled with the fullness of God is another way of saying Spirit-filled [**Eph. 4:13; Col. 2:10; Eph. 5:18**].
2. Be as much God-like as possible.

Practical Principles of Prayer:

1. Our riches in Christ can't be calculated and is more than abundant to live the Christian life [v.16a].
2. Prayer for the "inner man" is more important than prayer for the "outer man" [v. 16b].
3. Faith is not just something we exercise at salvation, but we continue to grow in faith [v.17].

4. This power is available to all believers not just a select few [v.18a].
5. The deeper life is not a new revelation or prophecy, a vision or some mystical experience, but Christ-likeness [v. 19b].
6. Prayer should focus on God's power, not our power [v. 20b].
7. Prayer centers on God's purposes for the Christian and the church [vs. 16-21].

Next Week- "Biblical Unity Eph. 4:1-16