

Journey Through the New Testament

Ephesians 2 – 6

Series: An Apostle's Epistles

The Message to the Ephesians

9-1-19

Introduction

In this week's reading, the letter to the church in Ephesus unfolded with instruction for Christian living. Paul wrote from prison urging the Gentile believers to "live your life with love." (Eph 5) Throughout the chapters, he described the values and behaviors of living like Christ. Paul emphasizes that this type of life is made possible through the power of the Spirit that works within us. We are to "clothe (ourselves) with the new person created according to God's image in justice and true holiness." (Eph 4:24)

Opening Prayer

O God, you call us to live a life of love and to be filled with the fullness of your Spirit. We confess that we fall short and are fearful of what that would require of us. Strengthen our faith so that we can depend more fully upon your power within us. Enable us to be the people you are calling us to be. In Christ we pray and on Christ we depend. Amen.

Bible Study Ephesians 3:14-21 (CEB)

What?

1. What is Paul's prayerful desire for the Ephesians?
2. What is the source of spiritual strength for the Ephesians and for us? (v. 16)
3. How does Christ come to "live in your hearts through faith?" (v.17)
4. What does verse 18 tell us about God's power and love?
5. What does the Spirit's power ultimately lead to for the believer? (v. 19)

Lesson Notes:

Paul concludes his prayer by giving praise to God for the unlimited power made available through the Spirit. Read verses 20, 21 from the *Message*.

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, forever and ever! Amen.

So What?

1. When have you seen God do more than you would have asked or imagined?
2. What keeps us from thinking bigger and being bolder in our faith?
3. Do we *really* desire more of the Spirit's power? Why or why not?
4. So, what do you think would happen in our lives and churches if we:
“grasped” the love of Christ more fully?”
“were filled entirely with the fullness of God”
(v.18-19)
5. How would this affect those around us?
6. What keeps us from “grasping” the width, length, height and depth of Christ's love?

Now What?

1. Examine Ephesians 6:10-18. What could we do that would enable us to experience Christ's love and the Spirit's power more fully?
2. As believers, what is the nature of the battle we are fighting? (v. 12)
3. How does “God's armor” equip us for the battle?

Truth Justice Readiness Faith Salvation God's Word Prayer Keep Alert

Lesson Notes:

We are to stay on guard and receive power from God to “stand our ground on the evil day.” (6:13) Only God gives us faith, truth, righteousness, salvation and the Spirit, the word of God. We need each of these—the full armor—in order to resist the powers of darkness. (Commentary, *Wesley Study Bible*)

Closing

*Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and his powerful strength.
Ephesians 6:10*