



8/25/25

My favorite statement from Sunday's message ~ "A charge against me is a charge against the cross of Christ!" Whoa! That is the reason you and I can stop beating ourselves up for not being good enough. The CROSS OF CHRIST is good enough!!! Praise His name!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Ephesians 3:14-21

This passage starts with, "For this reason..." I wonder if Paul meant to start what he was about to say at the beginning of the chapter. In vs. 1 he said, "For this reason..." and then he seemed to get sidetracked... like all the sudden he thought, "I need to say a few more things before you understand why I'm praying so fervently for you."

So he brought up the fact that he was given the privilege of preaching to the Gentiles by God, maybe giving him credibility for his prayers. He also talked about how he was preaching in the power of God by the Spirit so that even the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places could grasp the incredible work God is doing as He works through the church, His body.

He reminded them that we have boldness and access to Jesus with confidence through our faith in Him... Even Paul had this confidence in the Lord while he wrote this letter from prison. He didn't want the Ephesian believers to be disheartened because of Paul's imprisonment.

For THIS reason... Paul prayed. He wanted us to be strengthened to grasp the

fullness of God's love because... we're Gentile believers. Gentiles were considered less by the Israelite chosen people of God. But we're not second-class citizens to God. He came to make us all one with Him! We are part of the body of Christ and not even Paul's imprisonment could make us question God's care for all His people. Specifically...

Vs. 14-15 ~ Paul bowed his knees before the Father, because Paul understood that no words or works of his meant anything if the Lord was not in it. We have no power to do anything apart from God, and so we pray to the one who cares for us.

Every family in heaven and on earth is named by God... whether Jew (the chosen, circumcised people), or Gentile (those who were once outsiders but are now His people). This means so much to me. I grew up always feeling like the "second best" or "the outsider". But I was never an outsider to God. If I belong to Him, I belong. I can be completely secure.

Vs. 16-19. ~ What was the actual prayer Paul was praying?

- First, his prayer was that God would answer according to the riches of HIS glory. The prayer is not, "Lord, these are good people. They deserve Your help." Paul would never be able to pray that for anyone. None of us deserve anything but condemnation from the Lord. The prayer was, "Lord, these people are desperately in need. Please answer according to the riches of YOUR glory, not theirs."*
- He prayed that God would grant us to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in our inner being. If God only granted me to be strengthened by my own power... to just be my best self... I would still be lost. But God strengthens me with the power of His own Spirit. That is ample power to accomplish anything I need.*
- He prayed the Spirit would be my strength for a purpose... so that Christ may dwell in my heart through faith. More than anything I need, I need Jesus to be the focus of my heart. I need my faith to be anchored in Him. I need to be rooted and grounded in His love. This means that anything else can't provide what I need. If I dwell on SELF, my faith has no anchor. It just flails around. If I'm rooted in SELF, I'm NOT rooted or grounded in anything of any value. I may boast about being all about me.... But what does that matter? It has no value. I NEED to PRAY for the strength of the Spirit to*

CONTINUALLY keep me grounded in my faith in Jesus... and not let me waver in that faith.

- *Paul prayed that I would be rooted and grounded in love SO THAT I would have STRENGTH TO COMPREHEND what is the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ. Why would he need to pray for the Spirit to empower me to grasp this if Jesus already proved His love from the cross? Because my natural default is to let every circumstance make me question God's love. But nothing can separate me from His love, "neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39). This is SO COOL. Paul prays that I will grasp the breadth and length and height and depth, and to experientially KNOW the love of Christ... because there is no height or depth or breadth or length that CAN separate me from His love. No matter how high the problem, His love is higher. No matter how wide or deep the problem, His love is deeper and wider.*
- *Paul prayed that I would have this strength to comprehend God's love "together with all the saints." No saint (believer in Christ) can grasp the love of God in our own strength. We ALL need God's help, and we ALL need to encourage each other with this hope.*

All believers need to KNOW this love of God that is bigger than knowledge. It is by knowing and experiencing His love that we are ALL filled with all the fullness of God. I do not have the power within myself to grasp God's love, and without grasping His love, I won't be filled with the fullness of God. So Paul prayed for me... for US. I can pray this as well... for myself and for others, and trust that God WILL fill US.

Vs. 20-21 ~ For this reason, Paul prayed... that we might know God's love and be filled with all His fullness... He prayed this because we don't have the power to grasp it without the help of the Holy Spirit giving us the strength to grasp it. Paul ends His prayer with this hope ~ "Now to Him who is able to do far more than all that we ask or think..." Knowing God's love surpasses knowledge. But God is able to grant me to know Him... I couldn't even ask for or imagine the depth of love I need in order to survive. But God knows what I need and He provides what I need. His

power is ALREADY at work within me... by the Spirit who has sealed me.

To GOD be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Why? Because He is able to strengthen every generation with His love, no matter who we are. No man can do what God is able to do. So He deserves the glory.

I need Him. He answers.

I was nothing. He made me His child.

I had no love. He has lavished me with immeasurable love.

I didn't know His love. He's helping me to have an understanding about Him that is beyond comprehension... only by the power of the Spirit.

I was empty. He fills me with His fullness.

To God be the glory.