

"Prayer" Part 3

Mount of Olives | August 3, 2025 | Ephesians 3:14-21

Pastor Jim Reynen

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, we are reminded today that our hope is in Your sovereignty. In this world, we are often tempted by vice, fear, or despair. Help us as we worship You, this morning, and as we proceed into the world this week, of our need to wholly depend on Christ, gaining strength from your firm foundation. In Jesus name, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Message Notes

Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Study Questions – Read Ephesians 3:14-21

ICEBREAKER – Getting started:

1. Have you ever received a gift that made you feel deeply loved? What was it?
2. What helps you feel strong or grounded when life gets overwhelming?
3. What's one thing in your life that makes you say, "That was more than I could've asked or imagined"?

Based on Ephesians 3:14-21, answer the following questions:

OBSERVATION – What does the text say?

1. As you read **Ephesians 3:14-21**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?

2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?

3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?

1. Why does Paul begin this section with the phrase, "For this reason I kneel before the Father"? What does this posture of prayer suggest about his attitude toward God?

2. What does Paul ask God to give the Ephesians in verse 16? Why do you think inner strength "through His Spirit" is important?

3. What does it mean to be "rooted and established in love" (v.17)? How does that foundation affect a believer's life?

4. Paul prays that believers may grasp the "width, length, height, and depth" of Christ's love. What do these dimensions suggest about the nature of that love?

5. What does it mean to "know this love that surpasses knowledge" (v.19)? How is it possible to know something that surpasses understanding?

6. What would it look like to be "filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" (v.19)? How might that change how we think, act, and relate to others?

7. Paul ends with a doxology (vv.20–21). How do these verses shape your understanding of what God is capable of doing in and through us?

8. In what ways do you need God's strength or love right now? How might this prayer guide your own prayers?

APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?

1. Have you ever experienced a moment when you felt strengthened by God's Spirit in your inner being? What was that like?

2. How can we help one another grasp more fully the love of Christ as a community of believers?