



Ephesians 3:14-21

KNOW CHRIST'S LOVE!

To be "filled unto all the fulness of God" is to find the ultimate experience of life. Where this is so, there is no true desire of the soul unsatisfied, no power of the soul undeveloped or idle. The true meaning of life is discovered, and that not as an ideal...but as an actual experience. It is eternal life; it is perfection; it is satisfaction. How then can it be attained? By the knowledge of the love of Christ, for in that there is the very fulness of God; and so wonderful is it, not only as a vision, but in its power, that to know it is to be transformed by it into the likeness of itself. To the finality of this knowledge and experience we have not yet attained; but if we know anything of the love of Christ, we know something of the filling of this fulness of God. That is the story of the beginning, the process, and the consummation of true Christian experience.

—G. Campbell Morgan

In Ephesians 1:15-23, Paul prays for *enlightenment*—that the Ephesian believers would know the hope, riches, and power that they have in Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 3:14-21, Paul prays for *enablement*—that they would be enabled to experience the fullness of love and life available to them in Jesus Christ.

OBSERVATIONS ON PAUL'S PRAYER:

- He prayed *because of* God's great _____ in saving us and indwelling us as His people, Jews and Gentiles together.
- He prayed *by* getting on his _____ (cf. 2 Chron. 6:13; Ezra 9:5; Psalm 95:6; Daniel 6:10; Luke 22:41; Acts 9:40, 20:36).
- He prayed *to* God the Father, the One who has authority over all things and purpose for all things in heaven and on earth.
- He prayed *for* _____ specific requests, each building upon the other, leading to the full experience of God's fullness.

1. INNER _____ (3:16)

That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.

- The Source of Power
- The Description of Power

No prayer that has ever been framed has uttered a bolder request. —J. Armitage Robinson

In ancient thought a "name" was not just a means of distinguishing one person from another; it was the means of revealing the true nature of that person. So for God to give creatures a name ... signifies His bringing them into existence, exercising dominion over them, and giving each their appropriate role. The verse thus affirms that the Father is the Creator of all living beings so that their existence and significance depend on Him.

—Peter T. O'Brien

I like to think of the apostle's petition as a staircase by which he climbs higher and higher in his aspiration for his readers. His prayer-staircase has four steps, whose key words are 'strength', 'love', 'knowledge' and 'fullness'.

—John R.W. Stott

Four Greek Words for Power:

- *Dunamis*: Able power
- *Energeia*: Active power
- *Ischus*: Available power
- *Kratos*: Awesome power!

- The Sphere of Power

God often displays His greatest power in us and through us during times of _____ (2 Cor. 12:7-10; Col. 1:11).

2. GREATER _____ (3:17)

That Christ may dwell [be at home] in your hearts through faith.

- I am to _____ more of my heart to Christ.
- I am to _____ more of Christ's heart for me.

3. WIDER, LONGER, DEEPER, HIGHER _____ OF CHRIST'S UNGRASPABLE LOVE (3:17-19)

That you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge.

- In Christ, I am _____ in His love.
- In Christ, I am to _____ a greater and greater grasp of His love, in fellowship with other believers.

4. FULLER _____ OF GOD (3:19)

That you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

- All that I desire is _____ in God.
- All that I desire is _____ more and more as I trust and delight in Christ's love for me (Ps. 37:4).

Able
 Able to do
 Able to do what we ask
 Able to do what we think
 Able to do all that we ask or think
 Able to do above all that we ask or think
 Able to do abundantly above all that we ask or think
 Able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think

Into the most secret springs of our spiritual life this Spirit-strengthening power is infused. God always begins at the innermost part of our being and works outward. —Ruth Paxson

We enter into the enjoyment of His indwelling through faith. This involves constant dependence on Him, constant surrender to Him, and constant recognition of His "at home-ness." —William MacDonald

Love is the soil in which our life must have its roots; and it is the rock upon which our faith must ever rest. —W. Graham Scroggie

Our chief defect as Christians is failing to realize Christ's love to us. —D. Martyn-Lloyd Jones

No matter how much we know of the love of Christ, there is always more to know. —Leon Morris

The love of Christ includes all, extends from eternity to eternity, seats us in the heavenlies, and reaches down to our alienated position. —Charles C. Ryrie

It needs the whole people of God to understand the whole love of God. —John R.W. Stott

Exceedingly Abundantly. Greek, *hyperekperissou*, super + beyond + above all measure, "super-abundantly; a superlative of superlatives" (Wuest).

The doxology is the climax of the first half of Ephesians; it may be regarded as the climax of the whole letter, which rises to a spiritual peak at this point and then concentrates on practical outworkings. —A. S. Wood