

Outline

I. Introduction to Paul's Prayer (Ephesians 3:14-21)

- Context of Paul's prayer
- Paul's posture: bowing before the Father
- The significance of prayer in spiritual growth

II. The Foundation of the Prayer (v. 14-15)

- Addressing God as Father
- The universal family: "from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name"
- Our identity as part of God's family

III. First Petition: Strengthened by the Spirit (v. 16)

- Prayer for inner strength
- The role of the Holy Spirit
- Strengthening in the "inner being"
- The connection between God's glorious riches and spiritual power

IV. Second Petition: Christ Dwelling in Hearts (v. 17a)

- Christ dwelling in our hearts through faith
- The difference between Christ visiting and dwelling
- Faith as the means of Christ's indwelling

V. Third Petition: Rooted and Established in Love (v. 17b)

- Being rooted like a tree
- Being established like a building
- Love as the foundation of spiritual life

VI. Fourth Petition: Comprehending Christ's Love (v. 18-19a)

- Power to grasp the dimensions of Christ's love
- The width, length, height, and depth of Christ's love
- Knowing the love that surpasses knowledge
- The communal aspect: "together with all the saints"

VII. The Ultimate Goal: Filled with God's Fullness (v. 19b)

- Being filled to the measure of all the fullness of God
- The progression of spiritual growth leading to this goal
- The transformative nature of this filling

VIII. The Doxology (v. 20-21)

- God's power at work within us
- God's ability to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine
- Glory to God in the church and in Christ Jesus
- The eternal nature of God's glory

IX. Application: Implications for Spiritual Growth

- The importance of prayer in our spiritual development
- Surrendering to the Holy Spirit's work
- Cultivating a deeper relationship with Christ
- Growing in understanding and experiencing God's love
- Living for God's glory

X. Conclusion

- Summary of Paul's prayer for spiritual growth
- Encouragement to make this prayer our own
- The assurance of God's power to accomplish His purposes in us