

Renovations of the Heart

Text: Ephesians 3:14-21

I pray that out of the glorious richness of his resources he will enable you to know the strength of the spirit's inner reinforcement—that Christ may actually live in your hearts by your faith. And I pray that you, firmly fixed in love yourselves, may be able to grasp how wide and deep and long and high is the love of Christ—and to know for yourselves that love so far beyond our comprehension. May you be filled though all your being with God himself!
(Ephesians 3:16-19 JBP)

“You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage; but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.” **CS Lewis**

Two prayer requests.

1. That they would be “strengthened with power through the Spirit in their inner being, so that Christ may dwell in their hearts by faith” **(Vs.16)**
2. That they would be able to grasp the depth of the love of Christ, so that “they may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” **(Vs.18)**

What are the results of being strengthened in the inner being?

1. Deepening of your faith

“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”

“dwell” – *katoikeo*

kata = “down” and *oikos* = “house” or “home.”

2. Grasping of His love

“You may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ”. **(Vs. 18)**

John 3.16 – FOUR dimensions of God’s love:

“For God so loved the world” – breadth - “He included you”

“That he gave ... his only Son” – length – “He sent Jesus to die for you”

“Should not perish” – depth - “He reached down for you”

“Have everlasting life” – height - “He lifts you up to heaven”

3. Experiencing the fullness of God

“That you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (Eph 3:19b)

4. Trusting God’s ability

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen”

God is able ...

- to strengthen us when we are weak.
- to answer far more than we ask.
- to hear the faintest cry.
- to lift our burdens in times of crisis.
- to guide us when we have lost our way.

Is Jesus at home in your heart?