

“Strengthened With Power Through His Spirit”:
Praying With Paul, Part 1
Sermon Notes

- **Intercede for the saints: petition the Father to bestow his bountiful blessings.**

Blessings of divine:

1. Power (16-17)

2. Love (18-19a)

3. Fullness (19b)

Community Group Study Questions

For the Week of August 8th - 14th

Introduction: For reflection

Do you regularly pray for the church? When you seek God on behalf of his church, what things do you tend to call upon the Lord for? What do you hear others petition God for, on behalf of his church?

Context

Let's briefly consider what Paul writes before jumping into his second prayer in 3:14-21. First, read Paul's first prayer in Ephesians 1:15-23. Now skim Paul's second prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21. What are the overlapping words and themes?

Paul begins his prayer in 3:14 with "For this reason" which hearkens back to "For this reason" in 3:1. What concerns from 2:11-22 and 3:1-13 lead Paul to make this prayer?

*If your loved one prayed for you, you'd know something about the person praying on your behalf because you have a relationship. This prayer is no different, so let's consider the people involved in this prayer: **Who** is praying? What do we learn about him in 1:1 and 3:1-13? **Who** is being petitioned? What do we learn about him in 3:15? Who is being prayed **for**? What do we learn about them in chs. 1-3? **How** is this prayer being done (consider 3:12 as well)?*

Observation

What ideas/themes are repeated in this prayer of petition?

What are the petitions in this prayer (note: There are at least 2 but not more than 5, depending on how one structures and interprets the language here)?

What do we learn about God - Father, Son and Spirit - from this prayer? How is the triune God involved in this prayer?

Meaning

*What phrases in the prayer suggest **the extent** to which God answers?*

Why does Paul ask that Christ might dwell in the hearts of Christians, especially "through

faith”, if they are already Christians? Note, consider all of verse 3:17.

God answers this petition “in your inner being” and “in your hearts”. Why in the heart/soul/inner being/spiritual, rather than in the physical body? God also gives us comprehension “with all the saints.” Why does it take the whole body of the church to grasp the love of Christ? Can you know Jesus and his love apart from other Christians?

Why does Paul move from his prayer into the doxology of praise in 3:20-21?

How would you summarize Paul’s prayer of petition in one main sentence or idea?

Application

How might you change your approach to God in prayer, given Paul’s example?

How might you change what you petition God for when you pray for his church?

- 1. Think of our local church, Mound Free - for whom and in what ministries can you pray for God’s divine power, love and fullness to be bestowed?*
- 2. Think of the global church - where is God’s power, love and fullness needed?
Pray for the global church.*