A Bold Request

Ephesians 3:19b Message

Pray for our church that we would be thoroughly saturated with the fulness of God's character so that it is obvious He dwells within.

Pray that God's character will radiate outward from our church in brilliant glory.

Paul's Three Requests (Eph 3:14-19)

Request 1: Inner strength (16-17a)

Request 2: Experience the incomprehensible vastness of Christ's love (17b-19a)

Request 3: Manifest God's fulness (19b)

"No prayer that has ever been framed has uttered a bolder request"

J. Armitage Robinson , *Commentary on Ephesians*, p. 89

"Could apostolic intercession reach farther than this?"

F. F. Bruce, *Colossians, Philemon and Ephesians*, p. 330

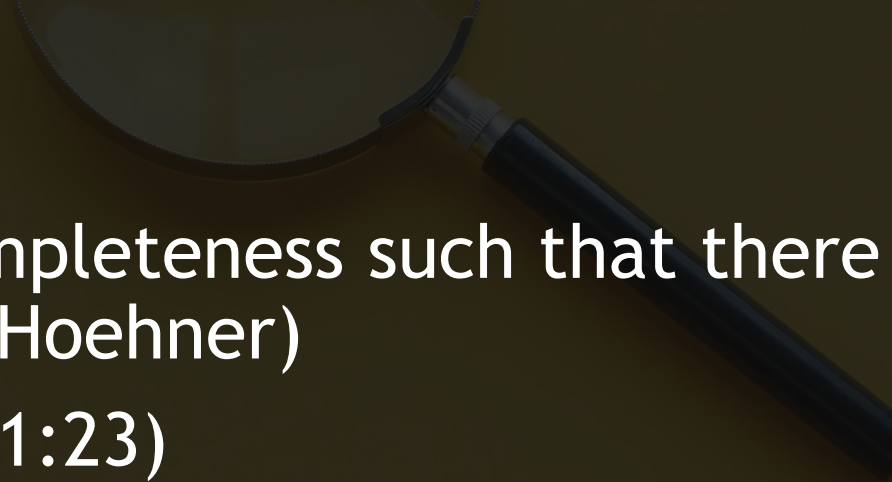"These are bold petitions. Climbers of this staircase become short of breath, even a little giddy"

John Stott, *Ephesians*, p. 139

A Bold Request

Paul's Third Request

Paul prayed for them to be filled

"Filled, Fulness"

- Fulness
- Completeness
- In the NT usually refers to completeness such that there are no gaps, nothing missing (Hoehner)
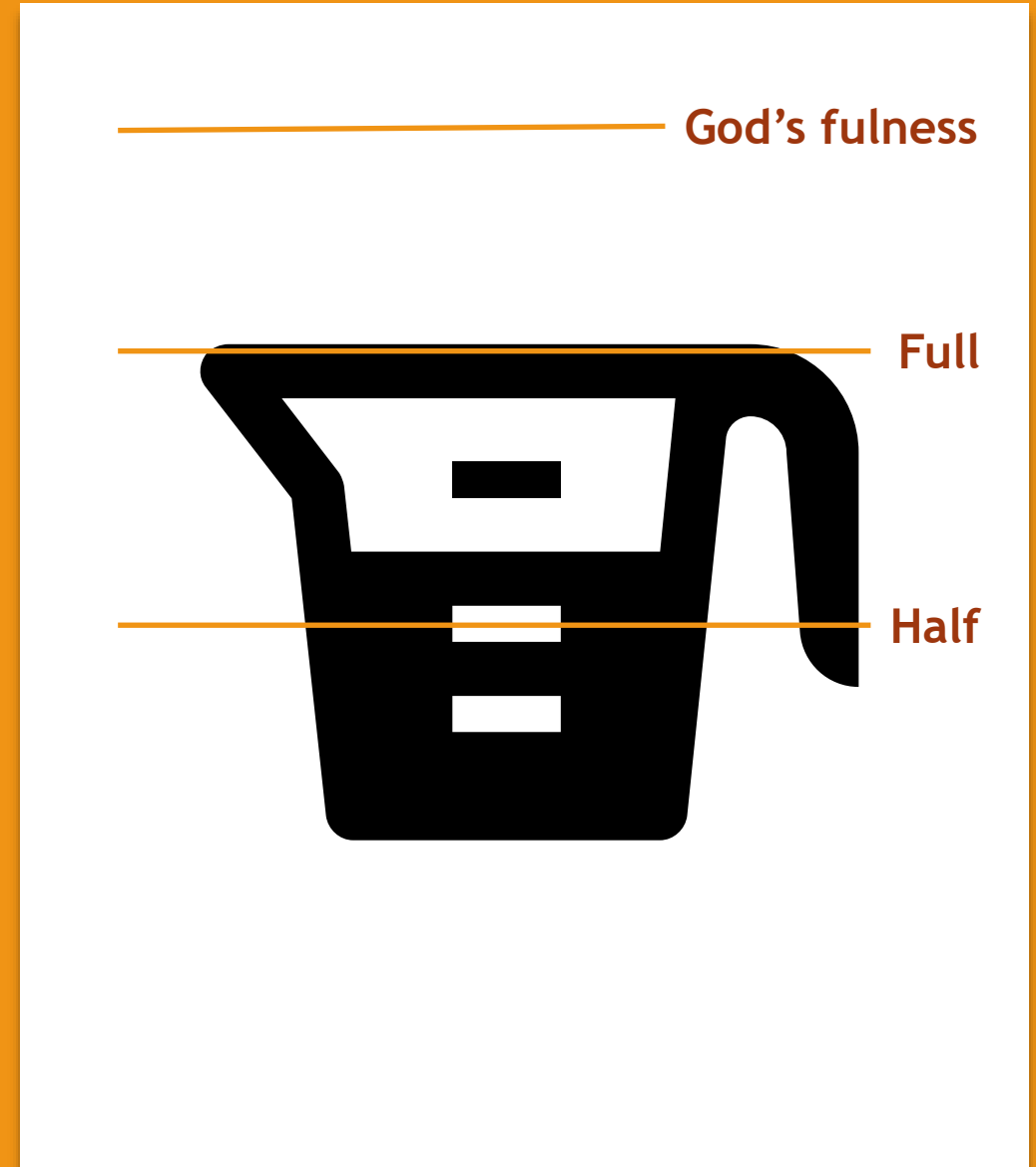- It can describe maturity (Eph 1:23)

Paul's Third Request

Paul prayed for them to be filled

Paul prayed that the measure would be all the fulness of God Himself

How Full?

Filled up to the level of God's fulness!

God's fulness

Full

Half

"God's fullness or perfection becomes the standard or level up to which we pray to be filled"

John Stott, *Ephesians*, p. 138

Filled to the level of all God's fulness

God's Character

The Church

Filled to the level of all God's fulness

Paul's Third Request

What does this mean for us?

Fulness includes:

- God's power working in the church (1:23)
- The love of Christ (3:19)
- Providing the church with spiritual gifts (4:10)
- Influence and control of the Holy Spirit (5:18)
- Its goal is spiritual maturity of the church (4:13)

Fulness

As the Church matures, it is intended to shine with the full brilliance of God's character.