



“Effectual Prayer”

The Church’s Calling

Ephesians 3:14-21

When we pray we must remember the:

I. Who - “For this cause I bow ” (vs. 14-16)

Our prayer should address the:

A. Provider – “unto the Father”

B. Producer – “by His Spirit”

C. Project – “strengthened...in the inner man”

II. What – “ with all the fullness of God ” (vs. 16-19)

Our prayer should ask for help to :

A. Commune – “Christ may dwell”

B. Comprehend - “be able to comprehend with all saints”

C. Complement - “that ye might be filled ”

III. Why - “ Unto Him be glory” (vs. 20-21)

Our prayer should acknowledge His :

A. Ability – “exceedingly abundantly above all”

B. Assembly – “in the church”

C. Advocacy – “by Christ Jesus”
active support

Sentence Sermon:

“Effectual Prayer is infused with the power of the Spirit enabling us to go deeper with Christ unto the glory of God.

Additional Verses

- Romans 8:38-39; 7:22; 5:7-8
- John 15:13; 14:17; 13:34
- II Corinthians 5:14
- II Peter 1:3-8
- Colossians 1:19; 2:9-10
- I Corinthians 2:9
- I Thessalonians 5:13; 3:10
- Jeremiah 33:3
- Philippians 2:15

Questions to Ponder:

- 1. Compare and contrast the prayer in this passage with Ephesians 1:16-23?
- 2. What is another word for “grant” in verse 16? What is its significance to Paul’s prayer request?
- 3. Why could verse 20 be seen as an indictment of believers?
- 4. In what three entities does Paul desire God to be glorified?

INTRO:

Is all prayer the same? What kinds of prayers are there?

How about spiritual prayers versus nonspiritual prayers? How about prayers that work versus prayers that don't work. Effective Spiritual prayers could be called Effect-ual as a way of blending the two words Effective and Spiritual.... That's the kind of prayer Paul prayed and we can learn from today.

V. 14

- For this cause = that you faint not(v. 13), cp. with 3:1 which refers to “builted together for a habitation of God” = Spiritual needs of others
- I bow my knees = some in scripture stood, layed down, walked, and even prayed while being submerged....you know the guy that was so down in the mouth that when he prayed it was nauseating, at least to the fish that swallowed him.....It is not so much about the posture but the attitude and reverence and submission (think about the testimony to the Roman soldier he may have been chained to)
- Unto the **Father** of **our** Lord Jesus Christ = Prayers should be addressed to the Father,,our Lord Jesus Christ describes our privilege and His deity.

V. 15

- Of whom the whole family...is named = family could be translated “fatherhood”....Our heavenly father is the original and the standard for fathers
 - Whole family better read “every family”

V. 16

- That He would grant you = that God the Father would simply and freely give you
- according to the riches of His glory = Speaks of “proportion” not just portion....No worry about the availability or ability of God to “afford” our request...compare to all the times this phrase or similar phrase was used in Ephesians so far (
 - To be strengthened with might
 - By His Spirit
 - In the inner man

V. 17

- That Christ may dwell
 - in your hearts
 - by faith
- that ye being rooted and grounded in love

V. 18

- may be able
- to comprehend with all saints = to lay hold of ...experientially...growing in our understanding of Christ love and begin to not only enjoy it but demonstrate it to those who need it.
- what is the breath = to a great extent = HD
- and length and depth and height = 3D
>>>Experience love in High definition 3D

V. 19

- And to know the love of Christ = “to have a lively sense of it” as barnes states it
- Which passes knowledge – more than what’s in the head....it is a overflowing of the heart
- That ye might be – desire, potential, expectation
- Filled with all the fullness of God = speaks of cumulative actionbeing filled with or being more godly or godlike as time goes on.

V. 20

- **Now unto Him that:**
 - **Is**
 - **Is able**
 - **Is able To do**
 - **Is able To do what we ask or think**
 - **Is able To do all that we ask or think**

- **Is able To do above all that we ask or think**
- **Is able To do abundantly above all that we ask or think**
- **Is able To do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think**
- **To do exceedingly abundantly = highest form of comparison imaginable (I Thessalonians 3:10; 5:13 only 2 other places found this compound word)**
- **Above all that we = not that we can but that we “do” ask**
- **Ask = to ask**
- **Or Think = to understand**
- **According to the power that works in us = the power that works...its effective**

V. 21

- **Unto Him be glory = God is only one deserving (Romans 16:27 – “only wise” be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.**
- **In the church = in the assembly...How He wants to be Glorified**
- **By Christ Jesus = in Christ Jesus**
- **Throughout all ages = to all generations**
- **World without end = forever**
- **Amen**