

“EPHESIANS: WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE LIVE – IN CHRIST”

“A Transforming Prayer”

Part Seven: Ephesians 3:14-21 August 2, 2020

Pastor Lloyd Brock Pekin First Nazarene

INTRODUCTION:

This is one of my favorite sections of Ephesians, and I believe there's some things that will incredibly encourage you today because of what the Apostle Paul has to say in this section. First, it's all about how GOD CAN EMPOWER US in a new way in our lives. There are three simple ways to look at how God empowers our prayer life. Some very simple things of what Paul has to say about how he prays and how it worked in his life I want to show you at the very beginning of this that will be helpful and bring a new sense of being empowered.

Secondly, how to develop a CONFIDENT FAITH in your life. How do you develop the kind of faith like Paul or Peter who had this boldness, this confidence, about their faith? We look at that and think, “How could I develop that in my life? How can I have that be a part of my life?” We are going to see how in this prayer that he prayed. He teaches us the three simple things that you and I can do to grow in confidence in our faith every day of our lives.

We have seen 2 prayers in Ephesians:

- Ephesians 1:17-19 is a “prayer for enlightenment”

*“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be **enlightened** so you can see the hope that He’s called you to and the riches of His calling,” (1:18)*

- Ephesians 3:14-21 is a “prayer for enablement or empowerment”

“He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit” (3:16)

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NIV)

*¹⁴ For this **reason** I **kneel** before **the Father**, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in **your inner being**, ¹⁷ so that Christ may **dwelt** in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being **rooted and established in love**, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, **to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ**, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work **within us**, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

HOW GOD CAN EMPOWER US

1. Pray with a _____.

(3:13) “I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory. For this reason, . . .”

2. Pray with an _____.

Two attitudes are shown in kneeling: _____ and _____.

Ephesians is filled with truths about our spiritual “posture.” Between SITTING with Christ in the heavenlies in chapters 1-3 and WALKING in Christ in Chapters 4-6 lies...

3. Pray with a _____. Focus on the _____.

HOW TO DEVELOP A CONFIDENT FAITH

1. Confidence comes from the _____.

*“I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in **your inner being**”* (v. 16)

The “inner being” can see (Psalm 119:18), hear (Matthew 13:9) and taste (Psalm 34:8). The inner being also must be exercised (1 Timothy 4:7-8), kept clean (Psalm 51:7) and fed (Matthew 4:4).

The result: Christ dwelling “in your heart” through faith! That’s leads to a confident faith!

*“So that Christ may **dwelt** in your hearts through faith.”* (v. 17)

- Devotion: My Heart - Christ's Home by Robert Boyd Munger

2. Confidence comes from grasping _____.

*“And I pray that you, being **rooted and established in love**,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, **to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ**”* (vs. 17b-18)

- First: Be rooted and established in love. You must have this so that you can
- Grasp it! How wide, long, high, and deep is the love of Christ! Then you are
- Filled with God. That brings about a confident faith! (v. 19)

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work **within us**,²¹ to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

- We celebrate the LORD’S SUPPER together.
- “The Love of God’ Lyrics:

Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made
Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry
Nor could the scroll contain the whole though stretched from sky to sky

O love of God, how rich, how pure; how measureless and strong.
It shall forevermore endure; the saint's and angel's song

REMIX STUDY GUIDE:

Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the message notes, or simply dive deeper into just one.

Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions at the end of the document.

REMIX: Questions for today's study on Ephesians 3:14-21

Notice the links on our website for helpful information about hosting or guiding a REMIX discussion. You will find "Tips for hosting a REMIX group or class", suggested schedule for the class, and directions for the class. These notes will be helpful in setting up your REMIX. Here are some questions beyond the notes:

- 1. For what does Paul pray? Put Paul's prayers into your own words. Pause and pray through these petitions.**
- 2. What descriptions of God do you see in verses 14-17? How does this view of Him impact your faith?**
- 3. Have you experienced the Spirit's power renovating your heart as a home fit for Christ? Can you see your faith growing in confidence in God?**
- 4. What effect would it have on the Church if the prayer that we all could grasp the love of Christ were answered?**
- 5. How does verse 20 make you feel about your prayers? Will it change your attitude toward prayer and deepen your expectations and faith?**
- 6. Will you consider memorizing this prayer? If so, begin now.**

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message!

- 1. What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
- 2. What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
- 3. What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you have learned today?*