

- _____ 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

I. **What** we should Pray for: Purpose of Prayer 3:16-17A. **Inner/Spiritual** strength – “that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, **strengthened** with power through His Spirit in the inner man,”

GRK: ἵνα **δῶ** ὑμῖν κατὰ τὸ πλοῦτος τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ κραταιωθῆναι διὰ τοῦ πνεύματος αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν ἕσω ἄνθρωπον

δῶ = 3rd, sg, aorist, active, subjunctive = “he would give”

Q# How would he give? = “according to the riches of His glory,”

= We should not pray for trite things for one another but pray that God backs up the fleet up dump trucks that hold His blessings and unload them.

Q# What is the purpose for praying like this?

κραταιωθῆναι = Aorist, passive, infinitive “to be strengthened”

1 Cor. 16:13 Γρηγορεῖτε, στήκετε ἐν τῇ πίστει, ἀνδρίζεσθε, κραταιοῦσθε.

“Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, ^d**be strong**.”

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

κατοικῆσαι τὸν Χριστὸν διὰ τῆς πίστεως ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν,

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

Kenneth Wuest comments:

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 fullness of the Spirit, as Paul puts it in his prayer here.²

^dPs 31:24; Eph 3:16; 6:10; Col 1:11

¹Louw, 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.

²Wuest, K. S. (1997, c1984). Wuest’s word studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English reader (Eph 3:17).

Point = What things in your life would be incompatible with Christ living there?
We must examine our hearts and clean out whatever is incompatible and inappropriate with Christ living there.

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 Corinthians 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.

Psalms 1:1-3 *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³ 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; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper”* (KJV).

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 does affect our growth once we are planted.

Point = It is God who initially plants us; we do not plant ourselves. He plants us but it is our responsibility to apply and cultivate what God has begun. How do we know this? Because that is exactly what the Apostle Paul is praying for.

*Love is not Weakness but rather the source of everything of Christ has done:

1. Giving sight to the blind
2. Raising Lazarus from the dead
3. Rising from the dead

= Love & compassion moved Jesus to action but the acts were carried out with great power.

I John 4:7-11

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

8 *The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

9 *By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.*

10 *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

11 *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”*

II. The **Outcome** of Prayer 3:18-19

1) **Comprehend** the Gospel

3:18-19a *“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,”*

ἵνα ἐξισχύσητε καταλαβέσθαι σὺν πᾶσιν τοῖς ἀγίοις τί τὸ πλάτος καὶ μῆκος καὶ ὕψος καὶ βάθος,

*Harapx: ἐξισχύσητε -from ἐξισχύω = “to be fully capable of doing or experiencing something., *be able, be strong enough, be in a position.*”³

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

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.”*

-It takes the strength of God to grasp the gravity of the Gospel.

*Faith & Reason = Are they opposed to one another?

³ BDAG, 350.

⁴ Ibid, 520.

= Hank Hanegraaf, "Faith is not a blind leap into the dark but a STEP based upon well established evidence."⁵

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

3:18a "*and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge,*"

Philippians 4:7 "*And the peace of God, which surpasses all ¹comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*"

Q# How can you know what cannot be fully known?

= You have a relationship with the one who has all the answers.

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.*"

Q# What on earth does it mean to be filled up with the fullness of God?

= To have the mind of Christ and the heart of God. To think biblically and to be moved with compassion as Jesus was moved with compassion.

Mark 6:34 "*When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.*"

James 5:11 "*Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*"

Action Point

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

Eph. 3:20-21 "*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, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*"

- God's greatness vs. our Vocabulary
- God's Grace vs. our Goodness

⁵ The Evidence Bible

¹Lit mind