

- \_\_\_\_\_ we should Pray 3:14
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – 2:13-22  
Pray because of what you have been given.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – 3:1  
Pray for what you will face because of what you have been given.
- \_\_\_\_\_ we can be \_\_\_\_\_ in Prayer – 3:15
  - Nothing in \_\_\_\_\_ is Greater than God – 3:14b-15
  - Nothing on \_\_\_\_\_ is Greater than God – 3:15
- \_\_\_\_\_ we should Pray for 3:16-17
  - \_\_\_\_\_ strength – 3:16
  - Christ \_\_\_\_\_ your life – 3:17
  - \_\_\_\_\_ in love – 3:17b
  - \_\_\_\_\_ in love – 3:17b
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of Prayer 3:18-19
  - \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel – 3:18
  - \_\_\_\_\_ the love of Christ
  - Have the \_\_\_\_\_ of God & the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ

### Action Point:

- Pray with Faith in \_\_\_\_\_ to answer vs. Your \_\_\_\_\_ - 3:20-21

\*AGI: Plant that is rooted and watered

I. **Why** We Should Pray: Cause of Prayer – v.14 “*For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,*”

v.1 connects with v.14. Verse 2-13 are a parentheses. The Word of God provides an ultra clear picture of the state of affairs. Isn’t it an incredible thing that God cares so much for us that He sent the ultimate Text Message, the Bible, that is not limited to 143 characters, but explains beyond the shadow of a doubt how to have a relationship with God. Even in difficult epistles like Ephesians, there is a section that re-emphasizes how awesome the Gospel of Christ really is, so that those of us who may need things repeated can truly grasp the truth and the deep water excavators of God’s Word can go ever deeper into “*the unfathomable riches of Christ*” (3:8)

The cause of prayer:

1) **Blessings** – 2:13-22

- A. 2:12-13 Reconciled/brought near to God when you were once separated
- B. 2:14,16 Reconciled/brought near to people you were once separated from
- C. 2:15 The wrath of God against you has been removed through Christ’s death and resurrection on your behalf
- D. 2:19 Been adopted into the family of God = Change of fathers (devil to God; instead of being like the devil, you can now resemble the moral attributes of your Creator).
- E. 2:20 Been a recipient of God’s Message of Redemption
- F. 2:21-22 Part of an ongoing project with God as the project manager

= Pray because of what you have been given.

2) **Burdens** – 3:1 Paul was a prisoner because of preaching the Gospel = being obedient to God

\*No war is ever won without a struggle. As David Rowe said, “Somebody’s gotta bleed!” Do not think that by getting saved is the final word in the final chapter of the book. It’s like being a prisoner and a slave your entire life, tortured and mangled by brutal and vicious captors with not even an ounce of mercy. In fact, you have been so abused that you now have a certain kind of twisted affinity for these horrendous captors.

Then one day there is terror in the camp and a force more powerful than anything you have ever seen: a warrior whose eyes are like lightning, thunders through the blackened gate of your captors and they, terrified at the sight of this Warrior, cry out in morbid fear and swiftly flee. This Warrior dismounts and through the haze, stoops over you and takes the tattered blinder off your eyes and then you realize; my entire life has been in darkness but now I am in the midst of this marvelous light. Then He lifts his sword and brings it crashing down on the jagged chains that have restrained your entire being your entire life and then says to you, “*Follow me...I am the light of the world, he who follows me shall no longer live in darkness but shall have the light of life*” (Luke 9:23, John 8:12). You are filled with such gratitude that you bow before Him and He lifts you up onto your feet and with a voice so filled with authority that the very earth seems to shake, “Get up and join

the battle! Declare war on your former captors and join the campaign to bring freedom to the others in bondage.” You are now armed with the Helmet of Salvation, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Shield of Faith, the Sword of the Spirit, the Belt of Truth, and the Combat Boots of the Gospel of Peace (see Ephesians 6:10-17). With these weapons, you will fight against the lies of the Devil, against your own sin nature, and for the glory of God, not in a physical battle but in a spiritual campaign where your own pride is drowned in humility and the glory of Christ because the battle is the Lord’s because Jesus is Lord!

Point = Pray for what you will face because of what you have been given.

## II. **Why** we can be **Confident** in Prayer – **3:15**

### A. Nothing in **Heaven** is Greater than God – 3:14b-15

*“the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,”*

\*This is the “Whose yo Daddy?” of this text.

### B. Nothing on **Earth** is Greater than God – 3:15 *“...in heaven and on earth derives its name”*

Mirrors Matthew 5:33-38 *“Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: <sup>34</sup> But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God’s throne: <sup>35</sup> Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup> Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.”*

## III. **What** we should Pray for: Purpose of Prayer 3:16-17

### A. **Inner/Spiritual** strength – *“**strengthened** with power through His Spirit in the inner man,”*

1 Cor. 16:13 *“Be on the alert, <sup>b</sup>stand firm in the faith, <sup>c</sup>act like men, <sup>d</sup>**be strong.**”*

Proverbs “but a broken spirit who can bear”

Goes back to what Jesus said about the heart

### B. Christ **in control of/settled** in your life – 3:17 *“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;”*

GRK: **85.69 κατοικέω**: to live or dwell in a place in an established or settled manner.<sup>1</sup>

Kenneth Wuest comments:

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<sup>b</sup>1 Cor 15:1; Gal 5:1; Phil 1:27; 4:1; 1 Thess 3:8; 2 Thess 2:15

<sup>c</sup>1 Sam 4:9; 2 Sam 10:12

<sup>d</sup>Ps 31:24; Eph 3:16; 6:10; Col 1:11

<sup>1</sup>Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996, c1989). Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: Based on semantic domains (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.) (1:730). New York: United Bible societies.

The expanded translation is; “that Christ might finally settle down and feel completely at home in your hearts.” Dr. Max Reich once said in the hearing of the writer, “If we make room for the Holy Spirit, He will make room for the Lord Jesus.” That is, if the saint lives in conscious dependence upon and yieldedness to the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit will make room for the Lord Jesus in the heart and life of the saint by eliminating from his life things that are sinful and of the world, and thus enable the saint to make the Lord Jesus feel completely at home in his heart. Wonderful condescension of heaven’s King, to be content to live in a believer’s heart and have fellowship with him. This at-home-ness of the Lord Jesus in the heart of the saint is “through faith in your hearts.” This faith is in the Lord Jesus for the fulness of the Holy Spirit. Our Lord says, “If a certain one is thirsting, let him be coming to Me and let him be drinking. The one who places his trust in Me, even as the scripture said, rivers out from his inmost being will flow, of water that is living” (John 7:37, 38). And John adds in explanation, “But this He spoke concerning the Spirit whom those who believed on Him were about to be receiving, for not yet was the Spirit *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” This trust here is not a trust in the Lord Jesus as Saviour, but, having believed on Him as Saviour, the saint is now to believe on Him as the One who fills with the Spirit, or grants the fulness of the Spirit, as Paul puts it in his prayer here.<sup>2</sup>

Key phrase “through faith.”

John 14:23 “Jesus answered and said to him, *“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.”*”

Romans 8:9 “*However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*”

2 Cor. 13:5 “*Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?*”

C. **Rooted** in love – 3:17b “*and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,*”  
To be rooted and thus, strengthened.

Psalm 1:1-3 “*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly<sup>a</sup>, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. <sup>3</sup> And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither<sup>b</sup>; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper*” (KJV).

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<sup>2</sup>Wuest, K. S. (1997, c1984). Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English reader (Eph 3:17). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

<sup>a</sup>ungodly: or, wicked

<sup>b</sup>wither: Heb. fade

John 15:4-5 “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. 5 “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

Colossians 2:6-7 “Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”

D. **Grounded** in love – 3:17b “and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,”  
τεθεμελιωμένοι- θεμελιώω: to lay the foundation of.  
verb, perfect, **passive**, participle, masculine, plural, nominative= “having been rooted and having been grounded in love,”  
\*The passive points to the object, us as believers in Christ, NOT being the ones who initially plant and ground ourselves but that another, namely God, is the author of our planting. However, our obedience can affect our growth once we are planted.

#### IV. The **Outcome** of Prayer 3:18-19

##### 1) **Comprehend** the Gospel

\*Hapax: ἐξισχύσητε -from ἐξισχύω = “to be fully capable of doing or experiencing something., *be able, be strong enough, be in a position.*”<sup>3</sup>

Καταλαβέσθαι: BDAG “understand, grasp—learn about something through process of inquiry, middle. *Grasp, find, understand.*”<sup>4</sup>

Acts 4:13 “Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and **understood** that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.”

##### 2) **Know/Experience** the love of Christ

##### 3) Have the **heart** of God & the **mind** of Christ = Filled up with all the fullness of God

3:19b “that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.”

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<sup>3</sup> BDAG, 350.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, 520.

V. Pray with Faith in **God's ability** to answer vs. Your **ability to Pray** –3:20-21