

MONDAY NIGHT MEETING

EPHESIANS - PAUL'S SECOND PRAYER (I)

JANUARY 16, 2017

I. PAUL'S TWO PRAYERS REFLECT THE TWO GREAT NEEDS WE HAVE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

A. We need to understand God's plan and provision

1. We need *a Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him*. Eph. 1:17

B. We need to be empowered for life

II. BASIC STRUCTURE OF PAUL'S SECOND PRAYER

A. Essential petition

1. *To be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man*. Eph. 3:16

B. Results of that work of God

1. *That Christ may dwell in you heart by faith*. Eph. 3:17
2. *To know the love of Christ*. Eph. 3:19
3. *To be filled to all the fullness of God*. Eph. 3:19

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

~ Ephesians 3:14-19

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III. PRAYER FOR STRENGTH FOR FAITH

A. I bow my knees

1. Uncommon in Paul's day
2. Signifies intensity

B. Before the Father

1. Over all - vs.15
2. Rich in glory - That we would be blessed **according to this**

C. Strengthened with might

1. Energized with power
2. Strength to act

D. In the inner man

1. Soul strengthened
2. Inner resolve to take outward steps

E. So that Christ might dwell in your hearts by faith

1. The Lord is already there - Eph. 2:4-5
2. Dwell - speaks of settling into a permanent residence
 - a. Moule - Be perfectly at home there
3. Key to that settling in is faith
4. Real faith leads to perceptible actions
 - a. Outworking of the faith is love

*For those whom the Lord loves
He disciplines, And He scourges
every son whom He receives.*

~ Hebrews 12:6

*But someone may well say, You
have faith and I have works; show
me your faith without the works,
and I will show you my faith by my
works.*

~ James 2:18