

## A Prayer for Power and Love

Ephesians Part 6

*Ephesians 3:14-21*

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Hilltoppers for Christ | Worship Wednesday | 10.3.18

### Retreat

- I want to encourage all of you to come on our fall retreat.
- It'll be a lot of fun, but I truly think it'll be a great benefit for you spiritually.
- If money is an issue, please let me know.
- I really think this will be a great weekend to grow closer to each other and God.

### ***Ephesians 3:14-21***

- Tonight we will look at another one of Paul's prayers. We already looked at one of Paul's prayers a few weeks ago in *Ephesians 1:15-23*.<sup>1</sup>
- This prayer is one of those passages that all at one time will challenge you, convict you, and make you feel loved.
- This prayer is just one sentence.<sup>2</sup>
- Eugene Peterson - "This is a succinct compression of the entire letter: the motif of glory."<sup>3</sup>
- Bishop Handley Moule - "Who has not read and re-read the closing verses of the third chapter of the Ephesians with a feeling of one permitted to look through the curtains into the Holiest Place of the Christian life."<sup>4</sup>
- Tonight we will meditate on the words of this prayer and look at a warning from the life and times of the church at Ephesus.

### Paul prays for...

- Power through the Spirit
- That Christ would dwell in our hearts
- That we can better understand the love God has for us
  - D.A. Carson: "The remarkable fact about this petition...is that Paul clearly assumes that his readers, Christians though they are, do not adequately appreciate the love of Christ."<sup>5</sup>
- God's love surpasses all knowledge. It can't be knowable.
- That we would be filled with the fullness of God
- That God can do far more than we can ask or imagine

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<sup>1</sup> Other prayers of Paul found in the New Testament: *Romans 15:14-33, Ephesians 1:15-23, Ephesians 3:14-21, Philippians 1:9-11, Colossians 1:9-14, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, and 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12.*

<sup>2</sup> Eugene H. Peterson, *Practice Resurrection: A Conversation on Growing Up in Christ* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010), 148.

<sup>3</sup> Peterson, *Practice Resurrection*, 148.

<sup>4</sup> John R. W. Stott, *The Message of the Ephesians: God's New Society* (Leicester, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 1979), 132.

<sup>5</sup> D. A. Carson, *A Call to Spiritual Formation: Priorities from Paul and His Prayers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1992), 191.

### **A Warning from The Church at Ephesus**

- The church started out really well (*Acts 19*)
- However despite the church's good works, good theology, and staying strong in the midst of persecution, they lost their first love. (*Revelation 2:1-7*)

### **Pray like Paul.**

- Pray for God's power.
- Pray that we will grow in our understanding of God's love.
- Pray to God thanking Him for His love.
- Pray that we as individuals and as a ministry will be rooted and grounded in love.
- Pray *Ephesians 3:14-21*.