

Living in the Fullness of Grace

Ephesians 3:14-21

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For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth...

Ephesians 3:14-21, cont.

...and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Grace and Fullness

- **“For from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace” (John 1:16).**
- **Grace means acceptance in Christ. This knowledge is transforming.**
- **The demigods of Greek mythology**
- **“Touched by God” or “Indwelt by God”**
- **Eph. 1:23 the church is called “His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”**

Living in the Fullness of Grace...

- Results in inner strength of heart and courage**
- Results in a well-grounded and stable life**
- Results in a life of expectation for the future**

1. Inner Strength of Heart

- “That according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith” (3:16-17a).

Assurance and Confidence

- **Lack of assurance of love results in fear, attention-seeking, jealousy, meanness.**
- **Assurance of love provides inner strength to face challenges, unselfish affection, kindness toward others, and courage.**
- **“For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control” (2 Tim. 1:7).**

2. A Well-grounded and Stable Life

- **“That you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth...” (3:17b-18)**
- **“Rooted” – life, growth, spontaneity**
- **“Grounded” – building, plans, intentionality**
- **“Comprehend” – “To lay hold of so as to make it your own.”**

Feelers and Thinkers

- **Feelers – “rooted in Him” – Life is unpredictable and we do not know the future. Wherever God may lead, we can experience His life along the way.**
- **Thinkers – “grounded in Him” – Life is predictable and we can plan for the future. All of our plans should be connected to the Lordship of Christ.**
- **The strong deep awareness of His love**

3. Expectation for the Future

- **“and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (3:19-21).**

Love that Surpasses Knowledge

- **“No man can approach God without being raised above himself and above the world.”
(John Calvin)**
- **“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known” (Jeremiah 33:3).**

Resting in the Grace of Christ

“From this point onwards Christian experience proceeds as it began, not on the basis of our own work but always on that of the finished work of Another. Every new spiritual experience begins with an acceptance by faith of what God has done – with a ‘sitting down’ if you like. This is a principle of life, and one which God himself has appointed from beginning to end...”

Resting in the Grace of Christ

“What is God’s basis for the outpouring of the Spirit? It is the exaltation of the Lord Jesus (Acts 2:33). Because Jesus died on the Cross my sins are forgiven; because He is exalted to the throne I am endued with power from on high ... I did not merit forgiveness, and neither do I merit the gift of the Spirit. I receive everything not by walking but by sitting down, not by doing but by resting in the Lord.” (Watchman Nee, *Sit, Walk, Stand.*)