

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

**Study Series: Life-Changing Prayers
Part 2: Ephesians 3:14-21**

**Wednesday, January 11th, 2023
Facilitator: Pastor Jide Lawore**

Introduction

Last week we learned that one of the most effective ways to pray is praying the spirit-inspired-prayers (also called Pauline prayers) and confessing them into our lives. We said every believer should memorize as many of these prayers as possible and pray them for themselves and others regularly. As a believer prays and confesses these prayer, two things happen.

- 1) The revelation of the truth in them will begin to drop into your heart.
- 2) As a result of that revelation, your life begins to reflect the intent of those prayers.

We focused on one of the two prayers found in Ephesians. Apostle Paul prays in Ephesians 1:17-21:

“.....that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.”

Has anyone memorized this prayer?

Today, we are going to look at the second Pauline prayer in the Book of Ephesians. While the first prayer (found in Ephesians 1:17-21) focusses on the revelation knowledge of God and of everything available to us in Christ, the second prayer (found in Ephesians 3:14-21) focusses on strengthening our inner man and knowing and experiencing the love of God.

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NKJV) *“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 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, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”*

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NLT) *When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, 15 the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. 16 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. 17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. 18 And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. 19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. 20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. 21 Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.*

Elements of Ephesians 3:14-21 Prayer

“According to the riches of His glory”

- This is popular phrase is loved by Apostle Paul and its understanding is critical to the prayer itself. (Romans 9:22-23, Colossians 1:27, Romans 1:18-19, Philippians 4:19)
- What do you understand by the riches of His glory?

“To be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.”

- Three key words; might, Spirit and inner man.
- What does it mean to be strengthened with might through the Spirit in the inner man? Ephesians 6:10

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”

- What is the meaning and implication of Christ dwelling in hearts.
- What is the correlation between this and Galatians 4:19?

“That you, being rooted and grounded in love.”

- What does it mean to be rooted and grounded in love?

The you “may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge.”

- Why is it important to know the love of God?

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

- This is the ultimate intent of this prayer. To be filled with all the fullness of God. What makes all Pauline prayers power is that they are Christ-centered, and God focused.
- What does it mean to be filled with all the fullness of God?

Ending with Praise and Worship

- *“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”*
- What is the power that is at work in us?

Memorize this prayer from *Ephesians 3:16-19*

*I pray “that **God** would grant **me**, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in **my** inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in **my** hearts through faith; that **I**, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that **I** may be filled with all the fullness of God.”*

“20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”