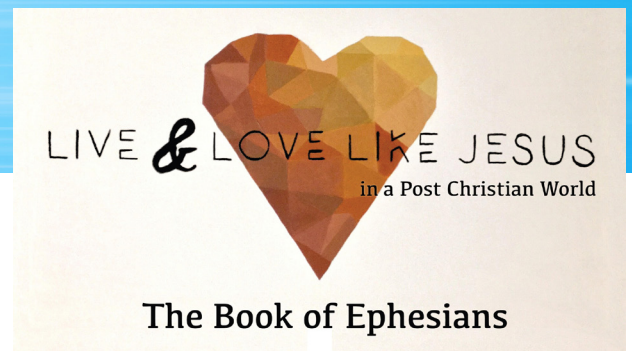


Discussion Questions

December 18, 2022

Ephesians 3:14-21

God Wants To Blow Our Minds With His Love & Power



1. Read Ephesians 3:14-21

After reading the entire section, discuss what you imagine Christians would be like if this prayer was realized?

2. In Verse 16-19 Paul prays for the Ephesians to have God's Power through the Spirit, to understand the Love of Christ, and to be filled with the fullness of Christ. All 3 things he has already said Christians have in Christ. Paul is wanting them to do more than know these are true, but to increasingly experience them. Discuss how we can easily be content to know these things, and what experiencing them actually looks like.

3. Re-read verses 17-18, Paul pray that they may be rooted and grounded in love. An agricultural and architectural reference. Describe what it means for believers to be rooted & grounded in love and how that should impact their lives?

4. What would be most helpful in the long run: an individual solution to a circumstance and challenge OR increased spiritual strength and power through the Holy Spirit? Why?

5. Re-read verses 20-21. If God is truly able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, how does that impact your thoughts, prayers, and worship?



Ephesians 3:14–21 (ESV)

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:16-19 (NIV)

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 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, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

1) (verse 17) that God would give them power both through his Spirit and also through the indwelling of Christ

2) (verse 18) that God would empower them to grasp the magnitude of Christ's love

3) (verse 19) that they would be filled to the measure of God's own fullness.

Ephesians 1:19-20 (NLT)

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 2:22 (NIV)

And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Colossians 2:9-10 (NIV)

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness.

Ephesians 3:16,20 (ESV)

That according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit... Now to him who is able [has power] to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us...

F.F. Bruce - New International Commentary of the New Testament

It is impossible to ask God for too much. His capacity for giving far exceeds his people's capacity for asking—or even imagining.

Dr. Kyle Snodgrass - NIV Application Commentary

There is a problem. Paul prays for power and strength for his readers and asserts that God is both able and at work in them. This is a lofty goal and description. But if this is so, if the Spirit is supposed to empower Christians, why don't we experience this power more? Why are the church and its people so ineffective?

This is a problem we must face, but only two answers can be given:

- (1) The theology is wrong; it sounds nice, but God is neither able nor at work.
- (2) The theology is right, but we abort the process.

In answer, the problem is with us, not with God. The Spirit of Christ does not work in us without our willingness, nor does he move us to the desired goal overnight. He lives with us, and this life is a growth process. We are finite, limited, and prone to failure.

The real problem is that we do not care enough. We do not have the necessary discontent within ourselves that will lead to change.