



God's Power at Work Within Us

By Jeff Bedwell on July 15, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Ephesians 3

This chapter contains one of the greatest prayers in all the New Testament. After celebrating the glorious reality of the gospel and the body of Christ that transcends all societal barriers (vv. 1-13), Paul bursts forth in prayer. He prays:

1. That believers may be strengthened internally through the Holy Spirit (14-16).
2. That Christ would settle down in the believers' hearts and fully control them as the rightful owner (17).
3. That these believers would be able to grasp the fullest dimensions of the love of Christ -- not just a head knowledge, but an experiential knowledge (17-18).
4. That believers may be filled to capacity with the fullness of God (19).

Taken together, these prayers are for God's presence, power, love and life to fully inhabit us, and for us to fully participate in the reality of His kingdom right here, right now on this earth.

Paul closes his prayer with a powerful doxology celebrating God's power available to us in Christ Jesus (vv. 20-21). Dr. John Birkbeck, a great Scottish preacher, developed a sermon from these verses on the power that is available to us. He used an acrostic of the word ABLE:

- Almighty
- Boundless
- Limitless
- Everlasting

That is the power of God that is at work within us, bringing glory to God *"in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

It has been said that if you want to pray God's will, pray God's Word! Let us adopt Paul's great prayer in these verses to pray regularly for ourselves and for one another. How about taking a few moments and start right now?

PRAYER: Father, today I pray this prayer right from Your Word for myself and for other believers.

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