

Transforming Prayer

Ephesians 3:14-21

1. Equipped with Knowledge vs. 14-15

Once Paul revealed God's vision for His people, he emphasized to his readers the importance of reverently going before Father God in prayer; depending on God is what allows God's people to live out unity with God and with one another.

God uses His word to equip us with the knowledge of what life in Christ is all about, but experiencing this knowledge only takes place when we reverently seek Father God in prayer.

2. Empowered by the Spirit vs. 16-19

Paul prays the desire that is on his heart: His readers would be strengthened by God's Spirit so that they may know intimately Christ's presence and love. Paul knew that when God answered this prayer, God's people would live life in Christ.

We need to specifically pray for one another for the strengthening needed by God's Spirit so that we may know intimately Christ's presence and love. God answering this prayer is what we need for us to be as God's Authentic Community.

3. Expressing Praise vs. 20-21

Paul's prayer response is one of praise; praising God for empowering the church to live a life of praise to Him.

Our response when we pray is one of praise: praising God for empowering the church to live a life of praise to Him.

Conclusion:

To live as God's people, we need to reverently pray for the strength from the Holy Spirit to live out our understanding of God's vision He has for His people, and to praise Him for the answer to this prayer.

Questions:

- 1) How does your prayer time emulate or differ from prayer the way Paul prayed in this passage?

- 2) Why do Christians commit to an individual solution to a circumstance or challenge instead of looking to the Holy Spirit for increased spiritual strength and power?

- 3) “and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may **be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.**” (Ephesians 3:19) What would that look like for the church?

- 4) God’s fullness includes all of the goodness of God, his grace, mercy, truth, wisdom, power, love, and a whole lot more. Take some time this week to look to Father God for the Holy Spirit’s strengthening power, and praise Him for the answer to this prayer.