

RESTORE
GOD CAN: HIS LOVE
Thursday, May 14
Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

Ephesians 3:17 *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.*

In the mid-'80's, the song "The Power of Love" by Huey Lewis and the News topped the charts. It was made popular by the movie *Back to the Future*. I was in my high school marching band at the time and I grew to dislike this song. We would play it every football game as part of our half-time routine for several years. Between having to play the song from memory and march at the same time - it got old very fast.

In the Apostle Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3, he brings together these two ideas of God's power and God's love. The Greek word Paul uses for love is *agápē*. This is the highest form of love. It is the word used most often to describe God's love (3:17). Paul uses two word pictures to describe God's love in our lives. We are to be "rooted" in God's love. This pictures a tree whose deep roots hold it firm, unshaken by the winds that blow against it. The second picture tells us we are to be "grounded" in God's love, like a building with a solid, firm foundation. These two words describe a past action that has continuing results. When Christ dwells in our hearts through faith, we can have confidence that nothing can separate us from God's love (see Romans 8:35-39). His love is so immense that we will never fully grasp its' full scope. It is only as we continue to grow in Christ's love that we begin to understand and can be constantly "filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" (3:18-19) – that is being all God wants us to be!

The Greek word *dúnamis* is translated as "power" in these verses. We get our English words dynamo and dynamic from this word. It speaks of the power to do something, the ability to understand. Paul's prayer for believers is that the Holy Spirit will give them the power to grow in Christ's love and live dynamic lives for Christ. He closes the prayer with the promise that God "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us" (3:20).

In his book Restore, Vince Antonucci said this: "God loves us despite us, not because of us. He loves us not because of what we do but because of who He is. Grace means we can't lose God's love. When we're at our worst, God's love is at its best...So instead of shrinking away from God in shame and falling into sin, we turn away from the sin and we fall into God."¹

So God's love compels us to show and share His love with others. In the next verses, Paul urges his readers to "live a life worthy of the calling...be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:1-2). That is the real Power of Love!

¹ Vince Antonucci. Restore, p 88