

## **A Profound Prayer**

Part 2, Ephesians 3:18-21

**Grant us to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that:**

- 1. Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**
- 2. You may be able to know the love of Christ for you**, having already been rooted and grounded in love (comprehending and experiencing His love for you in all its dimensions)
- 3. You may be filled up to all the fullness of God**

**18-19 With all the saints because we need to:**

1. Hear about and see the love of Christ expressed to others
2. Have the love of Christ expressed through other believers

**TO KNOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST** – a doctrinal, experiential, intimate, knowing

- 1. Can be immediate and overwhelming** Paul (2 Cor. 12); Ps. 16:11; Moses (Exod. 33);

In Christian History: Charles Spurgeon, Jonathan Edwards, David Brainerd, Dwight L. Moody; Blaise Pascal

- 2. Persisting for a lifetime pressing us toward maturity** 2Co 5:14-15; Phil. 3:8,12

- 3. Breadth, length, height, depth of the love of Christ**

- 4. Founded on doctrine which informs and interprets our experience**

- a. Christ loved me and gave Himself up for me - Gal. 2:20
- b. Christ died for me while I was an unrepentant sinner - Rom. 5:5-8
- c. God saved us by His mercy through Jesus, washing us clean - Titus 3:4-6
- d. We love because God first loved us, and sent Jesus as a wrath-bearing sacrifice on our behalf - 1 John 4:9-11,19
- e. We will love much, if we realize we have been forgiven much - Luke 7:36-50
- f. Christ died for us, intercedes for us, and nothing will separate us from His love for us – Rom. 8:31-39

- 5. It is fleshed out in experience and life (joy, suffering, relationship)**

Heb. 12:5-6,11; Ps. 34:7-8

- 6. Recognize that the love of Christ for us will always surpass our knowledge – whether doctrine or experience**

**YOU MAY BE FILLED UP TO ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD** – Eph. 4:11-13

Parallel to knowing the love of Christ

In the moment and over a lifetime.

**20 God is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think**

**1. A big request requires a powerfully able God**

**2. Beyond all that we ask or think?** Jim Elliot, Abraham, Matt. 9

Realistic application: John the Baptist, Peter, Heb. 11:35ff; us

Pray big prayers with faith in an overwhelmingly able God who cares for you...

Yet, know there is mystery for us in His sovereignty and wisdom that is often hidden from us

We won't be disappointed in heaven

**3. As in the power working withing us** (Paul's life and salvation as an example)

**21 to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.**

As wonderful a goal as it is to have power in our inner man in order to experience Christ dwelling in our hearts, to know the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ and to be filled with all the fullness of God, it all leads to an even greater end goal: that God would be glorified in the church and through Jesus Christ forever and ever.