

Ephesians 3:14-21

These verses are one the prayers that I often speak about and that Paul prays for the people he preaches to. We have looked at this passage several times before however, today I want us to look at it from a little different perspective. Let's look at each word and how it affects our daily living and how we can apply the lessons *Paul is teaching the Ephesians*.

1. Vs. 14-15 – *Paul again is reminding us that he prays daily for the people he is writing to. The value he places on people should* convict us in how we look at others who we are praying for or should be praying for. He specifically mentions that he bows his knee. That means that he takes and makes it a deliberate act to pray for people.
2. Vs. 16a – “He would grant you according to his riches” - Two things we need to understand about this part of the prayer. First, Paul is praying for God to grant the people something. Secondly, that He would do it according to His riches, not according to Paul's ability or according to man's resources.
3. Vs. 16b – “To be strengthened with power through His spirit in the inner man”. Again, Paul tells us two things he is praying for. First, that we be strengthened with power, and secondly that this power comes from the inner man which is inhabited by the Holy Spirit.
4. Vs. 17a – “So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith”. The phrase that Christ is in our hearts is not just an idle bunch of words. Here Paul is actually telling us that it is possible to have Christ dwell in us, but that the way we get Christ in our hearts is through faith. You may have struggled in the past to find a scripture to tell others about how we get Christ in our hearts. Well, here it is.
5. Vs. 17b – “That you, being rooted and grounded in love”. Paul once again is speaking about the supremacy of love over any and all other things, feelings, and emotions, including all the gifts. It is through love that God gave us Jesus and eternal life. If we understand this love, we will be rooted and grounded for life.
6. Vs. 18a – “That you may be able to comprehend with all the saints.” So often we say that we are not as smart as someone who has been to seminary or had other training in biblical matters. That is why Paul is telling us that with Christ in our hearts, we have the same revelation as anyone else.

7. Vs. 18b – “What is the breadth and length and height and depth”. Now here we need to ask what Paul is speaking of. Well, I believe that he is referring to the LOVE of God. Because we have Christ in our hearts, we have the capability to understand the Agape love of God and the ability to apply it as well in all of our relationships. It is vital for us to know and believe that we can love as Christ loved.
8. Vs. 19a – “And to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge”. The key word here is surpasses knowledge. If we are to be successful Christians, we have to both know and understand that the love of Christ surpasses anything and everything else. It surpasses our love, our emotions, our desires, our feelings, and our goodness. We do not even have the right to compare it our righteousness.
9. Vs. 19b – “That you may be filled up with all the fullness of God”. Notice two things here. First that Paul is praying that we be filled up. He wants us to have and experience a complete life in Christ. Remember that Jesus said, “I have come that you may have life and life abundantly”. And secondly, he is praying that what we are filled up with is the fullness of God. Just what is the fullness of God? It is all that is good, all that is righteous, all that is holy, and all that is perfect. It is everything that we need to be Christ-like in every way. That is the “good” in the phrase “GOOD NEWS”.
10. Vs. 20 – And after all that he just said about God’s power and desire to do things for you, Paul gives is an incredible promise. That God can and will do so much more than we can even think of. This verse is God’s promise to us that He will answer the prayer that Paul prays and therefore we can and should make every effort to allow the God in us, to rule and reign in our lives. It is the spirit of God that is within us as believers that God works through and it is His power through the Spirit that allows us to conquer Satan.