

# Paul's Prayer For The Ephesians

## *Ephesians 3:14-21*

**Introduction:** In the Ephesian letter we find Paul praying twice for the Ephesians. The first is in **1:15-21**. The second is in **3:14-21**. The first prayer is a prayer of thanksgiving. The second is a prayer of intercession which is a request on behalf of someone else.

The things Paul prayed for in this prayer would be also good things for us. Let's study these things. Our specific interest will be with ***Ephesians 3:16-19***.

### **I. Be Strengthened (vv. 16-17).**

- A.** What ever God grants will always come from His riches (Phil. 4:19).
- B.** This all takes place in the "**inner man.**" Therefore, it is spiritual in nature (**2 Cor. 4:16**).
- C.** How does God strengthen us?
  - 1.** No doubt all of us have felt weak at times and have realized that we cannot survive by ourselves without help from God.
    - a.** Such is the case initially (**Rom. 5:6**).
    - b.** God's power manifested through salvation.
      - 1)** God's power raised Jesus from the dead (**Eph. 1:19-20**).
      - 2)** God's power brings life to the spiritually dead (**Eph. 2:1**).
    - c.** We also receive strength from God through His providential care (**Phil 4:19**).
    - d.** He will help us remain strong by providing a way of escape (**1 Cor. 10:13**).
    - e.** He knows what we need, "**For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him**" (**Matt. 6:8**).
  - 2.** While all of these are sources of strength, we should not think that God will do it all while we do nothing.
    - a.** Exhortation to be strong (**1 Cor. 16:13**).
    - b.** We have a direct part in our own strength (**Jude 20**).
- D.** Christ dwells in us through faith.
  - 1.** All indwelling (whether God, Christ, Spirit, word) occurs through faith.
  - 2.** The Bible speaks of this also with the word "**abide.**"
    - a.** God abides in us and we in Him (**1 Jn. 4:12-16**).
    - b.** Christ abides in us and we in Him (**1 Jn. 2:24**).
    - c.** Spirit dwells in us (**Jn. 14:16-17**).
    - d.** All are through our obedient faith in the gospel of Christ (**Gal. 3:2**).

[When thus strengthened we will find ourselves "rooted and grounded in love." This leads to the next step]

## II. Comprehend The Love Of Christ (vv. 18-19a).

- A. A realization of what God has done for us through Christ fosters an appreciation and love for Him.
- B. Consider the greatness of this love:
  - 1. **“Width”**—as wide as necessary to include all of humanity.
  - 2. **“Length”**—extending into eternity, it is infinite.
  - 3. **“Depth”**—to the deepest abyss of human , degeneration, degradation, and misery.
  - 4. **“Height”**—to the highest throne in heaven.
- C. A love so great, words fail us. *“The love of God is greater far than any tongue or pen can ever tell”* (Song #267 Sacred Selections).
- D. How do we show our love in return? **“If you love Me, keep My Commandments” (Jn. 14:15, 23).**

[All of this leads us to the pinnacle of what faith will allows us to truly be]

## III. Be Filled With All The Fullness Of God (v. 19b).

- A. **“All”** necessarily implies that nothing will be left out.
  - 1. Promise to be blessed with **“all”** spiritual blessings (**Eph. 1:3**).
  - 2. A peace **“which surpasses all understanding”** (**Phil. 4:7**).
  - 3. We become **“partakers of the divine nature”** (**2 Peter 1:3-4**).
- B. We might consider this as a final transformation of character.
  - 1. Where the fruit of the Spirit abounds (**2 Peter 1:8; Gal. 5:22-23**).
  - 2. We are found as that **“approved workman”** (**2 Tim. 2:15**).

**Conclusion:** As we have noted in this lesson, these are great things to receive. However, none are possible without obedience to the gospel. You must first become a Christian and then all of this will be yours. HBRCB.