

Four Dimensional Love

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.” Eph. 3:14-15 (NIV)

“Come let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care.” Ps. 95:7 (NIV)

“So when you pray, you should pray like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, may Your name always be kept holy.’” Matt. 6:9 (NCV)

HOW TO EMPOWER YOUR PRAYER LIFE

There are 2 prayers in Ephesians

Ephesians 1:17-19 – a prayer for enlightenment

Ephesians 3:14-21 – a prayer for enablement

Pray with a Reason

The reason is found in the previous verse OR at the end of chapter 2

Pray with an Attitude

Ephesians is filled with truths about our spiritual “posture.” Between SITTING with Christ in the heavens in chapters 1-3 and WALKING in Christ in Chapters 3-6 lies... Kneeling

Pray with a Focus

Focus on the Father

Family here actually is “fatherhood”: We can all trace our genealogy back to God.

“I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.” Eph. 3:16-17a

“The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1 Sam.16:7 (NIV)

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.”

2 Cor. 4:16 (NIV)

“Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.”

1 Pet. 3:4 (NIV)

HOW TO DEVELOP A COINFIDENT FAITH

Question... Where does power come from in our lives?

How do you develop confident Christianity?

1. Power comes from the inside out?

Look at the process that God uses to release His power in our lives:

1. Out of His glorious riches
2. Through His Spirit
3. In your inner being

The “inner being” can see (Ps. 119:18), hear (Matt. 13:9) and taste (Ps. 34:8); the inner being also must be exercised (1 Tim. 4:7-8), kept clean (Ps. 51:7) and fed (Matt. 4:4).

The result: Christ dwelling “in your heart” through faith! That’s power!

“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” Eph. 3:17b-19 (NIV)

“For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.” Ps. 57:10 (NIV)

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
Rom. 8:39 (NIV)

II. Power comes from grasping how much

God Loves Me

Getting a grip on God's love in your life:

- You are a believer rooted and established in love?
“Rooted” and “grounded” – plants and buildings
- It is grasped together with all the Saints
- Measure it: how wide and long and high and deep
4 dimensional love

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell.
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair bowed down with care
God gave His Son to win.
His erring child He reconciled,
And pardoned every sin.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor would the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.

O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong

It shall forevermore endure,
The saints' and angels' song.

- It is a love that surpasses knowledge

The result: filled to the measure of the fullness of God. That's power!

“Now 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, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Eph. 3:21 (NIV)

“For it is God who; works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.” Phil. 2:13 (NIV)

“I tell you the truth, anyone who; has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these; because I am going to the Father.” John 14:12 (NIV)

III. Power comes from giving glory to God.

Now to HIM who is able!
God is able... I am available. Don't get that turned around!

- Glory in Me!
- Glory in the Church!
- Glory in Jesus Christ!
- Glory throughout All generations!
- But Glory TO God!

The result: God doing more than I could ask or imagine.
That's power!