

## Prayer for Spiritual Strength Ephesians 3:14-21

### I. Paul's Approach in Prayer – 3:14-15

1. Prompting of Prayer – 13  
"For this reason" - Having shared with them the "unsearchable riches of Christ" – 8  
God has now made these riches available to Gentiles  
Paul now longs to see this become a living reality
2. Posture of Prayer – 14  
"I bow my knees" – Humble approach  
Other postures in Scripture  
Standing with arms out-stretched to God  
Laying on one's face before God  
It is the posture of a humble heart seeking God's help
3. Privilege of Prayer – 14-15  
Prayer is a family privilege  
Christ brought us into a relationship with "the Father"  
Nature of a family, children have access to Father  
This is now true with our relationship with God  
The Father encourages us to seek His help

### II. Paul's Requests – 16-19

1. Strengthened with power by His Spirit – 16  
God has the resources that we need to live for Christ  
He prays "according to the riches of His glory"  
God has given His Spirit to all who confess Christ  
His Spirit in us can strengthen "our inner being"
2. "Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith" -17  
Christ does dwell in our hearts by faith in Him  
Word "dwell" means to be at home in our heart  
Means we have submitted to His Lordship  
We have submitted to His will, He is at home in our heart
3. To comprehend the Fullness of His Love - 18  
In Christ we are "rooted and grounded in love" - 17  
God is love and He loves us in His Son  
His Son wants to be at home in our hearts  
His Spirit lives in us to empower us to love  
The Fruit of the Spirit begins with love –Gal. 5:22  
He prays that we comprehend love's fullness – 18  
We need to comprehend this "with all the saints"  
Christ's love is to be learned in the context of "all saints"  
The breath of Christ's love  
His love includes Jew and Gentile alike  
It includes all who are followers of Jesus Christ  
It reaches out in love to those who need to know Christ  
The length of Christ's love  
His love is unending – from eternity to eternity  
Does our love get cut short at one small hurt?

### The Height of Christ's love

His love raises us out of the depths of our sin into the heights of His glory

As He seats us with Him in heavenly places – Eph 2:6

Do we in Christ's love lift our brother up or put him down?

### The Depth of Christ's love

Phil. 2:5-8 speaks of the depth of His love

Paul writes "Let this mind be in you"

Jesus told his disciples to "wash each other's feet" – Jn. 13:14

How deep are we willing to go in love?

### 4. To be filled with the fullness of God – 19

Paul's request for us is that the image of God might be seen in us

That was God's desire when He created humans

That is the ultimate goal for us in eternity

Should we not be moving more in that direction?

### III. Praise to God – 20-21

#### 1. Doxology of Praise - 20

Paul not only knows this is God's will

He assures us that God is able to do it

He is able to do more than we ask or think

His power is able to transform us as He works in us

His power is great enough to enable us to so love one another

#### 2. All glory belongs to God – 21

He will transform us into Christ's image

And we will glorify Him for all eternity