

The Church: A Family Empowered by the Father's Love (Eph. 3:14-21)

There are two significant prayers in this letter. The first focuses on the power which God has exerted to make the Church... the second focuses on the power available to live as the Church... both prayers make it clear that God can do what is impossible with man: create a new people and enable that people to 'be what they are.'
Simon Austen

I. Reasons for Praying:

Because without the enabling power of God: (vs. 16)

- We cannot have Christ dwell in our hearts through faith (vs. 17)
- We cannot be rooted and grounded in the love of Christ (vs. 17)
- We cannot comprehend the love of Christ (vs. 18 - 19)
- We cannot be filled with the fullness of God (vs. 19)

II. Reasons for Praising:

But with the enabling power of God: (vs. 20)

- He is able to do in us more than we could ask or imagine (vs. 20)
- He is able to do through us what brings Him glory (vs. 21)

Since the power comes from Him, the glory must go to Him - John Stott

Questions for Reflection:

Think about the content of your prayers. What do you normally pray about? How do you decide what to pray for? How do Paul's prayers in Ephesians differ from yours? (cf. 1:15 - 23; 3:14 - 21)

How might your prayer life change in light of this prayer?



Personal Study Notes

Ephesians 3:14-21

*To live in God's will as individuals and as communities of faith,
we must not only understand God's power
but we must experience this power.*

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond
all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us—
²¹ to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Paul's Prayer for Strength and Insight (14-21)

Questions or Insights for Discussion:

- 1)
- 2)

