

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*



Worship Guide for February 27, 2022

Sermon Notes

Praying for Power

Ephesians 3:14-19

❖ Praying for What Reason? (Eph 3:14-15)

- What is the reason behind “For this reason”?
 - The gospel unity Christ has accomplished: “one new man”
 - The spiritual entity God is building: “a dwelling place for God by the Spirit”
 - The spiritual family that the heavenly Father is creating

For the supernatural realities of Ephesians 1 and 2 to be realized by the saints requires an infusion and indwelling of supernatural power. It is for this power that Paul prays. So must we!

❖ Praying for the Spirit’s Power Where It’s Needed Most (Eph 3:16-17a)

- Power through His Spirit (v16b)
- Power in our “inner man” (v16c)
- Power for spiritual maturity (v17a)
- Power from a limitless supply (v16a)

How should we pray for each other? We should begin by humbly and boldly pleading for God to strengthen us with his Spirit’s power in the very core of our being – the inner man that drives our affections and actions. Paul prays that Christ by his Spirit will be allowed to settle down in their hearts, and from his throne there will both control and strengthen them.” (Stott) Are we praying for each other this way?

❖ Praying for Power to Grasp the Vast, Limitless Love of Christ (Eph 3:17b-19)

- The love in which we are already rooted and grounded (17b)
- The love so limitless it cannot be measured by human means (18a)
- The love so different it cannot be known by human intellect (19a)
- The love that is essential for us to be filled with fullness of God (19b)

This is not a prayer asking that God enable us to love him more. (Although that is a good thing to pray) This is a prayer that asks that God empower us to grasp and live in the reality of Christ’s love for his own. There is no better prayer we could pray for each other than to ask God to give us the inner strength and power to comprehend the love of God in Christ, and thereby grow into maturity – knowing the fullness of God in us and the eternal purposes of God for us.

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Know

**What does God intend for me to know?
In your journal, use the following prompts to write
some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

I never knew...	I was reminded...	A question I still have...
I was challenged...	I was convicted...	A truth I could share...
I was encouraged to...		I need to dig deeper into...

Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?
In your journal, use the following questions to write
some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

Is there a command to obey? How am I compelled to exalt God? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a principle to follow? Is there an example to follow?	Am I convicted to confess any sin? Is there a sin to avoid? How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel? How can I pray for someone else? What am I compelled to love or desire?
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Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write
your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.**

Go back and read Paul's prayer from chapter 1 (v.15-23). What similarities do you see? How do these prayers fit together, especially in light of all that these first 3 chapters contain?

How should these prayers work to set the ambitions of our hearts as believers? How does Paul reveal his own vision for what maturity in Christ looks like through these prayers?

In what ways does this prayer in 3:14-19 lead us to exalt God? In what ways does it convict us, leading us to confession? In what ways does it lead us to respond to God with thanksgiving? In what ways does it shape the petitions we bring to God?

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.

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