

Ephesians week 6  
3:14-21  
Summary

### Summary of Text

Through prayer Paul starts to explain that he is aware of all that God is doing for the church in Ephesus and for all Christ's believers. Paul also states two of God's key gifts of **strength and love** and Paul is writing to help us better understand and comprehend this very strength and love that we receive from God. This section is a transition point between the first and second parts of the book. We are moving from the doctrine or theological portion of the book and moving into the practical and instruction portion.

Through these verses Paul prays for three things. That we may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit's power, that Christ may dwell in us, and that we may be filled with God's resources to a level that is beyond our own understanding. It seems that everything Paul asks in this prayer is the result of the empowering of the Holy Spirit. Paul wants us to have a divine experience where we live our lives with Christ and in a way where we can establish and develop a relationship with Him. God desires for us to dwell with Him and through the empowering of the Spirit we are made into a living sanctuary for Christ's very presence so He may dwell in us.

In verse 14 Paul resumes his original mode of prayer which he had started in chapter 3 verse 1. Last week we looked at how Paul stated that he is a prisoner. Stating his imprisonment showed his posture of weakness, Paul delights in his situation of humiliation because it provides a great opportunity to display the triumph of God in Christ. Now Paul resumes his prayer, "For this reason I kneel before the Father" and restates his posture of weakness but, in a different way, by kneeling.

We looked at Paul's prayer and how God strengthens and prepares His people, which is the church. Paul's prayer is for comprehension of such strength and of Christ's love. We have been learning about the unity of all God's people in the church, this is God's testament to His victory over the powers. For us as members of the church, we have obligations to actively play a part in the continuing story of God's victory. God's victory can be seen in the defeat of evil powers through the death and resurrection of Christ, therefore placing Jesus as Lord of all. God then created the church, who are His new people so now we as the church stand as God's testament for His triumph.

### Application

Again Paul is reminding us that we have already been given all that we need in order to live a fulfilling life for Him. We are given strength and love through the Holy Spirit which lives within us. We are challenged then to remember that our strength and success isn't found or sourced from ourselves but through Christ. "Our great need is

to fall before an almighty Father day and night and to plead for Him to show His radical power in and through us, enabling us to accomplish for His glory what we could never imagine in our own strength.” (David Platt, Radical.)

### **Discussion**

In our discussion we were again focused on the community that Paul describes, but also looked at the dis-unity of the North American church. We looked into why churches are struggling to tread water and why they are not making any significant impact in North America. We talked about how this goes beyond church attendance numbers but reflects the relationships and community that is established within the Church and its members.