

FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP of Fairfield Glade

Pastor Dave Evangelista ~ January 24, 2010 ~ Ephesians 3:14-21

“No Mere Formal Prayer”

Our text today is from Ephesians 3:14-21.

The prayer of this great apostle is not merely a formal prayer. Paul realized the vital importance of the petitions he was about to offer on the behalf of all believers. He knew that as ‘believers’ their experiences in prayer were needed to grow in the Lord—to receive His response to their supplications and praises.

Paul prayed that we might have spiritual power. *Ephesians 3:14-16* “For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being.”

This power and the might driven by the Holy Spirit in the inner man is the most important need of every believer. Here lies the secret of our spiritual power and real influence for God! God is ready and waiting to give power to the fainthearted. He prayed that we might have the fragrance of His indwelling presence: *verse 17*: “...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.” There can be no spiritual power where Christ is not honored. If, by faith Christ dwells in us, then the Spirit will take the things that are Christ’s and show them through us. This indwelling is assured by God’s promises. The more He has of us, the more precious His indwelling presence becomes.

Paul prayed for stability of character. *Verse 17b*: “And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love...” Our spiritual roots are to be growing in the rich, fruitful soil of God’s love. The upward growth of the building of character is to be based also in His love! Paul mentioned this to the Christians at Colosse also. *Colossians 2:7*: “...rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Paul prayed that we might have enlarged comprehension. It will take the comprehension of all saints in every age to find

out the breadth, length, depth and height of that love that passes knowledge. It is a great discovery to find out the immeasurable magnitude of that love!

And, who shall separate us from that love? *See Romans 8:35, 38-39.*

Paul prayed that we may have complete and abiding satisfaction. This satisfaction means that we may have the richest measures of divine consolation and divine presence. Paul is praying that we might partake of the entire enjoyment (delight) of God. This includes:

- Dwelling with Him;
- Walking with Him;
- Living with Him;
- Communing with Him.

Paul now points out the unfailing source of everything we need in *verse 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.” Paul’s requests were great but Paul’s God was great! He remembered what the Spirit wrote through him in *Romans 8:32*: “He who spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

The Psalmist said, “No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.” *Psalm 84:11.* The measure of our receiving, however, is “...according to the power that is at work in us.” *Verse 20*

Take this powerful thought home with you today: The measure of our receiving from the Lord is according to the power that is at work in us! Paul’s prayer for you is full of possibilities—reread the text and let this great apostle’s prayer be fulfilled in your heart—today!
