



Lesson 7: Praying Like Paul

Ephesians 3:14-21

Have you ever timed your prayers? Have you ever tried to meet a certain goal for praying, say an hour? Or even 15 minutes? Ever struggled and been frustrated with what exactly to pray? In this section, Paul concludes the doctrinal half of this letter (chapters 1-3) with a prayer that all the teaching Paul has given will sink down into their hearts. He prays that believers will “get it,” that their lives will be changed as a result of what they have learned. Part of the reason we struggle to pray as we do is because we so often miss the spiritual dimension of our prayers and focus exclusively on the temporal issues. Paul shows us how our prayers should go much deeper, and the types of things we should be praying for.

**PAUL PRAYS THAT BELIEVERS WOULD _____ BY GOD
(vv 14-17a)**

- **Our strength is possible because of God’s _____.** When Paul says that every family in heaven and earth is named by the God, he means every family that exists exists because of God. It is out of God’s great riches of glory that Paul asks him to empower us.
- **Our strength is possible because of God’s _____.** The Holy Spirit is often called the agent of change,



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- **Our strength is possible because of God’s _____.** The Holy Spirit is often called the agent of change,

because it is the Spirit himself who indwells and empowers us to live for God (cf 2 Corinthians 3:18).

- **This strength enables Christ to live more fully in our hearts.** Although Christ currently is with us through the Spirit (cf Matthew 28:20), we allow him to truly “settle down” when we hand over our entire lives to him. God’s strengthening allows Christ to live more fully and completely in and through our lives.

PAUL PRAYS THAT BELIEVERS WOULD _____ CHRIST’S LOVE (vv 17b-19)

- **Paul shows us what is _____ for growth.** “Rooted” is an agricultural image while “grounded” is a construction metaphor. Both are showing that before we can understand Christ’s love, we must first have experienced it.
- **Paul highlights the importance of _____.** He is careful to emphasize that we grow in our understanding of Christ’s love with “all the saints.” Without the help of other believers, you will not be able to understand Christ’s love as fully.
- **Paul wants believers to know the _____ of Christ’s love.** He describe the great immensity of this love by describing it as high and low and wide, and by describing it as something we should seek to know even though it will never fully be known.

PAUL PRAYS THAT GOD WOULD BE _____ (vv 20-21)

- **The _____ who should be glorified (v 20)**
God’s power is so great it far exceed what we could hope or think, especially when we pray for the types of things Paul prays for in this passage.
- **The _____ God wants to be glorified (v 21)**
God’s desire is to be glorified through the lives of believers, as they live together as a community of believers (the church).

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