

SUPER SIMPLIFIED

PRAYER FOR EPH.

- 14-15 I PRAY TO GOD
- 16-17 THAT HE WOULD STRENGTHEN YOU
- 18 AND ENABLE YOU TO COMPREHEND HIS LOVE FOR YOU.

PRaise TO GOD

20-21 MAY GOD BE GLORIFIED IN THE CHURCH AND IN JESUS FOREVER.

INTRO: WHAT ARE WE AFTER AS CHURCHANS? WHAT ~~IS~~ IS CHURCH LIFE ABOUT?

① "FOR THIS REASON... RELAP" BECAUSE GOD LOVINGLY CHOSE TO REDEEM, ADOPT, GAVE SPIRITUAL LIFE + RECONCILED BECAUSE ALL WILL BE UNITED IN CHRIST

② WHO HE PRAYS TO:

- THE FATHER WHO IS WORTHY OF REVERENCE
- THE FATHER WHO IS THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE
- THE FATHER WHO HAS UNLIMITED GLORY
- THE FATHER WHO IS ABLE TO DO MORE THAN WE IMAGINE

③ WHAT HE PRAYS FOR: - POWER TO WORK WITHIN US

FOR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH IN THEIR INNER BEING (SPIRIT) CHRIST WOULD DWELL IN THEIR HEARTS BY FAITH

- ROOTED IN GOD'S LOVE - COMPREHENDING HOW MASSIVE IT IS (MUCH IS TO BE FILLED WITH FULLNESS OF GOD)

④ HOW HE EXPECTS GOD TO DO THIS:

- BY SPIRIT - GREATER COMPREHENSION OF GOD'S LOVE. GOD ABLE TO DO MORE THAN ANYONE CAN IMAGINE

⑤ WHY HE PRAYS: ULTIMATE RESULT

- GOD GLORIFIED IN HIS CHURCH + IN JESUS

WHAT GOD WANTS TO DO WITHIN US. IT IS SPIRITUAL - A WORK OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT & UNSEEN.

THIS IS CONNECTED

"INNER BEING STRENGTHENED WITH POWER"

=

EPH. 2
WE WERE DEAD
SPIRITUALLY - MADE
US ALIVE TOGETHER
WITH CHRIST.
(REGENERATION)

- BY THE SPIRIT (NOT JUST VALE SPINNING)
- CHRIST DWELLING IN YOUR HEARTS BY FAITH
- ROOTED + GROUNDED IN LOVE
(KNOWING HOW MASSIVE IT IS)

CHRISTIAN
SPIRITUALITY IS BY
THE
SPIRIT

FILLED WITH ALL FULLNESS OF GOD
(THERE IS MORE)

STRENGTHENED WITH POWER
IN YOUR INNER BEING

- WHAT IT FEELS LIKE WHEN
YOUR INNER BEING IS WEAK

- YOU FEEL DISTANT, JESUS DOESN'T SEEM INVOLVED
- YOU DOUBT HIS LOVE, YOU DOUBT HIS COMMANDS.
- YOU LACK COURAGE, CONFIDENCE, POWER - YOU ARE SHATTERED BY LOSS - YOU ~~ARE~~ ^{AREN'T} YOURSELF

SO THAT
RESULT

CHRIST DWELLS IN YOUR HEART (COMMUNION & INTIMACY / UNION)

ROOTED + GROUNDED (LIKE A TREE THAT WHO CAN'T UPROOT OVER)

IN LOVE (THIS MEANS TO KNOW HOW MASSIVE IT IS)

FILLED WITH ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD

ILLUST:

SAME
IDEA

ILLUST: WHAT EXAMPLES DO WE HAVE OF PEOPLE FILLED WITH FULLNESS OF GOD + CHRIST DWELLING IN HEART?

HOSTILE POWERS

"I'M A CHRISTIAN... NOW WHAT?"

VISION OF JOEL OSTEEN (SUCCESS, CONFIDANCE, PICKING UP AFTER

FOR THIS REASON

TEACHES US PRAYERS TO HAY ROOTED IN TRUTH. ABOUT GOD

"DUELING PLACE FOR GOD" REFERRED TO IN CHAPT. 2 AND ALSO GOD'S SAVING WORK OF GIVING THEM SPIRITUAL LIFE.

FATHER - RULING THE CLAN INTIMATELY BUT ALSO AUTHORITY

- EVERY "FAMILY GROUP" IS NAMED = BROUGHT INTO CREATION OF ALL LIVING THINGS EXISTENCE

LIKE "I OWNED YOU" - I NAMED YOU. I WAS HERE FIRST I HAVE AUTHORITY OVER YOU.

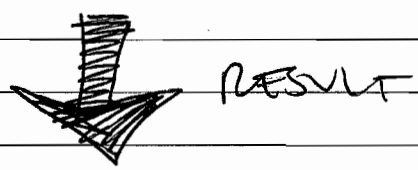
- ABLE TO MEET THEIR NEEDS: RICHES OF HIS GLORY

WHAT IS POWER. THE ABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH. ENERGY TO MEET & OVERCOME RESISTANCE.

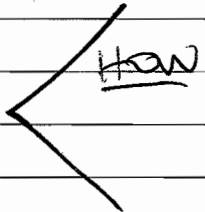
POWER & INNER STRENGTHENING

- IS SAME THING AS TRUST DWELING IN HEART BY FAITH

- RULING & REIGNING & EMPOWERING



ROOTED & GROUNDED IN LOVE



HOW ARE YOU STRENGTHENED?

BY KNOWING THE UNSEARCHABLE MEASURE OF HIS LOVE. IT IS IN COMPREHENDING HIS LOVE THAT YOU ARE ROOTED & GROUNDED & CONFIDENT & STRENGTHENED

- FILLED WITH ALL THE FULLNESS... THERE IS MORE.

▶ How would you walk yourself through something?

- IDENTIFY / REMIND YOURSELF OF THE FATHER: WHO HE IS.
BOW BEFORE HIM.
HE IS NOT LIMITED BY YOUR IMAGINATION.

- REALIZE WHAT YOU NEED:
NOT A CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCE
BUT GOD'S SPIRIT TO STRENGTHEN
YOUR INNER BEING.

~~THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS WE'VE ASKED~~

INTRO:

THIS WEEK MY FRIENDS LOST THEIR 6 WEEK OLD BABY. ANOTHER FRIEND LOST HIS 23 YR. OLD BROTHER IN A CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT. LTR FROM YOUNG ^{MARRIED} WOMAN (NOT IN THIS CHURCH) WHO TOLD ME THE SAD STORY OF ^{7 YRS} PHYSICAL ABUSE AT THE HANDS OF HER PARENTS.

HOW DO YOU PRAY FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DISCOURAGED, OVERWHELMED BY CIRCUMSTANCE? WHAT DO YOU ASK GOD TO DO? AND WHAT IF YOU'RE THE PERSON IN THE SAD STORY? MAYBE YOU'RE NOT FACING EXTREME TRAGEDY, BUT JUST LOW-LEVEL DISCOURAGEMENT. YOU LOOK AT YOUR LIFE & YOU SEE WHAT YOU'RE NOT DOING, OR DOING WRONG. YOU STRUGGLE AGAINST SIN & FEEL WEARY. YOU TRY TO READ YOUR BIBLE & PRAY BUT GOD FEELS DISTANT. HOW DO YOU PRAY FOR YOURSELF?

WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS ASK GOD TO DO FOR US? ~~WHAT DOES GOD WANT FOR US?~~ HOW SHOULD WE PRAY? THE WAY A PERSON PRAYS TELLS YOU A LOT ABOUT THEM. WHAT THEY THINK OF GOD. WHAT THEY THINK THEY NEED MOST. PRAYER REVEALS WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT GOD - IT EXPRESSES OUR THEOLOGY.

SEQUEL TO TEXT: IN OUR TEXT TODAY WE'RE GOING TO READ ~~THE~~ PAUL'S ^{DIVINELY INSPIRED} PRAYER FOR CHRISTIANS IN EPHESUS - WHAT HE KNOWS ABOUT GOD, WHAT HE THINKS THEY MOST NEED. *THIS IS GOING TO NOT ONLY TEACH US HOW TO PRAY BUT HELP US THINK ALTHOUGH ABOUT GOD & THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

TEXT. EPH. 3:14-21

3:1...

INTERRUPTED HIMSELF
GOT DISTRACTED NOW

▶ EXPLAIN "FOR THIS REASON" —

HE'S COMING BACK AROUND.

ALL THE INCREDIBLE TRUTH ABOUT GOD AND HIS SAVING WORK SHAPES HIS ~~PRAYERS~~ PRAYERS.

"FOR THIS REASON" — IS POINTING BACK TO ALL HE'S SAID IN CHAPTERS 1 + 2 + 3...

- BECAUSE GOD CHOSE TO REDEEM THEM IN JESUS, ADOPTED THEM
- GAVE THEM SPIRITUAL LIFE
- HAS UNITED THEM & IS FILLING THEM WITH HIS SPiRiT
- FOR THIS REASON...

← TRUTH ABOUT GOD & GOD'S SAVING WORK THROUGH JESUS INFORMS HIS PRAYERS & HIS VIEW OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

I WANT TO EXAMINE THIS PRAYER BY CONSIDERING 4 THINGS...

① THE GOD WHO HE PRAYS TO... — PERFECT FATHER — LOVE & YOUR INTEREST IN MIND

3:14 — FATHER ... INTIMATE & AUTHORITY. HIS LOVING LIPS → ADOPTION OF SINFUL REBELS, HIS TOTAL RULE.

— REVERENCE... I BOW... SUBMISSION, AWESOME

— SOME OF US STAND & LEARN FROM GOD

— SOME OF US TEXT MSB HIM WHILE WE'RE DRIVING.

— SOME OF US COVER IN FEAR

WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND WHO GOD IS & WHAT HE'S DONE IN JESUS YOU PRAY NEAR WITH CONFIDANCE... BUT YOU COME WITH REVERENCE.

3:15 FATHER WHO NAMES EVERY PEOPLE GROUP...

— TO NAME IS TO HAVE AUTHORITY, POWER. "OWN YOU"

I WAS THERE FIRST. ~~YOU~~ I NAMED YOU. HEAVEN &

EARTH. SATAN & HIS DEMONS. GOD NAMED THEM.

CREATED THEM. TOTAL AUTHORITY.

STOTT: THE BASIS OF PAUL'S PRAYER WAS HIS KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S PURPOSE.

ACT OUT

3:12 THROUGH CHRIST ACCESS WITH CONFIDENCE.

BILL COSBY LINE

3:16 NOTES OF HIS GLORY... UNLIMITED GLORY—POWER.
RESOURCES. ABILITY.

— NO AREA HE CAN'T ADDRESS. NOTHING BEYOND

3:20 - ABLE TO DO MORE THAN WE CAN ASK OR
IMAGINE.

2

WHAT HE ASKS FOR...

➔ OFTEN WE WANT GOD TO WORK OUTSIDE US
CHANGE MY CIRCUMSTANCES, MY SITUATION, MY
JOB, MY BOSS, MY FRIENDS, MY KIDS,
MY COUNTRY, MY SPOUSE. IT'S ALL OUTSIDE US.

— PAUL PRAYS FOR GOD TO DO AN INNER WORK
3:20 ACCORDING TO POWER AT WORK WITHIN US
3:16-17 "INNER BEING" "DWELL IN HEART"
PRIORITIZES THE INNER, SPIRITUAL WORK.

NOT DIFFERENT
LEVELS LIKE
BOYS' SOFT
BALLS

STRENGTHENED WITH POWER
"CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS"
"... FILLED WITH FULLNESS OF GOD"

ALL THE
SPIRITUAL
BLESSINGS
TO UNION W/
CHRIST.

① SPIRITUAL STRENGTH = DEEPER INTIMACY & COMMUNION
WITH JESUS, MORE OF
HIS PRESENCE & POWER

IN CHRIST
STAY
@ LOVE

CLOSER TO
HIM
— HIS THOUGHTS
— HIS PRIORITIES
— HIS STRAIGHT

— WHAT IS SPIRITUAL INNER-BEING STRENGTH?

➔ NOT ① SEPARATE ITEMS BUT THE SAME
LOVE REQUEST SPIRITUAL POWER
FROM CLOSER UNION & CLOSENESS
TO JESUS.

② WHEN WE USE PHRASE: "YOU'RE IN MY HEART"
WE MEAN THAT WE LOVE SOMEONE/SOMETHING, WE'RE
THINKING ABOUT THEM, OUR AFFECTIONS & EMOTIONS
ARE INVOLVED, OUR DESIRES,

③ ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD

- JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN DOESN'T MEAN WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF JESUS. WE ALWAYS NEED MORE. ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD.

- OLDER MATURE CHRISTIANS: THERE IS MORE. DON'T BE FULLY EXPERIENCED TILL LAST DAY. BUT THERE IS GREATER, KNOWLEDGE, INTIMACY.

IS THIS WHAT YOU THINK YOU NEED?
INNER STRENGTH THROUGH GREATER
UNION W/ JESUS. CHRIST OWNING
IN YOUR HEART? FEELING WITH
FULLNESS OF GOD.

- CHRISTIAN LIFE... WHAT DO YOU WANT?
- CHRISTIAN SUCCESS OR MORE OF GOD?
- GOD'S GIFTS OR GOD HIMSELF?
- CHRIST OWNING IN YOUR HEART OR PEOPLE'S RESPECT & ADMIRATION?

③

HOW HE EXPECTS GOD TO DO THIS?

- WE SEE THE GOAL, THE REQUEST. HOW DOES GOD ACCOMPLISH?

3:16 - THROUGH HIS SPIRIT

3rd PERSON OF TRINITY, COMFORTER SENT BY JESUS TO LEAD US INTO THE TRINITY

- GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS SPIRIT.

- WE DON'T DO THIS BY OURSELVES, WE MUST BE RELIANT. INVITE THE SPIRIT'S WORK.

- MURRAY: CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY QUOTE

- MIXED UP NOTIONS OF "CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY" THROUGH NATURE, PURSUIT OF EXPERIENCE

- HOW DOES THE SPIRIT STRENGTHEN US
HOW DOES HE FILL US? HOW, DOES CHRIST, BY THE SPIRIT DWELL IN OUR HEARTS BY FAITH?

- BY ~~ENABLING~~ ENABLING US TO COMPREHEND THE IMMENSURABLE LOVE OF GOD

- 3:16-19

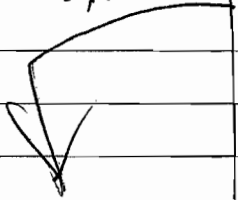
- ROOTED & GROUNDED IN LOVE

~~ROOTED~~ - OAK TREE IN BACKYARD DROPS THOUSANDS OF SEEDS. THEY GROW UP BUT THEY HAVE NO ROOTS, YOU CAN PLUCK THEM UP. PEOPLE'S REL. W/ GOD. NOT ROOTED IN HIS LOVE - WORD COMMENTS SIN.

SUFFERING.

WHERE DOES STRENGTH COME FROM.
BEING ROOTED, GROUNDED, DEEP ROOTS IN THE LOVE OF JESUS.

MOVE *



- IT'S EASY FOR US TO THINK
"I KNOW GOD LOVES ME,"
I KNOW JESUS LOVES ME. I LEARNED
THAT SONG. I KNOW HE DIED ON
THE CROSS FOR MY SIN. I'VE GOT THE
LOVE OF GOD TIGHT DOWN."

HOW DO
I PUT THIS
DELICATELY.

YOU'RE WRONG.

PAUL: YOU NEED STRENGTH TO COMPREHEND IT.
IT'S OVERWHELMING.

~~WHAT WE SEE ABOUT THE LOVE OF CHRIST...~~

- IT'S BIGGER THAN YOU KNOW 3:18

BREADTH, LENGTH, HEIGHT, DEPTH.

- IT SURPASSES KNOWLEDGE... REQUIRES

- SPIRIT'S WORK TO UNDERSTAND & GULPSE.

WE THINK WE GET IT. ~~GET~~

BUT DO WE REALLY KNOW DEPTH OF
GUILT? ~~THE~~ DISTANCE GOD BRIDGED
IN SENDING HIS SON? DO WE KNOW
THE HEIGHTS THAT JESUS HAS RAISED US?

THIS IS NOT - DO YOU REALIZE THERE'S MORE? DO YOU WANT
LOVE SEPARATE MORE? DO YOU WANT TO DEEPEN IN YOUR
FROM (HOLY) COMPASSION OF GOD'S LOVE? ASK
WANT & SISTER
BLOOD

YOU WILL BE STRENGTHENED WITH POWER

AS YOUR SOUL KNOWS THE LOVE OF CHRIST

THIS IS WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WHEN
WE TALK ABOUT BEING CENTERED ON THE
CROSS OR GOING DEEPER IN OUR UNDERSTANDING
OF THE CROSS - WE'RE TALKING ABOUT
BEING ROOTED IN GOD'S LOVE.

THE CROSS
PUTS GOD'S
LOVE AT
"ISRAEL"

- NOTHING MORE PRACTICAL OR POWERFUL
- ~~OR~~ NOTHING MORE STRENGTHENING.
- BASIS OF OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS
- * ROOTED & GROUNDED ILLUSTR.

- DAVE & HEATHER

CONSIDER GOD'S LOVE: IT IS FREE. NOT
 BASED ON YOUR PERFORMANCE.
 IF YOU'VE GOD WHOSE YOU BEFORE TIME.
 A CHRISTIAN ~~AND~~ JESUS LAY DOWN HIS LIFE.
 HE MADE YOU ALIVE. WHEN YOU
 WERE DEAD.

IF YOU READ EPH. 1-3 & IT'S
 JUST A BUNCH OF WORDS ON A PAGE,
 COME OUT TO GOD TO GIVE YOU
 STRENGTH TO COMPLETION THE LOVE
 OF GOD.

④ WHY HE PRAYS...

THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF INNER
 STRENGTH & CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S LOVE
 IS GOD BEING SHOWN TO BE
 WONDERFUL.

GLOW IN THE CHURCH. GROUNDED
 IN LOVE SO YOU CAN LOVE.

GLOW IN EVERY GENERATION.

WHEN WE'RE GONE, OTHERS KNOWING

THE LOVE OF GOD IN THE CHURCH

THAT LOVE SPILLS INTO EVERY PART OF OUR LIVES.

SPILLING
 STRENGTH
 THAT

FROM SAVOR.

NOT JUST
 ABOUT
 ME

INWARD
 STRENGTH
 WITH
 INWARD
 FOCUS