



Becoming the Christian
God Says You Are
Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason, I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now 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, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord

Community Group Questions:

1. Describe the difference between our position & practice in Christ.
2. What's the importance of inviting the Spirit into your "Inner being"?
3. Grasping God's love requires we look to what aspect of the Gospel?
4. Seeking prayer, obedience, and fellowship, where is your greatest room for growth?

I. The Three Things Paul is praying about:

1. (God) *may strengthen you with power* through his Spirit *in your inner being*, so that *Christ may dwell in your hearts* through faith. Vs 16,17
2. And I pray that you, *being rooted and established in love*, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, *to grasp* how wide and long and high and deep is *the love of Christ*, Vs 17,18
3. that you may be *filled to the measure of all the fullness of God*. Vs. 19

In chapter 1, Paul says all Christians by being united with Christ already have the fullness of God in them.

In chapter 2 Paul already said all Christians already have Christ dwelling in them.

Why is he praying for people to get what they already have?

*At one level they have these things, positionally in Christ.
At another level they haven't experienced them.*

He's praying for Christians to seek these things out!

This power of the Spirit, Paul is praying for us to have, is to experience the potential of what we already have been given.

II. What is the Spirit doing?

(God) may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, vs16
The Holy Spirit is preparing your inner being so you may what?

And I pray that you, ... ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to **grasp** *how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,* vs 17,18

3. How do we get it?

A. *Seek God in prayer regularly.*

Hudson Taylor's prayer- *"O Jesus make Thyself to me a living, bright reality."*

B. *Obedience.*

"There's no use in accepting sin in your life and then asking God to fill you with fullness."

C. *Community.*

...may have power **together with all the saints,** to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, vs 18

"Grasping the love of God will require you to accept a community of people who are unlike you."

How Wide is God's love?

It doesn't matter what you have done, if Jesus Christ died on the cross so you're saved by grace alone **it is as wide as it can be.**

How Long is God's love? He will not let you go.

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, ²⁹ for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. John 10:28

"I'm convinced the One who began a good work in you *will* bring it to completion on the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6 **Not may, but will.**

How Deep is God's love? Just look to the depths to which Jesus Christ went to love you. *"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"*

Psalms 22

He was thrown into the deepest pit anybody ever went into, and he went in voluntarily.

How High is God's love?

"Beloved, we do not know what we will be like, but we know we will be like him, because when we see him, we will see him as he is." 1 John 3:2