

Palm Harbor United Methodist Church
Dangerous Prayers: Fill Me
February 17, 2020

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family^[a] 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 Lord's holy people, 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.

Review of series

- Last week we talked about the Search Me prayer. Inviting God into our heart and to show us where there are fears and sins that keep us from knowing and loving Him fully.
- One of the fears I failed to mention last week that many of us have is the fear of change.
- Change is what God is about. Transformation is change. Search Me. Test Me. Show Me. Lead Me.
- Psalm 139:5 – *You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head.*
- We are in a difficult season at PHUMC. Transitions are hard. Change is uncomfortable. Dangerous prayers lead to change. But God goes before us and follows us. His hand of blessing is upon us.
- I and many of you have been praying for our church and for Pastor Dave. The answer was Pastor Sharon.
 - First UMC Dunedin connection
 - First UMC Clearwater connection
 - Mentor in candidacy process
 - God's hand of blessing is upon us
- God leads us into transformation – restoring the image of God in us. As He removes the offensive parts, it makes room for God to fill us.

Our final prayer in the series is Fill Me

- From Ephesians 3:14-21, what will we be filled with
 - Power from the Holy Spirit
 - *¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,*
 - The same power that raised Jesus from the grave lives in us
 - Untapped power
 - Avengers super power

- Dunamis is Greek for power. Root for dynamite. It is a supernatural power.
 - God's power goes beyond anything we can imagine
- Love
 - *And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,*
 - “With God, love is not what he does. Love is who he is. It's the essence of our God. God is love. When you recognize that's who he is, then you stand on the strength of ‘there's nothing I can do to cause him to love me more, and there's nothing I can do to cause him to love me less. He doesn't love me because of what I do. He loves me because of who HE is. When that overtakes me, suddenly Christianity is not something I do on Sunday. It's the essence of who I'm called to be. I am a Christ follower. I have power that dwells in me so that Christ lives in my inner being.” Craig Groeschel.
 - Power to grasp how High, long, wide, deep
 - To be filled with this love that surpasses knowledge
 - 3 images
 - Dwell – to settle down and feel right at home
 - Rooted – spiritual roots deep into the love of God
 - Grounded – footers on the foundation of a building go deep into the ground; if you don't go deep you can't go high
- Fullness of God
 - *¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*
 - *I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is (Ephesians 3:19 CEV).*
 - *¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. (NLT)*
 - *⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, (Colossians 1:19)*
 - The fullness of God dwells in Christ
 - We may be filled with the fullness of God (Christ dwelling in us)
 - Paul's dangerous prayer is for strength in our inner being that leads to a deeper experience with Christ. A deeper experience with Christ will enable us to take hold of God's great love, which results in being filled with the fullness of God.
- Spring cleaning is a time to clean out closets, cabinets, garages
 - We take everything out and have an empty vessel. We then choose to fill it with those things we want to keep.

- We empty ourselves of our wills, our wants, our wounds, our sins.
- God fills us with power, love, and the fullness of God.
- May our prayer be “Lord empty me of me so that I can be filled with you.”

Dangerous prayers draw us deeper in our faith

- Break me – total surrender – Thy will be done
- Send me – surrendering when God calls
- Search me- inviting God into our hearts to search us, test us, show us, and lead us
- Fill me – as we empty our hearts, minds, and spirits of ourselves, God fills us with all that God is.
- “We may think of prayer as thoughts or feelings expressed in words. But this is only one expression...prayer is the opening of the mind and heart – our whole being – to God, the Ultimate Mystery, beyond thoughts, words, and emotions. Through grace we open our awareness to God whom we know by faith is within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than choosing – closer than consciousness itself.” Thomas Keating

Doxology

- *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.*
 - Immeasurably more
 - Power in us
 - To him be glory in the church
 - God’s power is not just at work in us as individuals
 - Power of the Holy Spirit is at work in the community of faith
 - “If God took the Holy Spirit out of this world most of what we Christians are doing would go right on – and nobody would know the difference.” Warren Wiersbe
 - *14-19 My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you’ll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ’s love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God. 20-21 God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.*
- Glory to God in the church!*
Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!
Glory down all the generations!
Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes! (MSG)
- Flood this place, fill the atmosphere