

The 4th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, June 16, 2024
“The Prayers of Paul: More Than We Can Ask or Imagine”

Ephesians 3:14-21

Because believers are the habitation of the all-powerful God of the universe—God’s _____ is in them. Paul prays that God would enable the Ephesians to employ the _____ of that power in their everyday lives.

Abba =

Paul approaches the Father with _____ and confidence, knowing that He is more _____ for His children to come to Him than they are of going to Him.

I BOW MY KNEES

- An attitude of _____—the recognition that one is in the presence of someone who is much higher in _____, dignity or authority.

“Come, let us worship and bow down; let kneel before the Lord our Maker.” (Psalm 95:6)

Whereas the first prayer was a prayer for _____, this second prayer is a prayer for _____—that the Ephesians would be able to _____ the things the Lord wants them to accomplish.

Paul pleads with believers to _____ to God’s sovereign _____, and he pleads with God to _____ them to do it.

PAUL’S 5 PETITIONS

Petition #1: _____.

“I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit...” (Ephesians 3:16)

The first step to living like God’s children is to be strengthened in our _____ by the Holy Spirit.

Paul also knew that our physical bodies were destined to _____—that they were only _____ housing for the real person.

“So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away,

our inner nature is being renewed day by day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16)

Only _____ God can reach and cure our inner being, and this is where He most wants to work, because this is where our _____ life exists and must grow.

Although our outer physical nature becomes weaker and weaker with age, our inner, spiritual nature should continually _____ stronger and stronger through the _____ of the Holy Spirit.

“Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16)

When our inner being is fed regularly on the _____ and seeks the Spirit’s _____ in all the decisions of life, we can be sure that we’ll be strengthened with power through God’s Spirit.

“‘No by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty.” (Zechariah 4:6)

Do you know the Spirit’s power in your life?
How strong are you in your inner being?

Petition #2: _____.

“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.” (Ephesians 3:17)

katoikeo =

kata =

oikeo =

The connotation isn’t simply Christ living in our hearts, but being at _____ there, _____ down as a family member.

Christ lives in us—this happens at _____. However, He can’t be “at home” in our hearts until our inner being _____ to the _____ of His Spirit.

Paul’s teaching here isn’t about the _____ of Jesus’ presence in the hearts of believers, but the _____ of His presence.

“Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” (John 14: 23)

How comfortable is Jesus in your heart?
Are there any rooms that might need to be cleaned out?

Petition #3: _____.

“...and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge...” (Ephesians 3:17b-19)

The result of our yielding to the Spirit’s power and submitting to Christ’s Lordship in our hearts is _____.

- That we would love each other with an _____ love.

“A new commandment I give you, that you love one another, as I have loved you.” (John 13:34)

“Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart.” (1 Peter 1:22)

Biblical ‘agape’ love is an attitude of _____; a matter of the _____, not a matter of feeling or _____.

We can only have this kind of love when Christ is _____ to work His own love through us—when He has free _____ in our hearts.

- That we would comprehend the _____ of God’s love. Love is available to every believer because _____ is available to every believer.

Breadth, length, height and depth doesn’t refer to 4 specific types of love, but simply suggests its _____ and _____.

- Love’s breadth in God’s _____ of Gentile and Jew equally in Christ.
- Love’s length in God’s _____ us before the foundation of the world.
- Love’s height in God’s _____ us up and seating us in the heavenly places.
- Love’s depth in God reaching down to the lowest levels of depravity to _____ those who were dead in their trespasses and sins.
- That we would know the love of Christ even though it _____ knowledge.

What is incomprehensible to the world is to be _____ living for the children of God.

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.” (1 John 4:7-8)

**Do you know the breadth, length, height and depth of God’s love?
Do you love other with an active love?**

Petition #4: _____.

“That you may be filled up to all the fulness of God.” (Ephesians 3:19b)

To even begin to grasp the magnitude of this truth, we need to think of all of the _____ and _____ of God:

pleroma =

In the New Testament, it speaks of of total _____.

To be filled with the fulness of God is to be totally _____ by Him—to be _____ of self.

How filled are you with the fulness of God?

Petition #5: _____.

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!” (John 14:12-14)

There’s no situation in which the Lord can’t use us, provided we are _____ to Him.

“Jesus looked at them intently and said, ‘Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.’” (Matthew 19:26)

Do you believe this?

Do you believe that God can do exceedingly more than you can ask or imagine?