

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 3:14-21
Lesson #13
Installing God's OS
10/22/2017

How are we to intercede in prayer for others when we have no idea what God's will might be?

Today's text might offer us some insight.



Ephesians

Our wealth in Christ
ch. 1-3

Our walk in Christ
ch. 4-6

Ephesians 1-3

New life in Christ
1:3-23

New society in Christ
2:1-3:21

Exposition

Intercession

Exposition

Intercession

1:3-14

1:15-23

2:1-3:13

3:14-21

Spiritual teaching & learning involves both exposition and intercession.

2

Plato

“Goodness requires insight, not simply rule - following.”

Thomas Carlyle

“Nothing is more terrible than activity without insight.”

A.W. Tozer

“The disciple of Jesus needs more than light. He also needs sight. The blind man is not aided by light without sight.”

3

Ephesians 3

“¹⁴ For this reason,

- **With this phrase, Paul transitions to intercessory prayer in 1:15 and in 3:14.**

I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every (the whole) family in heaven (church triumphant) and on earth (church militant) derives its name,”

- **This is the “communion of saints” in the Apostles Creed.**
- **The Father of this family has a mission statement, which constitutes the families purpose, calling, and operating system.**
- **This is its “great (operating) commission”.**

4

Paul's Prayer

“¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the **inner man**; ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell **in your hearts** through faith; . . . ¹⁹ . . . that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.”

- **Both God's GRACE and our FAITH play a part in accessing Spiritual power.**
- **The Christian life is to be lived from the INSIDE OUT.**
 - ✓ Sharing Christ's ATTITUDE - expectations, perspective, & priorities.
 - ✓ LOVING - God and those He loves.
 - ✓ FAITH, HOPE, & LOVE that is not focused on this world (Taking our baptism seriously).

5

Paul's Prayer

“16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the **inner man**; 17 so that Christ may dwell **in your hearts** through faith; . . . 19 . . . that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.”

- **Church history provides an testimonial to the rich variety of experiences leading to spiritual power.**
 - ✓ A “great awakening” or move of the Spirit.
 - ✓ A “deeper life” encounter with God.
 - ✓ A special “filling with the Spirit”.
 - ✓ A “spiritual revival” or renewal.
- **All paths end in the same place - “inner power” to **show, speak, suffer, and serve.****

6

Some things to avoid

- **Don't be content with a powerless life.**
There is a lot more to the Christian life than knowing the Bible and obeying the rules.
- **Don't confuse the fruit of the Spirit with paths to spiritual power.**
The fruit of the Spirit is not the path but the end product. Spiritual power is too often abused as in Corinth.
- **Don't evangelize others to your experience.**
*God has done mighty things without our permission or apart from **OUR** way.*



19 . . . that you may be filled up to all **the fullness of God.**”

- **The purpose of Paul's prayer is that God's family would be “filled with God's Spirit”.**
- **Two types of “filling” are mentioned in Acts.**

Charismatic ministry PIMPLEMI

Acts 2:4

“And they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.”

Christian maturity PLEROO

Acts 11:24

“for he was a good man, and **full** of the Holy Spirit and of faith.”



8

19 . . . that you may be filled up to all **the fullness of God.**”

- **We are called to be the INCARNATION of God to our world.**
- **We are called the BODY OF CHRIST for a reason.**
- **We are together (not individually) to manifest Christ's life to our world.**
 - ✓ **Our gifts complement those of others.**
 - ✓ **Our unity enables the variety of ministry functions to flourish.**
 - ✓ **Put your best foot forward without losing your balance or kicking your neighbor.**



9

“and that you, being **rooted and grounded in love**, 18 may **be able to comprehend** with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and **to know the love of Christ** which surpasses knowledge,”

- **LOVE (NOT LAW) is what should drive the believer's life if it is to show God's grace.**
- **Love is not one of many disciplines, but the ROOT of all disciplines.**
- **We love others only to the extent that we know (sense) God's love for us.**
 - ✓ The essence of spiritual renewal is **INSIGHT** that leads to discipline.
 - ✓ **PRAYER** and teaching are key to this.
 - ✓ **Sound doctrine is important but not the concern of Paul at this point.**

10

Ephesians 3

“20 Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”

- **We should never underestimate what God can do through the faith, hope, and love of those who take their baptism seriously.**
- **God's power is normally manifest IN us before it is manifest THROUGH us.**
- **The Christian life is not about ME or WE. It is about the glory of God in Christ, IN and THROUGH me and us.**

11

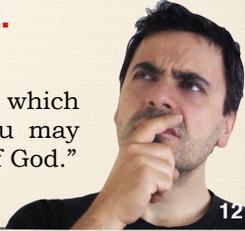
What should we take home?

- The Great Commission of the church must also be ours.

**Be the Body of Christ
to our world and at this time,
filled with his Spirit,
grounded in faith, rooted in love,
from the inside out.**

Ephesians 3:19

“to know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.”



- When we do not know how to intercede for others this should be our prayer.

**“I pray that they would
be filled with God’s Spirit,
grounded in faith,
rooted in love,
from the inside out
so that God’s image
would shine in and
through them.”**



**“We shine brightest
when the fire inside
us burns brighter
than the fire
around us.”**