

Praying for the Holy Spirit to Fill People with the Love of God

Ephesians 3:14–21

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This week I was able to connect with more than one of my Spiritual Mentors. This reminded me of God's calling upon all of us to be Spiritual Mentors. We have the opportunity to encourage, comfort, and hold one another accountable.

This week we will be looking at a prayer the apostle Paul prayed. It was written to the church in a city called Ephesus. This prayer is for every believer to pray for any Christian and even for sinners.

Ephesians 3:14–21 (NLT)

When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

Christians and sinners alike need to experience the Love of God In Jesus Christ. Nobody deserves the love of God in Jesus Christ. Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden demonstrated that we don't deserve God's love. We take what God has given us and then in one form or another we use it for our own desires. Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Peter, and Paul didn't deserve God's love. There was nothing anyone of them could do to earn God's love.

We think about certain people as not worthy of God's love. You know who I mean, axe murders; people who scam old folks; individuals who abuse women and children; devil worshippers. They have done nothing to deserve God's love. The drug dealers, crooked business leaders, corrupt politicians, the self-righteous religious leaders, and celebrities have done nothing to deserve God's love. The alcoholic, drug addict, swearing truck driver, whining teenager have done nothing to deserve God's love.

Then there are people who certainly are worthy of God's love, he said with sarcasm. They are the every Sunday church people; the generous and kind givers; the people who make sacrifices. But, they have done nothing to deserve God's love.

God loves people because God loves people. It's not that God is a fool loving people who choose their own way instead of trusting Him. God is overflowing with unconditional love. God loves those in whom He has given life. God's love flows from His inexhaustible heart of love. God will not stop loving people.

The love of God is this that while we reject God, forget about God, do our own thing, go after what we want God sent His Son to die and rise again for us to be forgiven of our sins. The love of God in Jesus Christ is His Life, Death, and Resurrection. No one earns that love by doing anything. That sounds inconceivable, unbelievable, unimaginable.

I cannot comprehend that kind of love. I don't have that kind of love and neither do you. I see people and their warts. I see people and their past. I don't see their potential. I don't want to forgive people.

All of that is true until Jesus entered my heart. My heart is being changed since Jesus came into my life, filled with me His Holy Spirit, and remains with me everyday. The Holy Spirit is continually reminding me of His love for me, my family, my friends, my neighbors, and the strangers I encounter everyday. No matter how I feel or what I think the Holy Spirit reminds me that Jesus loves every person ever conceived.

Until I experienced the love of God in Jesus Christ I didn't know such a love existed. I couldn't and still can't comprehend such a magnificent, unconditional love. I still struggle to love others as Christ loved me. It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit, that I can share the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 3:16 (NLT)

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.

Our daily question is what do I want or what does God want for every person? Two very different questions, right? I'm going to be very personal. I think about what I want. I want my wife to be healed. I want a new Honda. I want this room to be filled.

But, if I'm honest with myself what I want isn't always what God wants. Along with these things I just mentioned, I sometimes want to get to the end so I can rest. It is my nature to be at rest. As I child, for as long as I can remember, I looked forward to day dreaming. I'm just being honest, it doesn't do any good to lie.

In school my teachers were always encouraging me to be the leader, to take charge, to do more. They were often telling me that I had a so much potential. But, that wasn't realized in my school years, I got "C's" because I could without much effort. Then I could spend time doing what I wanted.

I could coast, but God doesn't call us to coast. Coasting, just getting by, isn't in the Bible. Jesus never said go be lazy, go goof around, go be bored and then do something stupid. You can't find that in the Bible. You don't hear that from one of the Old Testament prophets, it's not in the Law, the Ten Commandments, or on the lips of any of Jesus' disciples.

If I were to coast, we might be ready to close the doors in four years. I don't think that's what we want to do. I don't believe that's what God wants for any of us.

Even though I might like my recliner, and I'm planning to retire in four years, doesn't mean that I can coast. I am the Spiritual Mentor of this church. I am your Spiritual Mentor. God appointed me to that position. God called me to this particular ministry.

That might sound like legacy, but that's not what I mean. It's not about me, but it is about the church of Jesus Christ and the future. It's about what God wants me to do. It's about what God wants all of us to do.

The Holy Spirit has put on my heart the ministry of Spiritual Mentors. We are all disciple makers. Being a Spiritual Mentor is being intentional about helping Christians become closer to Jesus or helping sinners know Jesus as their Savior and Lord. The Holy Spirit has laid it upon my heart to be praying for sinners to come to Jesus. I believe that both of these are moving us toward a new vision.

We are Born Again Kingdom People, Living Like Jesus, Revealing His Grace. Being Spiritual Mentors is one part of the strategy to fulfill this vision. Born Again Kingdom People, Living Like Jesus, Revealing His Grace are praying for sinners to come to know Jesus. Born Again Kingdom People, Living Like Jesus, Revealing His Grace are glorifying God. Is our prayer for what we want or for what God wants?

Ephesians 3:17-19 (NLT) Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

People will receive God's blessings, strength in their spirit, deep roots of love and understanding, and they will experience the full love of Jesus. This is what God wants. Heaven is filled with more blessings than are on earth. That's hard to comprehend. God wants every person He was created to receive these blessings. That's hard to comprehend. God wants us to have His power. Is that hard to comprehend? God wants us to have the knowledge of His love. That's not hard to comprehend, right? God wants us to experience the full embrace of His love. That's not hard to comprehend, right? Can you imagine the roots of your faith and love being so deep that nothing on this earth can topple you?

There would be no doubts or fears, questions or uncertainty, crisis or burden that would push you over. Could you conceive that no matter what direction you went today or tomorrow you would never be outside of God's love? You might go to the moon, to the Grand Canyon, to Russia or to Hawaii and God would still love you. You could be in a mansion, or a tent, a cardboard box, a Honda, a Chevy, a Harley, a Yamaha, an ice cream shop, an airplane, a factory, or an office and God would still love you. The intimacy people share with God will be life changing when they experience His love.

My Savior and Lord is not dead, but He is alive. He is not far away soaking up the sun, He is the Son. He is not distracted by daily events, insults, illnesses, diseases, hurricanes, or floods. He is the Lord over all life. He is attentive to my needs. He hears my prayers. He meets my needs. He answers my prayers.

No matter what I worry about, or obsess upon, or fret over, He has already planned and seen the answer. Regardless of the tragedy to my life, my wife or my children, my family, my friends, my neighbors, He is with me to comfort, encourage, and challenge me.

In spite of all the noise around me, all the voices speaking at once, all confusion, and chaos my Savior and Lord loves me. His love for me is the constant reminder that He is my Savior and my Lord.

I can talk to Him anytime. I can lean upon Him anytime. I can find my strength and hope in Him anytime. His love fills me with a desire for others to experience His love. His love draws me to share His love. His love makes it possible for me to love the people who are not worthy of His love.

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20–21 (NLT)

Pray this prayer for yourself and seven other people this week. What I'm saying is everyday pray Ephesians 3:16-20 for a different person each day for a week. Pray these words for yourself. Put your name in these verses. That's a little awkward, substitute the word me for the words you and you. You are going to be asking God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit to do all these things in your life.

Paul was praying for the people at the church in Ephesus to experience God's blessings, God's strength, God's power, and God's love in their lives. You need to pray this same prayer for yourself.

It's no longer just about your troubles and your problems. Now it's about what God wants to do in your life. I know you can do this. You may need to write out the verse changing the words to make it personal. Take some time today to do just that. Then on Monday, during your time alone with Jesus begin praying this prayer.

Take a moment to write down the names of seven people. You are going to pray for a different person each day. That's the minimum. You may decide that you need to pray this prayer for each one each day. Follow the Holy Spirit.

I can only imagine how many people you could write from the school or from your jobs. The list of family members may not be exhaustive, but you might be able to fill all seven blanks. The friends you know who are Christians might be named on your list. Your friends or neighbors who aren't Christians could be on your list.

Everyone needs to experience the love of God in Jesus Christ. We know how important the love of Jesus to us and to other believers. How much more important will His love be to sinners?

Jesus loves all the people in world. He died to save them, He rose from the dead to deliver them. He is enthroned in heaven at the right hand of the Father pleading for sinners to trust him and be saved.

There is no reason for people to reject Jesus. Who rejects unconditional love? Who wouldn't want to experience the forgiving love of God in Jesus Christ? People who have rejected God. People who don't know the love of God. People who haven't chosen Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

We need to pray for them. We know their names. We know their lives. We live life with them. We can pray that they will experience the love of God in Jesus Christ.