

Join us in being on mission with God!

OUR VISION

To continually mature and grow as a united body of Jesus-imitators who live out God's greatest commandment to "Love" by exalting God and serving one another, and His greatest commission to "Go" by reaching into and shaping our local, regional, and global communities.

"Prayer for an Energized Church"

Ephesians 3:14-21

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Pastor Jim
August 1, 2010

A Church Energized by Prayer

A. Where the Spirit empowers believers (16-17a) *"strengthen you"*

❶ The Spirit energizes the word.

▶ See 1 Thessalonians 1:5; 1 Corinthians 2:4

❷ The Spirit activates hope.

▶ See Romans 15:13; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Acts 9:31

❸ The Spirit deepens your partnership with Christ: (17a) *"Christ residing in your heart"*

B. Where Christ's love shapes our thinking (17b-18) *"may have strength to grasp"*

❶ His love grounds our faith *"having been rooted and grounded"*

▶ See Colossians 1:23; 1 Peter 5:10

❷ His love defines our world view *"to grasp how wide"*

❸ His love produces maturity *"filled to the measure ...of God"*

▶ See Phil. 1:9-11

Action Steps:

- Change your "grace" prayers to look for areas where you've left the Holy Spirit out of your decision making process.
- Ask Holy Spirit to show you indicators of the love of Christ.



Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father,¹⁵ from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.²⁰ 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,²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

To Consider

This weekend Pastor Jim focused on the two requests that Paul made for the Ephesian church. Paul makes two requests—one in 16-17a and the second in verses 17b-19. The first centers around the Spirit of God, the second around the love of Christ.

1. How does Paul's description of the Father in verse 15 challenge a narrow view of God?

2. Sometimes it seems like the noise of the world makes it impossible for people to hear and understand God's truth. What difference does the Spirit make in the following verses:
1 Thessalonians 1:5 _____
1 Corinthians 2:4 _____
3. What are some of the pressures in the world that tend to squeeze out hope in our world? Where do you see people turning when they need more hope?

4. What role does the Spirit play in giving you hope in "down" times according to Romans 15:13? Why is it important to remember that the Spirit is a person rather than an "it"?

5. In many sports it's impossible to do well if your feet are not in the right position. You must be grounded for leverage. What grounds us in verse 17?

6. How many times is the word *love* used in the request of verses 17-18? Why does Paul make a big deal about our awareness of Jesus' love for us?

7. When God fills us—as the prayer of verse 19 asks—what often happens soon afterward?
Acts 4:31 - _____
Acts 4:8-10 - _____
Acts 9:17, 20 - _____
8. How does Matthew 7:9-11 encourage you to see God as capable of BIG things? What does he want you to see about his willingness to work in *your* life?

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