

Rooted and Grounded in Love

Ephesians 3:14-21

In the book of Ephesians Paul prays twice for the church from prison, here :16-19 & 1:15-23. Four petitions he prays for. Strength, foundation, comprehend, fullness. Experience is better than knowledge. *We can study surfing but getting in water falling off the board getting back on the board.* Paul goes from knowing our riches in Christ to enjoying them.

Paul's prison prayers mostly deal w/ spiritual wealth in inner man not material riches, emphasized by some of these charlatans today. If we fail in Gods deeper things we leave people empty tho they sit in their mansion w/ material wealth but wonder *why am I not happy* & *what am I here for?* Got desires of outer man but bankrupt on the inner man.

14 For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,

For this reason goes back to vs 1 what he declared in ch 2 Jesus death on cross took away enmity, broke down wall of separation—one new man—all in household of God, holy temple...living stones 1Pet No longer strangers, aliens, w/o hope. Given all spiritual blessings in heaven. Rich in Christ.

Because of this; *bow my knees* in submission, honor, gratitude-*remember he's chained to Roman soldier*. Position of body less important than position of heart *Ps 84:2 My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God NKJ.—sit, walk, stand, face down.* *Before the Father*--If never have father figure for love, honor, disciple & training it's all new & hard to know how to respond. *Wimpy*-(false humility-cowering) *Brash*-(arrogant, head not tail) *Docile* (timid & shy) *Aggressive* (harsh, pushy) Wondering how am I supposed to be? *I was never taught. Tho my father and mother forsake me the Lord will take me up Pr 27:10*

Rooted and Grounded in Love

Ephesians 3:14-21

All families ultimately related to God by creation but disadvantaged & distanced because of sin—Salvation made us part of family of God--the rest their *father the devil* **Jn 8:44**. Since He is our father and we are in His family we act in accord w/ family rules, Father's will & His **nature**/character.

16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man;

First petition is for strength in inner man....*grant you...according to..* or *in proportion to* riches of His glory. In other words unlimited, not out of but according to...if Elon gave \$100 for disaster relief on Maui that would be out of, but if he gave 1 million \$ that would be according to. **Hetty Green 95 mill**

God's immeasurable riches--*according to riches of His glory*. Not by human measurement but divine, inexhaustible, supernatural measurement of *strength* for whatever situation--God's power by His Spirit.

He sends forth His Spirit and they are created...Ps 104:30. Only hindrance is us & our limiting God thru unbelief...*how can God use me, I'm such an unclean, unstable, weak person, undeserving, double minded, not even liking myself*. But note the struggle is in the *inner man*—fighting for control of me—I'm so used to doing it my way & letting God do things His way when I agree but always a struggle of the will...**God or me in charge**-The difference between deeper walk or not. *He would grant you meaning are you willing*--He's not going to huff & puff and blow His way into your life--you must let Him in & give Him permission to do the things He wants to do. By His spirit....

AW Tozer"If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference."

Rooted and Grounded in Love

Ephesians 3:14-21

*17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being **rooted** and **grounded** in love,*

*Christ in you the hope of glory Col 1:27... To dwell in our hearts is to settled down fixedly, permanently, to be at home—Jesus said *Lk 9:62*“**No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**”....*w/ longing*....*Double minded unstable in all ways*.... Rooted & grounded in soil of love is a work of Spirit...*fruit of the Spirit*.*

Rooted-picture of tree roots in ground as spreading as wide as height of tree--w/stands storms. Grounded is foundation **love never fails** *Deepened footings of Gym so not slide into ravine or gully.*

People looking for love in all the wrong places—imitation of God’s love—Most often a worldly kind of love, looking to please self, what do I get out of it—lust. But Gods kind of love displayed on cross, selfless, benefiting you and me...*for God so loved world*.....

*18 may be able to **comprehend** with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be **filled up to all the fullness of God***

Be able to comprehend, come to & understand the incomprehensible love of God—breadth, length, height, depth – His love goes beyond human comprehension & be *filled up w/ God’s fullness*. A fullness we can’t entirely contain--*so it overflows to those around* —*Jn 7:37-39 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.’” 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

Rooted and Grounded in Love

Ephesians 3:14-21

To pour the ocean into a thimble is impossible, it would overflow—you can never get the ocean into a thimble but you can keep pouring & it will keep overflowing—it's inexhaustible--So it is w/ Gods Spirit & His love.

Our eyes away from self and look to Him who is able to do what we can't, *exceeding abundantly above* all we ask or think...we limit ourselves in our asking..*Ps 2:8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Thy possession. ...as a man thinks in his heart so is he....*Our thinking directs our praying...Ed & school...Jake & KLHT...church downtown praying Komo Mai....Rich, Candace Japan school/church

It is His power working in us to bring to pass God's plans that He puts in our hearts so that when we look back (*our history w/ God*) can say '*to God be the glory great things He has done*'

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

He is able to go way beyond our asking, thinking & our imagining (*Chuck imaginering*) Paul's words express the vastness, immensity, unsearchable creator God. At the same time His power at work **for** us a&nd **in** us.

Closes w/ trinity in unity *Him*-Father; *power*-Holy Spirit; *Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory*-Only God receives glory in the church—*we don't want to draw undo attention to ourselves*—exuberant praise, clapping, hallelujahs, *screams* can startle take attention away from Christ—be sensitive *am I drawing attention to myself and away from Christ*—we only want to glory in Him--Amen