

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians

1. Paul stated that he bows his knees before the Father, “from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name” (14, 15). What attitude does Paul want his readers to take when they likewise approach God in prayer? How do you typically approach God when you come to Him in prayer?
2. What does Paul mean when he prays for them “to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man” (16)? Why does he pray for this? How is this different from the kind of strength and power many of the unbelieving people of this world seek after?
3. The phrase “being rooted and grounded in love” at the end of verse 17 seems to be a result of what Paul prayed in the first part of the verse. What does this phrase mean? And how do you think this comes to us as a result of Christ dwelling in our hearts through faith?
4. What does it mean to “know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge” (19)? Why do you think so many people resist Christ's love?
5. In verses 18-19, Paul asked God to grant the believers a deep understanding of the love of Christ. How does he then reassure them that God will grant his request (20)?
6. In this passage Paul prayed about God's love and power in the life of the believer – how are these related? When have you felt God's power working in your life? How did you know?
7. Paul ended his prayer by stating that God's glory will endure “to all generations forever and ever” (21). What was he stating about God's plans and purposes on earth?
8. Read John 14:19-24 for questions 8-9. Like Paul, Jesus made it clear during his ministry on earth that our inner strength comes from Him. What promise did Jesus make to those who love Him and who demonstrate that love by obeying His commands (14:21)?
9. What sets apart followers of Jesus from the rest of the world? What encouragement did Jesus offer to those who choose to love Him and keep His word (14:23-24)?
10. What truth is most meaningful to you as you contemplate Paul's prayer for the believers in our Ephesians 3:14-21 passage? Using Paul's prayer as a model, share some ways you can pray for people in your life this week, including others in your discussion group.