

# **FINDING HOPE WITH THE LORD**

## **Ephesians 3:14-21**

When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, **15** the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. **16** I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit. **17** Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. **18** And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. **19** May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. **20** Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. **21** Glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:14-21)

### ***Paul Prayed That We Will Be:***

#### **STRENGTHENED BY GOD'S SPIRIT (Ephesians 3:16)**

- *"I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit."* (Ephesians 3:16)
- The Lord – *"Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9 NKJV)

#### ***Overcoming Our Challenges Requires That Our Lives Are:***

- **CHARACTERIZED BY INNER STRENGTH**
  - **The Lord Lord wants to strengthen our: 1) Reason – so we can be less at the mercy of our emotions, passions, instincts and desires, 2) Conscience – so we can be more sensitive to His will and better able to discern right from wrong, and our 3) Will – so we can have the inner courage to follow through on the things our reason, conscience and the Lord tells us to do.**
  - *"Therefore, we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day."* (2 Corinthians 4:16)
- **CONTROLLED BY GOD'S SPIRIT**
  - Jesus – *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you . . ."* (Acts 1:8 NIV)
  - **We never have to face the challs of life alone or in our own strength, because the presence and power of God's Spirit is available to us.**
- ***What steps do I need to take to be strengthened in my inner being and controlled or led by God's Spirit?***

### ***Paul Prayed That We Will Be:***

#### **SUBMITTED TO GOD'S SON (Ephesians 3:17)**

- *"Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong."* (Colossians 3:17)
- **God wants us to have a "deeper" and "more fulfilling" relationship with Jesus.**

#### ***Jesus Wants To Be At Home In The:***

- **ATTITUDES OF OUR LIVES**
  - *"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus . . ."* (Philippians 2:5)
- **ACTIONS OF OUR LIVES**
  - *"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and He went around doing good."* (Acts 10:38)
- **AMBITIONS OF OUR LIVES**

- Jesus - *“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these (other) things shall be added to you.”* (Matthew 6:33)
- **AFFILIATIONS (RELATIONSHIPS) OF OUR LIVES**
  - Jesus – *“If you love your father or mother, son or daughter, boyfriend or girl friend, husband or wife, or friends more than Me, you are not worthy of being Mine.”* (Matthew 10:37)
- **What are some changes that need to take place in my life for Jesus to feel prioritized and “at home” in my life?**

**Paul Prayed That We Will Be:**

**SATURATED WITH GOD’S LOVE (Ephesians 3:17-19)**

- *“Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.”* (Ephesians 3:17-19)
- **Paul tells us that God’s love is inescapable, inexhaustible and incarnational.**
- *“Nothing can ever separate us from His (God’s) love. Death can’t, and life can’t. The angels can’t, and the demons can’t. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can’t keep God’s love away. Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God”* (Romans 8:38-39)
- **What steps do I need to take to “saturate myself in God’s love”?**
- *“Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”* (Ephesians 3:20)
- **What great miracle do I desire for the Lord to accomplish in my life or someone else’s life - and do I believe He can actually make it happen?**
- *“Glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.”* (Ephesians 3:21)
- **What is the Lord primarily saying to me through this message?**