

**Series: EPHESIANS: THE CHURCH EMPOWERED**  
**Title: FINDING STRENGTH THROUGH THE STORM**  
**Text: Ephesians 3.14-21**  
**Date: October 20, 2024**

## **Opening Line**

Why does my walk seem weak all the time?  
Am I praying wrongly?  
Are my prayers being heard?  
Am I praying rightly?

**Prayer is not a button to be pushed. It's a relationship to be pursued.**

- A relationship with God and relationship with His people through prayer and practice.

The letter is about the church:

- 1- The Project – to choose, adopt, elect. And bless.
- 2- The Process – By His grace through faith in Christ He makes a dwelling place.
- 3-
  - a. 3a -The Plan and the Purpose – to reveal this to the nations and make manifest His wisdom to all areas: the heavens, the government, the church, and the family.
  - b. 3b -The Prayer for you.
- 4- The Practice of the Church in general
- 5- 5-6a - The Practice of the Church in the home
- 6- 6b - The protection of the Church in the world

Paul has stated the project, the process, the plan and the purpose.

But before he goes into the application of this in our personal lives he pauses and he prays.

Paul gives a glimpse as to what to pray for in order to have the strength needed.

## **FOUNDATION OF PRAYER: God's desire and design in your life**

### **Eph. 3:14-15**

*<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named...*

- The reason is the establishment of the One New Body – the Church
  - 1 – His project
    - Choose us for His glory.
  - 2 – His process
    - Save us by His grace.
    - Make One Body
  - 3 – His plan and purpose
    - Establish the Church
    - Send us as a light to the world

## **PRAY FOR THREE THINGS**

### **Eph. 3:16-19**

*<sup>16</sup> that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

#### **Pray to be strengthened with power through His Spirit**

- In your inner being meaning...
- So Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...

#### **Pray to be rooted and grounded in love**

- “Rooted and grounded” meaning fully convinced and committed, deeply dug in.
- It brings strength to comprehend the all-encompassing love of Christ
- Comprehend – to seize hold of with unyielding grip.
- This allows us to be filled with all the fullness of God.

#### **Pray to know that God is able**

### **Eph. 3:20-21**

*<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

- He is able to do far more than we ask or think.
- He is able to work in us the power of the Spirit.
- What he is doing is receiving glory.
  - In the church
  - In Christ

## **What happens if this does not take place?**

Does this matter?

- If you don't get this, you'll burn out.
- This explains why so many of you are so tired all the time

## **What do I do? Be in relationship with God**

Again, Prayer is not a button to be pushed. It's a relationship to be pursued.

## **God has a desire and design in your life that you be STRONG**

Walk in Power through the Spirit.  
Stay rooted and grounded in Christ.  
Place total reliance on the Father.