

Walk in the Spirit

Ephesians 3:14-21

Lesson 15

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Share a truth you received from your study of Ephesians 3:1-13.
2. Do you realize how much God loves you? It is essential that as a believer you grasp this simple, yet revolutionary truth! When we begin to fathom God's love, we become more thankful, more productive, more gracious, more powerful in prayer, and greater witnesses of Jesus Christ. This is Paul's request in his second prayer for the Ephesians.

Paul's first prayer was that the Ephesians might know God's Person, plan, and power. In this second prayer Paul focused on the need for the Ephesians to know, by divine revelation, the love of God for them. Read and highlight the essence of the following passages:

- a. Ephesians 3:14-15
 - b. Ephesians 3:16-17
 - c. Ephesians 3:18-19
 - d. Ephesians 3:20-21
3. As you do your lesson this week, ask the Lord to give you a greater revelation of His love.

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 3:14

SECOND DAY: Read Ephesians 3:14–15

1. Before Paul prayed a second time for the Ephesians he used the phrase, *For this reason*. Review Ephesians 3:9 to identify *this reason*. Ephesians 3:14a
 - a. Why do you think *this reason* required prayer?

2. What was Paul's posture in prayer? Ephesians 3:14b
 - a. What does Paul's posture convey to you?

3. How did Paul address God in prayer? Ephesians 3:14c
 - a. Link this with Jesus' directive concerning prayer in Matthew 6:9. What do you see?
 - b. Use the following Scriptures to comment on God's role in your life:
 - (1) Matthew 6:8b

 - (2) Romans 8:15

 - (3) 2 Corinthians 6:18
 - (a) Share a way this ministers to you concerning prayer.

4. What did Paul say about the *Father* in Ephesians 3:15?
 - a. How did Paul describe believers?
 - (1) Why do you think this description is important?

5. What aspect of today's study inspires you?

THIRD DAY: Read Ephesians 3:16-17a

1. Use Ephesians 3:16 to answer the following questions:

a. What did Paul ask God to *grant* to the Ephesians? Ephesians 3:16c

b. Paul asked for this *according to* what resource? Ephesians 3:16b

(1) Use the following Scriptures to describe these *riches*:

(a) Ephesians 1:7-8

(b) Ephesians 2:7

(c) Ephesians 3:8

c. Through Whom did Paul request that they be *strengthened*? Ephesians 3:16c

(1) Why was this so appropriate? See Zechariah 4:6.

d. Where did the Ephesians need to be *strengthened*? Ephesians 3:16d

(1) Why do you think this was so important? See also Philippians 2:13.

2. What did Paul pray for the believers in Ephesians 3:17a?

a. Use Romans 10:8-9 to remark on the significance of the phrase *by faith*.

b. The word *dwell* in Greek suggests the idea of settling into a permanent home. Use the following verses to comment on this prayer request:

(1) John 14:23

(2) Colossians 3:16

3. Why do you think Paul's requests were essential for the Ephesians?

a. Why are these requests essential for your life?

FOURTH DAY: Read Ephesians 3:17b-19

1. According to Paul's prayer, what was the outcome of Christ dwelling in the Ephesians' hearts through faith? Ephesians 3:17b
 - a. Why do you think being planted in Christ's love is important?
 - b. Read the following quote from Charles Spurgeon: *Two expressions are used: 'rooted' like a living tree which lays hold upon the soil, twists itself round the rocks, and cannot be upturned: 'grounded,' like a building which has been settled, as a whole, and will never show any cracks or flaws in the future through failures in the foundation.* How does this minister to you about your need to be rooted and grounded in Jesus' love?
2. What did the Ephesians need to do with all the saints? Ephesians 3:18a
3. Use Ephesians 3:18b to print the dimensions of God's love.
 - a. Link this with Romans 8:38-39. Share your thoughts.
4. Use the following Scriptures to comment on the love of God:
 - a. Jeremiah 31:3
 - b. Zephaniah 3:17
 - c. Ephesians 2:4
 - (1) Why do you suppose Paul felt compelled to pray that we might comprehend God's love?
5. What did Paul state concerning the love of Christ? Ephesians 3:19a
 - a. How does this speak to you?
6. What did Paul pray the Ephesians would be filled with? Ephesians 3:19b
 - a. Link this request with John 1:16. What does this mean to you?

FIFTH DAY: Read Ephesians 3:20-21

1. From Ephesians 3:20a write the superlatives Paul used to emphasize what God *is able to do*:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

2. How do the following verses amplify what God *is able to do*:
 - a. Job 42:2

 - b. Isaiah 40:28-29

 - c. Mark 10:27
 - (1) Considering the nature of Paul's prayer requests in Ephesians 3:16-19, why is God's ability so crucial?

 - (2) Share how recognizing God's ability affects your perspective concerning:
 - (a) your current circumstances

 - (b) your prayer requests

3. *According to* what means will God accomplish these things? Ephesians 3:20b
 - a. Read Ephesians 1:19-21 and comment on this *power*.

 - b. How are you blessed to know this power *works in* you?

4. Write Paul's declaration of praise to God from Ephesians 3:21.
 - a. What does this convey about the role of the *church*?

5. Share a specific area of your life where you need to apply these promises.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. List Paul's requests from Ephesians 3:16-19 as you keep in mind the promise of Ephesians 3:20, *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us:*

a. verse 16

b. verse 17a

c. verse 17b

d. verse 18

e. verse 19a

f. verse 19b

(1) Choose one of the above requests and make it your own.

2. Use this prayer to pray for someone you know.

*To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus
to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.*
Ephesians 3:21