

“A Prayer That Changes Our Life and Our Church”

“Ephesians”— Part 7

Ephesians 3:14-21

A Prayer for the Ephesians

¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

“This reason” is: Jesus Christ and His **eternal, central role in God’s plan.**

²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:21-22

¹¹...according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

Ephesians 3:11-13

When we abide in Jesus, we are genuinely **rooted in God’s soil.**

⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:4-5

*Blessed is the one who does
not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams
of water, which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.*

Psalm 1:1-3

How can you know something that “*surpasses knowledge*”?

Know Jesus deeply, not yet completely.

Application: Using Paul’s prayer as a model, identify several people that have been on your heart lately. Pray for them using the same words that Paul used in his prayer to the Ephesians.