

Paul's Second Prayer For The Ephesians

Ephesians 3:14-19

Paul's First Prayer For The Ephesians Ephesians 1:15-20

1. That they might **know God**. (Verse 17 cf. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)
2. That they might know the **hope of God's calling**. (Verse 18a)
 - Called by the gospel. 2 Thessalonians 2:14
 - Called into light. 1 Peter 2:9
 - Hope. Romans 8:24
3. That they might know the **riches of God's inheritance**. (Verse 18b; cf. Ephesians 2:12-13)
4. That they might know the **power of God**. (Verses 19-20)

Paul's Second Prayer For The Ephesians Ephesians 3:14-21

- Begins in Verse 1 ... *"For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus in behalf of you Gentiles"* –
- Verse 14 *"For this cause ..."*
 - Salvation by grace through faith. Ephesians 2:1-10
 - Through the cross, Jews and Gentiles become one. Ephesians 2:11-22; 3:6
 - Grandeur of the church. Ephesians 3:10-11
 - Boldness, confidence. Ephesians 3:13

Paul's Second Prayer For The Ephesians Ephesians 3:14-21

Verse 14, *"I bow my knees"* Posture in prayer ...

- Commonly found in Scripture. cf. Luke 22:41; Acts 9:40; 20:36; 21:5
- No official position:
 - Solomon *"stood"* when he prayed to dedicate the temple. 1 Kings 8:22
 - David *"sat"* before the Lord when he prayed about the future of his kingdom. 1 Chronicles 17:16
 - Jesus *"fell on His face"* when He prayed in Gethsemane. Matthew 26:39

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Verse 14, *"I bow my knees"* Posture in prayer ...

- **Our view of God must not be casual.**
 - He is the creator of heaven and earth. Genesis 1:1
 - He caused the sun and the moon to stand still. Joshua 10:12-14
 - He delivered His people from the hand of the Egyptians with wonders and signs. Exodus 7-14
 - He raised His Son from the dead. John 20
- Psalms 111:9, *"He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever: Holy and awesome is His name."* NKJV

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Verse 14, *"Unto the Father."*

- We pray *"to"* the Father (Matthew 6:9), *"in the name of"* Jesus. Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 3:17
 - God cares for us as a loving father. Matthew 7:11ff.
 - He supplies our every need (Philippians 4:19), and therefore we understand that every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights (James 1:17).
- Humility, honor, praise befitting of our approach to Sovereign Deity.
 - Moses hid his face. Exodus 3:6

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Verse 15, "From whom every **family** in heaven and on earth is named"

- **Jew or Gentile.** One family, one Father. (Ephesians 2:18-19; cf. Galatians 3:15ff)

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Verse 15, "Family" (patriá)

"Used in a wider sense as a people, nationality, or race (Acts 3:25 in allusion to Gen 12:3; 1 Chron 16:28; Ps 22:27; 96:7). In Eph 3:14,15 we have God presented as 'the Father' who has only one (family). This indicates the oneness of God's family, both Jews and Gentiles, ... who were all baptized into the body of Christ as is so clearly indicated in Acts chaps. 2; 10; 11; 19 and explained in 1 Cor 12:13. See Ex 6:15, 17, 19; 1 Sam 9:21."

(from The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

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Verses 16-19 What does Paul pray for?

Verse 16, That God would grant that they "may be strengthened with power ... in the inward man."

- "Power" (*dunamai*) which we need is the power of God, the same power which raised Christ from the dead (Ephesians 1:19-20; 6:10; Colossians 1:11).
- "Inner man." Where our consciences, our wills, live. (cf. Matthew 15:19; 22:37; Philippians 1:7; 1 Timothy 1:5; Proverbs 4:23; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Romans 7:22).

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Verses 16-19 What does Paul pray for?

Verse 16, That God would grant that they "may be strengthened with power ... in the inward man."

- "Through the Spirit" – Instruction, revelation. 1 Corinthians 2:9-13
- Romans 8:9-11; cf. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20
- We receive the Spirit by the hearing of faith. (Galatians 3:2)

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Verses 16-19 What does Paul pray for?

Verse 17, "That Christ may dwell in your hearts **through faith.**"

- "Faith" is the instrument through which God dwells in them. cf. Acts 27:25
- "'Dwell' to house permanently, i.e. reside (literally or figuratively)" (Strong)
- Note Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16 Galatians 2:20

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Verses 16-19 What does Paul pray for?

Verse 17, That **YE** "be **rooted and grounded in love**" (*Metaphors from agriculture and architecture*)

- "'Rooted' cause to take root; pass.: be rooted or firmly established. cf. Colossians 2:7"
- "'Grounded' 'to provide with a foundation' (Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament)
- "The sense is figurative in Ephesians 3:17; 1 Peter 5:10, i.e., 'to strengthen,' 'to confirm'" (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament)
- "Love" (*agape*)

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Verses 16-19 What does Paul pray for?

Verse 18, That **YOU** "may be strong to apprehend ... the love of Christ."

- "Breadth"
 - "Length"
 - "Height"
 - "Depth"
- "In Ephesians 3:18 the four different dimensions of space are used figuratively in the sense of 'that which is all-encompassing.'" (Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain.)

Expresses the grandeur of Christ's love!

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Verses 16-19 What does Paul pray for?

Verse 18, That **YOU** "may be strong to apprehend ... the love of Christ."

Verse 19, NOTE: Yet, such love passes (literally "excelling") knowledge.

- How is it possible to know the love of Christ, if it passes knowledge?
 - Factual revelation taken to heart. cf. Ephesians 2:4-5; 5:2; John 15:13; Romans 5:7-8; 2 Corinthians 5:14

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Verses 16-19 What does Paul pray for?

Verse 19, "That **YE** may be filled unto all the **fulness of God.**"

Used of complete measure:

- Fulness of God. Ephesians 3:19
- Fulness of Christ. Ephesians 4:13
- Fulness of the Godhead in Christ. Colossians 1:19
- Fulness of Him. Ephesians 1:23
- Fulness of the Gentiles. Romans 11:25

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Verses 16-19 What does Paul pray for?

Verse 19, "That ye may be filled unto all the **fulness of God.**"

- **Become more and more like God.**
 - Partakers of the divine nature. 2 Peter 1:4, 5-10
 - Perfect. Matthew 5:48
 - Holy. 1 Peter 1:16
- Sincerity, love, mercy, kindness, etc.

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- Paul's prayer on behalf of the Ephesians ...
 - That they be **strengthened** by the Spirit of God.
 - So they can **comprehend** the love of Christ.
 - And thus be **filled** with all the fullness of God.

• **NOW ... Is God "able" to fulfill this petition?**

YES!!! Note how he closes the prayer ...

Closing

Ephesians 3:20-21

Verse 20, Glory to God for what he is "able to do!"

– "**Exceeding**" "i. e. of position, situation, extension: over, above, beyond, across." (Thayer)

– "**Abundantly**" "superabundantly; beyond measure; exceedingly; 1 Thess 5:13" (Thayer)
 "'super-abundantly above' (*huper panta poiēsai huperekperissou*; literally, 'beyond all things to do superabundantly')." (C.G. Caldwell, *Ephesians*, Truth Commentaries, page 163)

Closing

Ephesians 3:20-21

Verse 20, Glory to God for what he is *“able to do!”*

- Athenians had to learn the glory of God. Acts 17:24-28
- Romans 16:25-27, *“Now **to him that is able** to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which hath been kept in silence through times eternal, but now is manifested, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, is made known unto all the nations unto obedience of faith: **to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever. Amen.**”*

Closing

Ephesians 3:20-21

Verse 20, Glory to God for what he is *“able to do!”*

God’s power seen:

- In creation. Genesis 1:1; Psalms 33:6-9
- In sacrifice. John 3:16
- In revelation. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- In salvation. Ephesians 2:1-10
- In judgment. Hebrews 4:13; 2 Corinthians 5:10

Closing

Ephesians 3:20-21

Verse 20, Glory to God for what he is *“able to do!”*

- Paul reaffirms God’s power to do what he has prayed for ...

- Romans 11:36; cf. 16:25; 9:5; Jude 24; Galatians 1:5

“According to the power that worketh in us”
cf. Ephesians 1:19; 3:16

- God’s love and grace revealed to us.
- NOTE: Only we limit the power of God.

Closing

Ephesians 3:20-21

Verse 21, Glory to God in the church and in Christ forever!

“Glory” used in two senses:

1. God’s supreme nature, powerful and good.
 - **INHERENT WITH THE BEING OF GOD**, man doesn’t give it, only recognizes it. Verse 16
 - cf. Romans 16:27, *“to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever. Amen.”*

Closing

Ephesians 3:20-21

Verse 21, Glory to God in the church and in Christ forever!

“Glory” used in two senses:

2. Praise and honor rendered by **OTHERS** because of His greatness. Verse 21

- cf. Revelation 4:8-11
- In this sense, glory should never be given to men! Psalms 115:1, *“Not unto us, O Jehovah, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy lovingkindness, and for thy truth’s sake.”* cf. 1 Corinthians 1:29-31

Closing

Ephesians 3:20-21

Verse 21, Glory to God in the church and in Christ.

- The church is the means by which Glory is given to God. cf. 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
 - Note: *“Church”* is singular indicating that men praise God within the one body (Ephesians 4:4; 1:22-23);
- *“Unto all generations forever and ever.”*
 - Throughout the ages and throughout eternity! cf. Revelation 5:9-14
- **The most respectful manner in which we glorify the Father is to respond to His will as revealed in the Gospel.**
“AMEN!”

Conclusion:

- Do we desire to give God glory throughout all ages, world without end? NOTE: Ephesians 1-3
- If so, then it must be *"by Jesus Christ,"* and that can be only as we ...
 - **Come to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge.**
 - **Allow ourselves to *"be filled with all the fullness of God."***
- How can we be sure to be *"filled with all the fullness of God"?*
 - For one who is ALREADY A CHRISTIAN, we should follow Paul's example and start with prayer (such as the one in our text)
 - For one who is NOT A CHRISTIAN, then one needs first to become a child of God. cf. Galatians 3:26-27