

# Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians 3:14-19

- *I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*
- *He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory,*
- *to be strengthened with power*
- *through His Spirit in the inner man,*
- *that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;*
- *that you, being rooted and grounded in love,*
- *may be able to comprehend with all the saints*
- *what is the width and length and depth and height —*
- *to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge;*
- *that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

# Strengthened with Power

- *through His Spirit in the inner man*
- *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16-17*
- *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, Rom. 1:16-17*
- *And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. 1Jn. 5:4*

# Strengthened with Power

- *through His Spirit in the inner man*
- *when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. 1Th. 2:13*
- *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Heb. 4:12-13*

# Strengthened with Power

- *through His Spirit in the inner man,*
- Abraham:
- *He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, Rom 4:20-21*
- David before Goliath
- Joshua and Caleb (but not the other 10 spies)
- Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego – Furnace
- Daniel at the Lion's den

# Strengthened with Power

- *through His Spirit in the inner man,*
- *For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Heb 11:32-35*

# Christ may Dwell in your Hearts through Faith

- *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Gal 2:20-21*
- As we read, apply, study and grow, we allow Christ to enter.
- *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*  
*Rev 3:20-21*

# Being Rooted and Grounded in Love

*rhizo-o to cause to strike root; strengthen with roots.*

**The roots of the tree gives it both stability and sustenance.**



# Rooted in Love

- *4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. 1Cor. 13:4-8*
- This is love in the image and likeness of God
- A love all shared with Him in the garden of Eden
- A love that was lost in the sea of the selfish use of others for our own needs
- We must find out way back



# Grounded in Love

*Themelioo... to lay the foundation, to found (Thayer p. 287; 2311)*

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, .... 1Cor 15:58*

# As a Tree (Roots) / Building (Foundation)

- *Agape – love is the key to unlock the door that leads to both knowledge and ability to understand the love of Christ. Without it we are nothing!*
- *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.*

1Cor 13:1-8

# To Know the Love of Christ

- *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this mind in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, Phil. 2:3-8*

# The Wording is Important

- *may be able to comprehend with all the saints*
- *what is the width and length and depth and height*
- *to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge;*
- It is a progression.
- First, rooted and grounded in love we open the door of possibility because without *agape-love it is impossible!*
- Second, we must become aware of how vast and complex this love is.
- It has width, length, depth and height.
- How can we comprehend how the one who created us with omnipotent power and wisdom left heaven, took a human body and died for us?

# Filled with All the Fullness of God

- *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. 1Jn. 4:7-13*

# Paul's Prayer

- The path to maturity and the true image of God
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