MESSAGE OUTLINE



See What Is To Come

Ephesians 3:14-21 NKJV

Introduction

Paul's prayer leads us to the place that had been forbidden for anyone besides Christ... the throne of God.

All it took for Paul to pray it towards God and cover all the generations of the church: about 45 seconds.

It is important for you to see how Paul visualizes prayer so you will be able to do the same.

Paul with confidence through faith in Jesus is walking right up to the piano on stage and **playing a chord.**

v.14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Behind Paul's "*For this reason...*" is God's Divine plan for the people of the world to be able to approach Him.

Paul has established the Supremacy of Christ and our redemption, which leads to access to God in the Spirit.

He's not approaching the throne with arrogance, but with reverence: on his knees at the throne of God.

At the same time, he knows he is speaking to his Heavenly Father.

I*f you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!* **Matthew 7:11**

Paul confirms to us why it is also true we have such access to the Father:

v.15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named...

As a child of God, you are named after Him, and this is your new and true identity in Jesus Christ:

John 17:11 NASB *I am no longer going to be in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, so that they may be one just as We are.*

Knowing who you are, having your "last name" be God's, is paramount to know where you are allowed to go.

God makes this distinction here: we are able to come in and receive something granted to us.

Do you approach God in this way? Do you believe in such a promise?

Philippians 4:19 *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

We go to God as his child and may ask for anything we need.

And as a Father, He is willing to supply what is needed **when it aligns with His divine plan.**

v.16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith…

vv.16-19 we will find three *hina* clauses in Greek which are the three notes of the chord.

Paul requests that He might give you to be strengthened with power by His Spirit in the inner man.

This is for Christ to dwell in your hearts through faith being rooted and being founded in love vv.16-17.

Notice his prayer is not about their power or ability rather it is for Christ to be present in them.

We may think Christ was already in my heart. Paul says the Spirit is there… What is happening?

What is happening is strength coming from the Spirit for Christ to live in you.

Really this is not Paul praying to solve a "do problem" it is a "capacity problem" for the Christ follower.

v.17…being rooted and grounded in love

Notice Paul again speaks of love and the believer anchored in it as being the part of the chord.

Paul asks do you have enough room for Him in your life? The grey area **is faith** in order to do.

Let's say doing a good deed is moving water from a well and you are sitting there with a small paper cup.

Pray your cup will become a bowl or bucket so you have a bigger vessel to carry the love of God.

This is a matter of your faith as we see in his prayer and **the question is do you want this? Pray like Paul.**

vv.18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- 19a to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge…

Paul prays that you and all Christians can grasp Christ's love because it surpasses knowledge, it is big.

Paul again is praying about capacity with three spatial dimensions.

Jesus's love permeates all dimensions of space and He will both increase and fill you with it all in all.

But your mind cannot possibly handle His love to know what surpasses knowledge—this is the problem.

When we don't feel the love of God we often run away, but Paul is saying **we must go to Him.**

Your prayer should be like: *"God help me to understand your love. I know it is there but I cannot feel it."*

We all want to feel love, and there is no purer love than the love of God that comes through Jesus.

When we don't feel the love of God, do you know what we often do? ***We run away from Him.***

When you are feeling down and low, do you go to God?

Is your prayer "God love me." or "Where are you?" or is your prayer, "God help me to understand your love?"

In prayer, go to God.

v.19b that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The effects of our salvation in Jesus Christ occur on the individual level then on the corporate level.

Every time you see you in these passages it is plural but he appeals to the individual inner man.

It is a building of each individual person where each person themselves is a temple of God making a temple.

God needs a temple of temples and the goal is that all of us embody His love and holiness.

Paul prays for us to be strong like Christ ***to then live lives that are holy as God is holy.***

This is the fifth note where your fifth finger would go to complete the triad Paul has been working through.

His prayer in this way is full and it rings out in harmony to make his prayer much more powerful.

Unhappiness is from listening to your old self and the world instead of with your renewed self and God.

In Christ you have a renewed mind and you have access to the throne of God: ***you must go there.***

Are your prayers modeled by the prayers of Jesus and Paul or after what you learned in this world?

The apostles asked Jesus to teach them how to pray so we would do well to pray like this today: **Biblically.**

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

Paul finishes his prayer with what we call a doxology which comes from Greek meaning a word of glory.

He seems to say, "I've asked these things and I know they may or may not happen. But, that is OK."

Isaiah 55:9 *For as the heavens are higher than the earth so are My ways higher than yours.*

God is conducting an orchestra of our prayers generationally.

Sometimes he has to mute us or even make us pray harder and louder because it isn't always about us.

We are all connected spiritually not just across land but across time of all generations of the new humanity.

Like Paul, let your prayers be filled with power. They rest in the power and promises of the all knowing God.

We are all connected spiritually across time of all generations of the new humanity.

This is how much power your prayers have.

Like Paul, let your prayers be filled with power, knowing they rest in the power and promises of God.

INVITATION

None of your hardship is wasted. It is all used for the glory of God.

Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; And on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God. **Psalm 43:4**

If you have been wandering in your life, and have not found the path, I invite you to come to Jesus Christ.

He is the way, the truth and the life. No one has access to God except through Him.

Believe in the forgiveness of sins, Christ's power over death, and you will be alive. You will have eternal life.

...neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 8:38-39**

The door is open, will you go to Him?

Jesse Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
November 22-23, 2025

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