

A Loving Prayer **Ephesians 3:14-21**

The Apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, completes the first half of the book of Ephesians with a prayer for all those in Christ at Ephesus. This prayer is majestic. Having outlined the love, mercy, grace, and spiritual riches that are available for all believers, Paul drops to his knees before the Heavenly Father and asks that the Ephesian believers be strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit so that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith. All this, according to God's rich grace. Those filled with power by grace through faith then may be able to understand the height and depth, breadth and length, glorious nature of Christ's love so that they might be filled with the fullness of God. This prayer is not merely for the Ephesians, however. It is for those in Christ Jesus for all generations forever and ever.

Topic: The theological foundation of our spiritual lives is very important. Ephesians 1-3 lay out that foundation. In order to grasp the spiritual riches of His grace, we must understand the foundation of faith.

- Have you been thinking about God with the Trinity in mind? Notice how this prayer includes reference to the Heavenly Father, the Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. How does the Trinity allow God's love to be perfect in every way?
- Ephesians 3:17 notes that we are rooted in love. How would you describe the breadth and length, height and depth of God's love for us?
- What is the Father's role in God's love? What is the Son's? What is the Spirit's?
- How does understanding the riches of God's love help us to be filled with the fullness of God?
- What is the fullness of God?

Association: How is your prayer life? Talk about the struggles or successes of your prayer life.

- To whom do you address your prayers?
- How do you end your prayers?
- Do you recite scriptural prayers?
- Are your prayers more request-based, thanks-based, adoration-of-God's-nature-based, etc.?
- How often are you praying for the spiritual wellbeing of others, rather than the physical?

Guidance: Commit to changing up your prayer life a bit. Consider compiling a list of prayers in Scripture to pray. Consider journaling your prayers for a month. Consider giving more prayer time to the spiritual foundations than to the requests you have. Consider making your requests more spiritual in nature. Give your best prayer tips.

- Pray for GCC's missionaries and missions partner organizations.
- Pray about how you might go on a missions trip or might help support one.
- Pray for the Gospel to spread like wildfire here in the United States and abroad.
- Pray for the salvation of the lost.
- Pray for and with one another.