

LESSON 7 - EPHESIANS 3:14-22

Paul understood the value of a relationship with God. Through these final verses of chapter 3, he gives us a process of steps to draw us closer to Jesus Christ in fellowship through prayer. This passage is full of clues about Paul's comprehension of God the Father and the wonderful fellowship he enjoyed with Him.



THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

As you begin, read through Ephesians 3 as a whole to absorb the chapter in its entirety. Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate your mind and instruct you through the wonder of this text.

1. Both verses 1 and 14 begin, "For this reason..." What is Paul referring to?

2. Now read focusing on verses 14–21. In your own words, what seems to be Paul's emphasis in this prayer?
 - a. Does that resemble your own prayers?

3. How does verse 14 reveal Paul's attitude toward God and the preparation of his heart for prayer?

*Thou art coming to a king,
large petitions with thee bring,
for his grace and power are such
none can ever ask too much.*



MIXING THE MORTAR

Read Ephesians 3:14-15

4. In verse 14, Paul mentions a prayer posture, what was it? From the following verses determine other postures for prayer mentioned in the Word:

Exodus 34:8 -

1 Kings 8:22 -

1 Chronicles 17:16 -

Luke 22:41–42 -

Acts 7:60 -

- a. After reading these passages, which of the postures do you use in your prayer life most often? As a challenge, pick one of the other postures mentioned and use it this week as you pray. Try using one of the following prayers as a pattern to enrich your time of communion (Matthew 6:9–13, Ephesians 1:17–19, Ephesians 3:16–21, Colossians 1:9–12, etc.).

5. What thought does the word “Father” in verse 14 convey to you?

- a. How should the knowledge that God is our Father impact our prayer lives?

6. Take a moment to consider some of the divine characteristics of our Heavenly Father.

Psalm 103:13

Isaiah 47:7

Lamentations 3:22

Matthew 6:32

2 Corinthians 1:3

James 1:17

- a. Can you see how our relationship with God the Father is one of affection and love? How will this affect you coming to Him in prayer?
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7. Read Matthew 7:7–11. In your own words, describe what a “good” father is like.
 - a. Have you received “good gifts” from God in answer to your prayer? Please try to share at least one with your group.
 - b. How does learning more about God’s love help you to trust Him more?
 - c. Have you ever experienced doubt about God’s love for you because of a particular sin or situation in your life?

- d. What does Ephesians 2:1–7, reveal about God’s love for you and His plan for you?
8. In verse 15, whom is Paul speaking about? Who is named after the Father?
- a. According to 1 John 2:12–13, who makes up the family of God?
- b. Are you a member of God’s family? If so, what assures you of that truth? If not, what keeps you from becoming part of His family?



USING A TROWEL

Read verses 16-19

9. Verse 16 tells us that God grants to us “according to the riches of His glory,” meaning that God doesn’t give just a portion, but in proportion to all that He has.
- a. What does this mean to you personally?

b. Describe a time when you experienced how God lavished His riches on you.

10. As you follow Paul's prayer, what is the emphasis on each of the following?

verse 16b

verse 17a

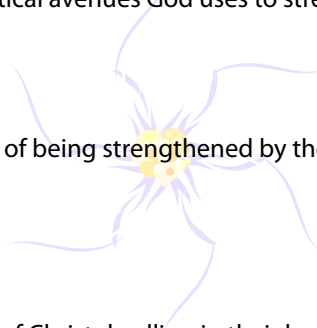
verses 18–19

11. According to verse 17, through what means does God strengthen believers?

a. Where does God strengthen believers?

b. What are some practical avenues God uses to strengthen His children?

c. Explain the purpose of being strengthened by the Spirit.



12. Clarify the meaning of Christ dwelling in their hearts. (Hint: he is not referring to initial salvation.)

13. What are we to be rooted and grounded in according to this prayer?

- a. Read John 14:17. What other member of the Trinity resides within the hearts of believers?

CUTTING THE STONE



If you are a believer, Christ is already in your heart; but is He comfortable and at home there? Are there any hidden closets in your life that you want to keep 'private'? Is there anything that is offensive or grieving to His Holy Spirit? Take a few moments now to meditate on Psalm 139:23–24 and allow Christ to exercise His lordship over every aspect of your heart.

STONE QUARRY



Ephesians 3:16–19 is a wonderful prayer to personalize and use for yourself and others. Take a moment and put Paul's requests in your own words, replacing your name with the pronouns and write out a prayer that you can use for yourself and others.

*The power of Christ in you is greater than
the pressure of troubles around you.*

14. What does it mean to be “filled with all the fullness of God”?
15. Paul ends his prayer by breaking into a doxology of praise. Why do you think he emphasizes that God is able to do more for us that we could even imagine?
- a. Should we take this literally?
 - b. What effect should this have on the way we pray?
16. Look up the word “glory” in a dictionary or concordance. What is the meaning?
- a. Why should we give Him glory?

*“Once you get into the position of an asker,
you shall have what you never asked for, and never thought to receive!”*

C. H. Spurgeon

CUTTING THE STONE



Which adjectives best describe the quality of your prayers?

Check all that apply:

Dull

Courageous

Cautious

Boring

Unimaginative

Repetitive

Daring

General

Fearless

Specific

Bold

Confident

Consider your typical list of prayer requests—those things you pray for regularly. How do they compare to the requests made by Paul?



STONE UPON STONE

Group Discussion Questions

Paul has challenged us through prayer, opening up vast avenues to explore and develop in our own personal prayer time. Take a moment to answer the following questions for your time of discussion after the message. Read Ephesians 3:14–21.

1. What does it mean to have the Spirit strengthen or empower your inner being?
 - a. Can you describe what this would look like in a person's life?

- b. What needs do you have in your life that only God's power can supply?

2. How does a deep grasp of Christ's love affect your spiritual life?

3. Is it possible to know something that surpasses knowledge (verse 19)? Please explain.

4. Explain in your own words how Paul's four requests are related to one another.

5. If God's glory is the end and purpose of all things, how should this affect the way we view our present circumstances?

6. Despite his imprisonment, Paul rose above his daily circumstances and offered up praise to God for His mighty works. What can we learn concerning the way Paul prayed specifically for the needs of others?

7. What ministered to you personally through this study?

Come, dearest Lord, descend and dwell
By faith and love in every breast;
Then shall we know, and taste, and feel
The joys that cannot be expressed.
Come, fill our hearts with inward strength,
Make our enlarged souls possess,
And learn the height, and breadth, and length
Of thine unmeasurable grace.
Now to the God whose power can do
More than our thoughts or wishes know,
Be everlasting honors done
By all the church, through Christ his Son.
-- Isaac Watts

