

PRAYING INTENTIONALLY

Ephesians 3:14-21

Paul gives us two reasons to pray with intention.

- 1) We are too blessed not to pray with intention---“*For this reason I bow my knees...*”
- 2) We are too needy not to pray with intention---“*For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you...*”

Notice the 5 intentional requests made by Paul on behalf of the church at Ephesus and us as well.

1. That they be _____ by the _____, vs. 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...”

*“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**” “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.””*
(Matthew 28:18–20)

*“**but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;** and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”” (Acts 1:8)*

*“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, **but of power** and love and discipline.” (2 Timothy 1:7)*

*“for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, **but divinely powerful** for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,” (2 Corinthians 10:4–5)*



*“I can do all things through Him who **strengthens me.**”
(Philippians 4:13)*

Why We Are Not Strong in the Spirit

- 1) We sometimes Ignore the Spirit’s Presence and Witness.
- 2) We sometimes Resist the Spirit.

“Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS,” (Hebrews 3:7–8)

- 3) We sometimes Grieve the Spirit.

“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:30)

- 4) We sometimes Quench the Spirit.

“Do not quench the Spirit;” (1 Thessalonians 5:19)

2. That they be _____ with _____ Presence, vs. 17a.

“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...”

“And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in Him” (Living Bible)

“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16)

*“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”
(1 Corinthians 6:19)*



3. That they be _____ and Led by the _____ of God, vs. 17-19a.

“May your roots go down deep into the soil of God’s marvelous love; and may you be able to understand, as all God’s children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high His love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it” (Living Bible)

A. There should be a _____ on God’s love, vs. 17b.

“...and that you, being rooted and grounded in love...”

B. There should be _____ of the dimensions and dynamics of God’s love, vs. 17b.

“...may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth...”

C. There must be a _____ of God’s love---“...and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge.”

4. _____ with the Fullness of the _____, vs. 19b.

“...that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.”

“And so at last you will be filled up with God Himself” (Living Bible)

“For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;” (Colossians 2:9–10)

How to be Filled Up with God

- 1) There must be _____ in my life.
- 2) There must be _____ in my life.
- 3) There must be _____ in my life.



5. That they _____ God's _____, vs. 20-21.

A. God's _____ Championed, vs. 20a.

"Now to Him who is able..."

B. God's _____ Contemplated, vs. 20b.

"...to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think..."

C. God's _____ Claimed, vs. 20c.

"...according to the power that works within us..."

D. God's _____ Chorused in the Church, vs. 21.

"...to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."

ANSWERS: Strengthened, Spirit, Comfortable, Christ's, Lifted, Love, dependence, discovery, dispensing, Filled Up, Father, prayerfulness, holiness, yieldedness, Proclaim, Praise, Person, Provision, Power, Praise.

Benediction:

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20–21)