



EPHESIANS 3:14-21

EPHESIANS

Barna Research – Knowledge and Practice Gaps

Barna, 2023: “The Resilient Disciple” study

- Only **21%** of U.S. Christians are considered “**resilient disciples**”—those whose beliefs and behaviors align with historic Christian faith and regularly engage in Scripture, church, and mission.
- Among those who identify as Christian:
 - **58%** don’t actively practice their faith.
 - **40%** say they believe Christian teachings, but **do not let them shape daily decisions**.

 *Insight:* A majority identify as Christian culturally, but few consistently live out the implications of the gospel.

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a series of dark blue, wavy, concentric lines that create a sense of depth and movement, resembling a stylized 'W' or a series of overlapping waves.

Pray for the Power to Practice What We Preach

Ephesians 3:14-21

The Problem of Worldliness

Nominal Christianity



PROFESSION
WITHOUT
POWER



BELIEFS
WITHOUT
PRACTICE



WORDS
ALONE



A New Identity

- Leads To -

A New Life



Our New Identity in Christ (Ephesians 1-3)

- Chosen and adopted by God
- Redeemed and forgiven through Christ's blood
- Made alive with Christ
- Part of God's new covenant family



Spiritual Strength

Empowered by the Spirit to live out our calling



Our New Life & Application (Ephesians 4-6)

- Walk in a manner worthy of your calling
- Now longer walk as the Gentiles do in the futility of their mind.
- Put off the old self, put on the new self
- Be filled with the Spirit



Our Faith Must Move From Information to Transformation



1. Pray For Inner Strength. vv 14-16

The Source

This strength comes not from self-effort but from God's indwelling Spirit working within us.

The Location

Inner strength builds **spiritual resilience** at our core – affecting our thoughts, motivations, and character.

The Purpose

God strengthens us not merely for our comfort, but to empower our testimony and transform our character to reflect Christ.

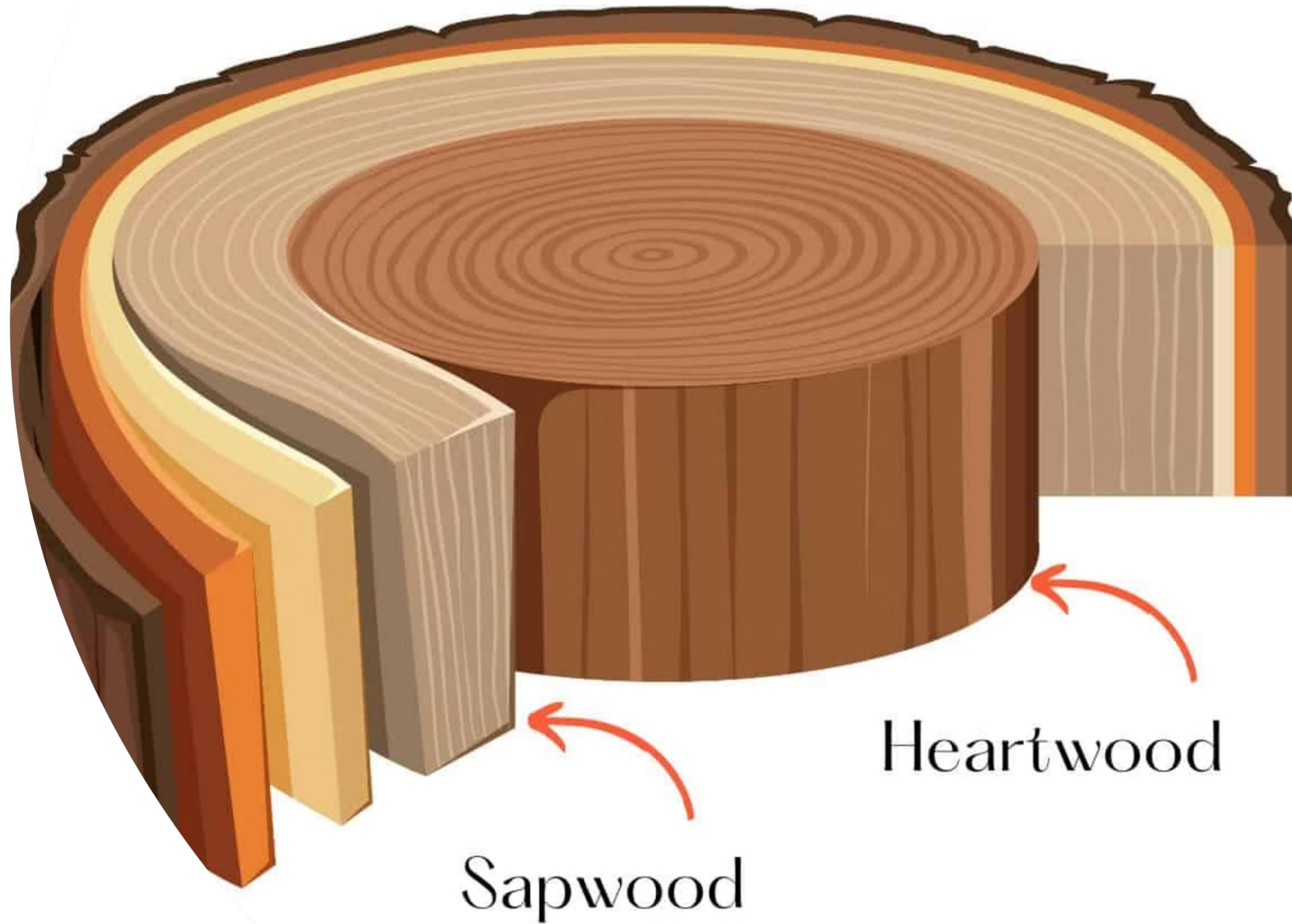
1689 LBCF - Chapter 13

They who are united to Christ, effectually called, and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, are also farther sanctified, really and personally,

This sanctification is throughout the whole man, yet imperfect in this life; there abideth still some remnants of corruption in every part, whence ariseth a continual and irreconcilable war; the flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.

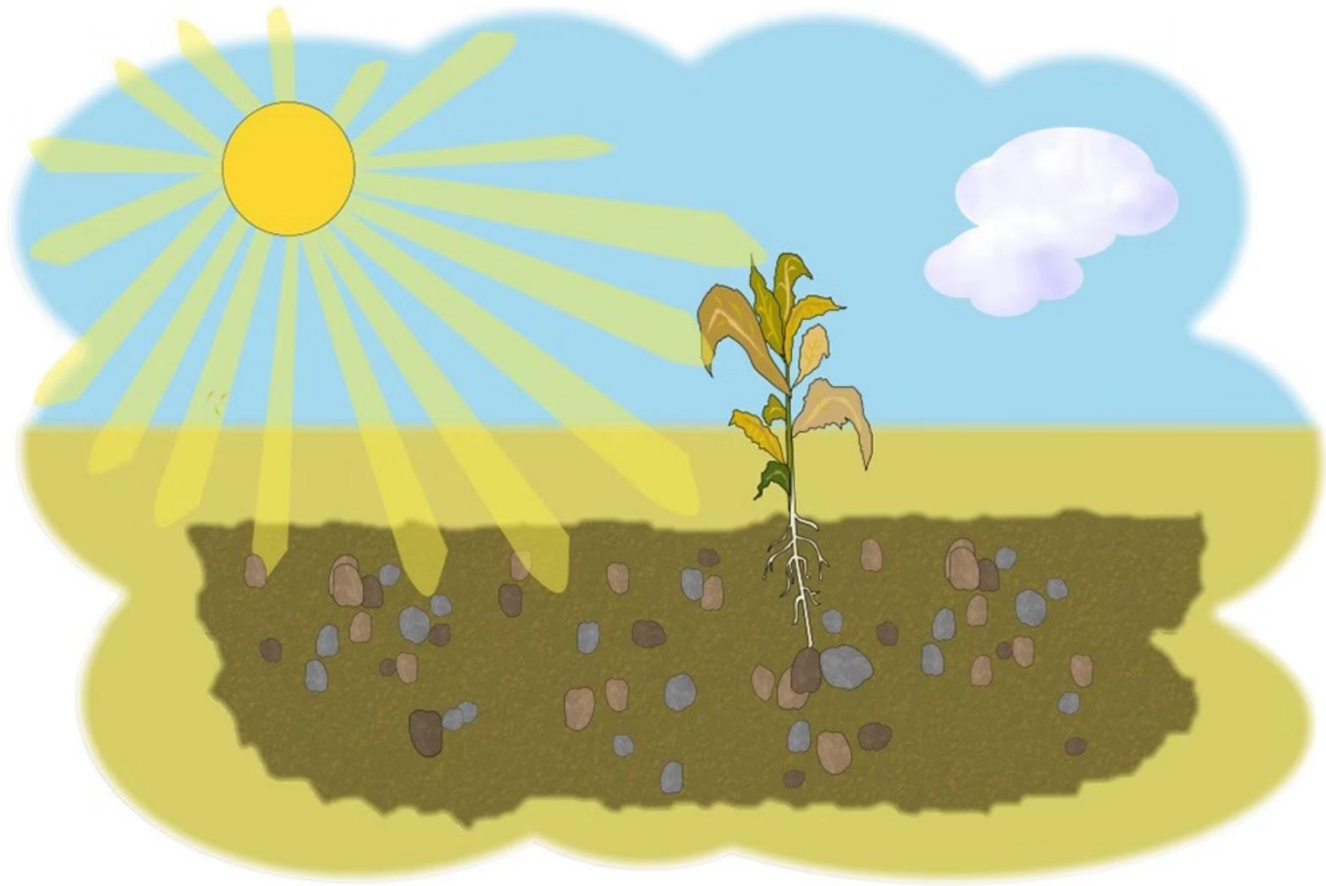
In which war, although the remaining corruption for a time may much prevail, yet through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate part doth overcome.

Building Inner Strength: Like a Tree's Core



2. The Power of Love vv17-19

Matthew 13



Matthew 7

Christ's Love is:

- **Wide enough** to include everyone (Jew and Gentile, every sinner),
- **Long enough** to last forever (eternal),
- **High enough** to lift us to heaven (heirs with Christ),
- **Deep enough** to reach the worst sinner or lowest place (even when we are spiritually dead).

Understanding God's Fullness



Filled with God's Fullness

Ephesians 3:19

This signifies experiencing God's presence, power, and character so that we have put on the new self.



Maturity in Christ

Ephesians 4:13

This points to spiritual maturity, where we become more like Christ in character, knowledge, and unity.



Empowered by the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18

This is an ongoing experience of being controlled and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Application: Increasing in Prayer for One Another



Pray Through the Directory

Pray every **Wednesday** for each person in our church directory.
(7 committed)



Pray for Leadership

Lift up pastor on sabbatical for rest and renewal, and our deacons for wisdom and servant hearts.



Pray for Our Church

Strengthened to walk worthy of our calling.

I pray for myself that I would have spiritual strength to grow in _____ through the love of Christ.

I pray for _____ that he/she would have spiritual strength to grow in _____ through the love of Christ.



“You may measure the love of Christ, but you can never comprehend it. It is immeasurable. But the more you know it, the more you are filled with all the fullness of God.”

Charles Spurgeon

From a sermon on Ephesians 3:18–19