

PRAYING THE POWERFUL PRAYERS OF PAUL

Ephesians 3:14-21

A Prayer to be Strengthened in
Your Inner Man

Overview of the Prayer

- ▣ The prayer contains four major parts.
- ▣ According to God the Father's riches in glory Paul prays that the Ephesians would be:
 1. Strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.
 2. That Christ may dwell in their hearts by faith.
 3. Through being rooted and grounded in love might be able to comprehend with all saints the breadth, length, depth, and height and know the love of Christ which passeth all knowledge.
 4. Filled with all the fullness of God.

The Riches of God in Paul's Epistles

- ▣ All through Paul's epistles he talks about the riches of God.
- ▣ Ephesians 1:7 – riches of his grace
- ▣ Ephesians 1:18 – the riches of his glory
- ▣ Ephesians 2:7 – riches of his grace
- ▣ Ephesians 3:8 – unsearchable riches of Christ
- ▣ Philippians 4:19 – riches in glory
- ▣ Colossians 1:27 – riches of the glory of this mystery
- ▣ Colossians 2:2 – riches of the full assurance of understanding
- ▣ II Corinthians 8:9 – Jesus Christ became poor by making himself of no reputation coming in the likeness of men and dying on the cross for our sins so that through his sacrifice we might be make rich.

Definition of Grace

□ **G**od's

□ **R**iches

□ **A**_t

□ **C**hrist's

□ **E**xpense

Might Mean Power

- ▣ To be “strengthened” means to be made strong, increase in strength, to grow strong.
- ▣ Notice that we are to strengthened with “might.” Might means power
 - II Corinthians 12:9 – “for my strength is made is made perfect” that “the power of Christ may rest upon me.”
 - Ephesians 1:19 – “exceeding greatness of his power”
 - Colossians 1:11, 29 – “worketh in me mightily”

By His Spirit

- ▣ How are we going to receive this strengthening with might? By the Spirit.
- ▣ It is only going to be the work of the Holy Spirit that produces and furnishes us with this strength.
- ▣ During the Dispensation of Grace, God empowers and energizes his church through the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - Romans 15:13, 19
 - I Corinthians 2:4
 - I Thessalonians 1:5
 - II Timothy 1:7, 14

Three-Fold Nature of Man

- ▣ II Corinthians 4:16 – all of us have an outward man that functions, operates in, and relates to the physical material world around us. However, we also possess a spiritual inner or inward man that is immaterial.
- ▣ Outward Man:
 - Body
- ▣ Inward Man:
 - Soul
 - Spirit
- ▣ It is imperative that you understand that this mighty strengthening is going to occur in your inner man not your outward man.

Practical Application

- ▣ I Thessalonians 2:13 – it is faith in the words on page that activates the power of God in your inner man.
- ▣ It is easy to rejoice in grace when everything is going great. When trouble comes we have a choice to make are we going to operate in faith or our own efforts and understanding.
- ▣ The word of God will work in you to fortify your inner man, Biblically inform your understanding, renew your mind, and mightily strengthen your inner man to deal with whatever life has thrown your way.
- ▣ The Grace Life strives to make this the normal function of your daily existence.