

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, October 16, 2016

“Alive in Christ: Fulness in Christ”

Ephesians 3:14-21

Because believers are the habitation of the all-powerful God of the universe—God’s \_\_\_\_\_ is in them. Paul prays that God would enable the Ephesians to employ the \_\_\_\_\_ of that power in their everyday lives.

*Abba* =

Paul approaches the Father with \_\_\_\_\_ and confidence, knowing that He is more \_\_\_\_\_ for His children to come to Him than they are of going to Him.

**I BOW MY KNEES**

- An attitude of \_\_\_\_\_—the recognition that one is in the presence of someone who is much higher in \_\_\_\_\_, dignity or authority.

“Come, let us worship and bow down; let kneel before the Lord our Maker.” (Psalm 95:6)

- We see references in Scripture to bowing the knee in times of intense \_\_\_\_\_.

Whereas the first prayer was a prayer for \_\_\_\_\_, this second prayer is a prayer for \_\_\_\_\_—that the Ephesians would be able to \_\_\_\_\_ the things the Lord wants them to accomplish.

Paul pleads with believers to \_\_\_\_\_ to God’s sovereign \_\_\_\_\_, and he pleads with God to \_\_\_\_\_ them to do it.

**PAUL’S 5 PETITIONS**

**Petition #1:** \_\_\_\_\_.

“I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit...” (Ephesians 3:16)

The first step to living like God’s children is to be strengthened in our \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit.

Paul also knew that our physical bodies were destined to \_\_\_\_\_—that they were only \_\_\_\_\_ housing for the real person.

“So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16)

Only \_\_\_\_\_ God can reach and cure our inner being, and this is where He most wants to work, because this is where our \_\_\_\_\_ life exists and must grow.

Although our outer physical nature becomes weaker and weaker with age, our inner, spiritual nature should continually \_\_\_\_\_ stronger and stronger through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit.

“Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16)

When our inner being is fed regularly on the \_\_\_\_\_ and seeks the Spirit’s \_\_\_\_\_ in all the decisions of life, we can be sure that we’ll be strengthened with power through God’s Spirit.

“‘No by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty.” (Zechariah 4:6)

**Do you know the Spirit’s power in your life?**

**How strong are you in your inner being?**

**Petition #2:** \_\_\_\_\_.

“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.” (Ephesians 3:17)

*katoikeo* =

*kata* =

*oikeo* =

The connotation isn’t simply Christ living in our hearts, but being at \_\_\_\_\_ there, \_\_\_\_\_ down as a family member.

Christ lives in us—this happens at \_\_\_\_\_. However, He can’t be “at home” in our hearts until our inner being \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of His Spirit.

Paul’s teaching here isn’t about the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus’ presence in the hearts of believers, but the \_\_\_\_\_ of His presence.

“Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” (John 14: 23)

**How comfortable is Jesus in your heart?**

**Are there any rooms that might need to be cleaned out?**

**Petition #3:** \_\_\_\_\_.

“...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...” (Ephesians 3:17b-19)

The result of our yielding to the Spirit’s power and submitting to Christ’s Lordship in our hearts is \_\_\_\_\_.

- That we would love each other with an \_\_\_\_\_ love.

“A new commandment I give you, that you love one another, as I have loved you.” (John 13:34)

“Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart.” (1 Peter 1:22)

Biblical ‘agape’ love is an attitude of \_\_\_\_\_; a matter of the \_\_\_\_\_, not a matter of feeling or \_\_\_\_\_.

We can only have this kind of love when Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ to work His own love through us—when He has free \_\_\_\_\_ in our hearts.

- That we would comprehend the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s love. Love is available to every believer because \_\_\_\_\_ is available to every believer.

Breadth, length, height and depth doesn’t refer to 4 specific types of love, but simply suggests its \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- Love’s breadth in God’s \_\_\_\_\_ of Gentile and Jew equally in Christ.
- Love’s length in God’s \_\_\_\_\_ us before the foundation of the world.
- Love’s height in God’s \_\_\_\_\_ us up and seating us in the heavenly places.
- Love’s depth in God reaching down to the lowest levels of depravity to \_\_\_\_\_ those who were dead in their trespasses and sins.

- That we would know the love of Christ even though it \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge.

What is incomprehensible to the world is to be \_\_\_\_\_ living for the children of God.

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.” (1 John 4:7-8)

**Do you know the breadth, length, height and depth of God’s love?  
Do you love other with an active love?**

**Petition #4:** \_\_\_\_\_.

“That you may be filled up to all the fulness of God.” (Ephesians 3:19b)

To even begin to grasp the magnitude of this truth, we need to think of all of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God:

*pleroma* =

In the New Testament, it speaks of of total \_\_\_\_\_.

To be filled with the fulness of God is to be totally \_\_\_\_\_ by Him—to be \_\_\_\_\_ of self.

**How filled are you with the fulness of God?**

**Petition #5:** \_\_\_\_\_.

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!” (John 14:12-14)

There’s no situation in which the Lord can’t use us, provided we are \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

“Jesus looked at them intently and said, ‘Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.’” (Matthew 19:26)

**Do you believe this?**

**Do you believe that God can do exceedingly more than you can ask or imagine?**