

Bible Study 04-30-2025

Rev. Debbie Sexton

"A Love Appreciated"

KJV Ephesians 3:14-21

Paul prays for the church and the believers:

14 *For this cause I bow my knees unto The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

15 *Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*

For this cause: refers back to the eternal plan of God and the life of the Christian believer:

(Eph. 2:1-3 The believer's life before conversion: a life of death or separation from God, life of sin and not fulfilling his life's purpose on earth, and under the wrath of God.

(Eph 3:13) Paul is willing to suffer for the church. The glory of all that lies ahead for the believer is much greater than any suffering and worth the reward. **Note:** Every person of the household of God has duties or some service to render for the sake of the family. We are responsible to love, care, provide, teach and reach each other. To build up and strengthen the family of God. Bowing: a sign of desperate need and dependency. Paul is driven to His knees, and addresses God in humility and respect.

16 *That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man;*

Grant: give freely. According to: unlimited resources. Not so much material riches as the spiritual riches that God has freely provided for us in Christ. **(Eph. 1:3, 2:7)**, Note: **Psalm 66:18** *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear."* To be strengthened: **John 15:5b**, "...apart from Me you can do nothing." We are completely dependent on the Lord.

By His Spirit in the inner man: ask for inner transformation for yourself and for others, not just outward behavioral changes. **(Mark 7:21-23** *"All these evil things come from within and defile a man."*) Genuine Christianity is not just a moral improvement program. We need changed hearts. It begins at the new birth, but continues throughout life. We need the power of the Holy Spirit daily to make our heart the kind of place where Jesus is pleased to dwell.

17 *That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,*

Dwell: to live permanently, rule and reign in our hearts by faith.

By faith: Active reliance on God and His promises. Biblical faith is always linked with obedience. If you trust God, you obey God. **(NLT John 14:23)** *"Jesus replied, "All who love Me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and We will come and make our home with each of them."*

Love: Agape: same love God has for us.

18 *May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;*

19 *And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.*

Paul prayed for the church and believers, a full understanding of all spiritual matters (Unity of the church is covered in the first three chapters of Ephesians). The better believers comprehend, the more they will choose to surrender their lives to Christ and serve Him.

It is utterly impossible to grasp and experience the LOVE of Christ anywhere close to its full measure. However, we should pray for God to help us learn more and more of His love.

(John 15:13) *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."* Fullness of God: to present every man complete in Christ and be all that God wants you to be. A prayer that God will fill or control every aspect of your life: your mind, attitude, goals, motives, emotions, finances, decisions and your relationships.

20 *Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

21 *Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

Because God IS able, we should pray daily for that which would further His glory. God's glory is the goal of redemption. Pray that God will convert sinners for His glory. **According to the power that worketh in us:** is the combined power of all that God has put within us, to strengthen, Christ indwelling us, the power of love working in us, the power of understanding, the power of the fullness of God Himself. The purpose of the requests made is that God might be glorified in the church through Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.