

PRAY FOR THE FULLNESS OF GOD
EPHESIANS 3:14-21
9-15-24

I. CONTEXT

- 1. Persecution and imprisonment**
- 2. Paul prays for strength that can only come from the fullness of God**

II. HOW DID PAUL PRAY?

- 1. On his knees**
 - A.** Communicates earnestness and deep emotion
 - B.** He is desperate for the Lord's work in the church

III. WHO DID PAUL PRAY TO?

- 1. The Trinity**
 - A.** God the Father (v.14), God the Spirit (v.16), God the Son (v.17)

Ephesians 3:14-17 - "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love..."

IV. WHAT DID PAUL PRAY FOR?

1. Unity from the Father

Ephesians 3:14-15 - "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named..."

- A.** We are unified under the name of God
- B.** God's name is the most important name we bear

2. Strength from the Spirit

Ephesians 3:16 - "...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being..."

- A.** In our "inner being" = our spirits
- B.** Strength to live holy in unholy days

3. Knowledge of Christ's Love

Ephesians 3:17-19a - "...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge..."

- A.** Christ needs to "Dwell" in our hearts
- B.** Results in us being "rooted and grounded in Love"
- C.** Gives us the strength to "comprehend" Christ's love

V. RESULT OF THIS PRAYER

Ephesians 3:19b – "...that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

1. We are filled with the FULLNESS of God

- A. I want us to know God FULLY
- B. I want us to be FULL of God

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. Paul prayed desperately and earnestly from his knees. What prompted Paul to pray this way for the church? What are some things that should make us pray this way today?
3. Why is it important for us to know who Paul prays to? How does deeper knowledge of God impact our prayer lives?
4. What does Paul pray for the church in his prayer? Why are these important things to pray for the Church today in 2024?
5. How can we foster Christ "dwelling" more in our hearts today?
6. Do you think that we appreciate the love of God today as Christians? Why or why not? If not, then how do we get a deeper appreciation for the love of Christ?
7. How can you exemplify being "FULL" of Christ in our church and in our world?

PRAY OVER OUR CHURCH

- Take some time and pray this passage over our church...
 - Pray that we would understand God the Father as our great unifier in the church
 - Pray that the Holy Spirit would strengthen our church and us for the difficult days we find ourselves in
 - Pray that we would grow deep in our comprehension of Christ's great sacrificial love.
 - Pray that we would be a church that is FULL of God
 - Pray that we would be a church who knows God FULLY