

# Answers to Prayer

"This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it--the LORD is his name..

`Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.`

Jeremiah 33:2-3



This is the second prayer Paul gives in Ephesians.  
The first was in 1:15-19.  
It gives us an insight into Paul's prayer life, how  
he prayed, and the things he prayed for.



## Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

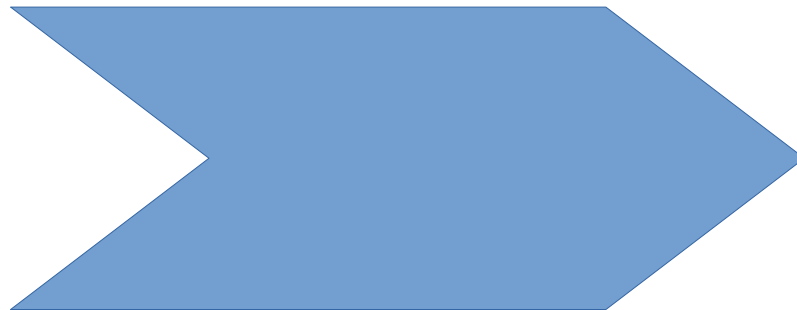
Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.



## For this reason

This takes us back to chapter 3 verse 1 before his digression about the mystery of the gospel

For the reason of the church being a union of Jew and Gentile in Christ – the Messiah....  
so because of this amazing revelation and ministry given to Paul ...



## I kneel

He kneels in prayer. What posture is important in prayer?  
The state of our hearts.

cf. the Pharisees that Jesus criticised – standing at street corners, blowing a trumpet. Matthew 6:5

Seated, standing (cf. Nehemiah 1:4, 2:4)

Kneeling facing Jerusalem – (Daniel 6:10)

The place of humility before our great God is what counts .  
Go into your room etc. Matthew 6:6

A proper attitude of prayer



before the Father,

His prayer here is directed to the Father, the first person of the Holy Trinity.



from whom his whole family in heaven  
and on earth derives its name.

Something wonderful about Father God... He gives his people a name – value, oneness, purpose and security

The family in heaven consisted of all the believers from the old and new testament times who have died and gone to be with the Lord.

We on earth who are alive down here have a part in the whole family of God

We are the family of God our heavenly Father.



I pray that out of his glorious riches

Having described his attitude of approaching God, we now come to his actual prayer request.

He recognises God's ability to answer our needs.  
He has glorious riches – great resources  
Of power, grace, mercy, love





he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit

He asks God to give them strength by the working of his Holy Spirit in us and among us

We need his help in every way.

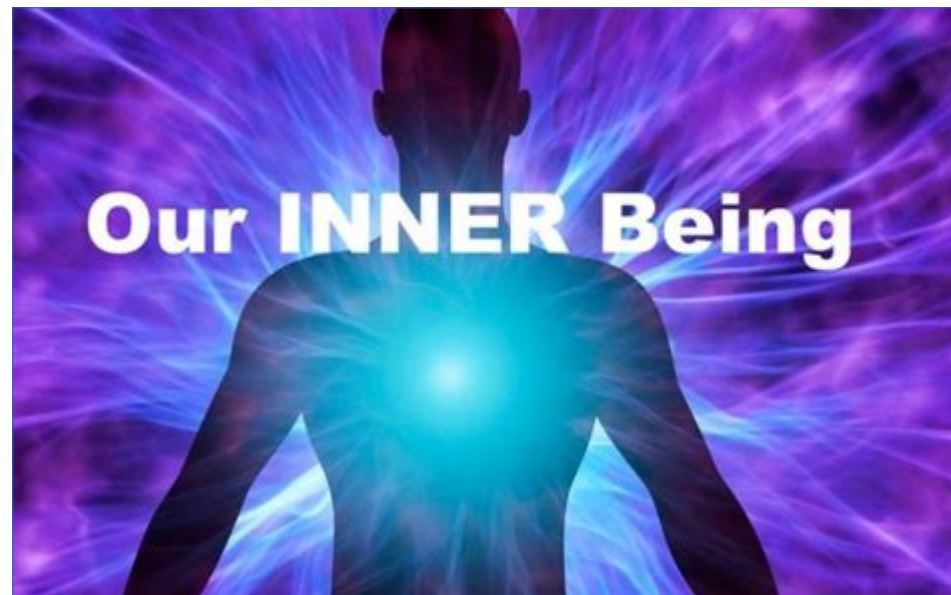


in your inner being,

The place where the Spirit can operate is the core of our lives.

The inner thoughts, feelings and desires

The importance of a healthy, strengthened inner life cannot be taken for granted.



so that Christ may dwell in your hearts

Our inner being or heart is meant to be the dwelling place for Jesus.

To dwell means to take up permanent residence.  
This is the wonderful promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit

If he is already in believers, what does Paul mean here?  
A fuller and deeper realisation and experience of its truth.



through faith.

This is the key to the door of God's working in us

Belief and trust



Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,

This is the second prayer request  
Firmly fixed in love – the central virtue  
God's love in us and then expressed to Him and others

Romans 5:5 And hope does not put us to shame, because  
God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the  
Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.



may have power, together with all the saints,

He prays that they may have inner strength for each and every believer (called to be saints)



may have power, ....., to grasp

We need God's enabling to appreciate and take hold of something which is too big for us.



how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

The great dimensions of Christ's love for us!

Wide – its great range – so many different people

Long – enduring – his love never fails.

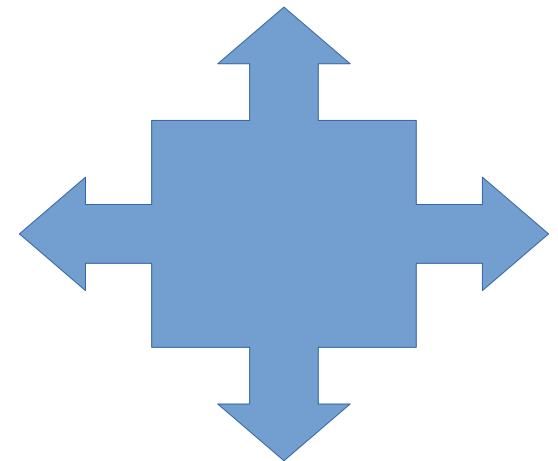
High – reaching to the heavens

Deep – going to the core of our being.

The profound work of God

Notice that this is the work of Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to reveal the love of God.

Also the dimensions are cross-shaped





and to know this love that surpasses knowledge

Something that goes beyond intellectual knowledge and our limited ability to grasp it.

We can 'know' in the biblical sense of an intimate experience of God's love.



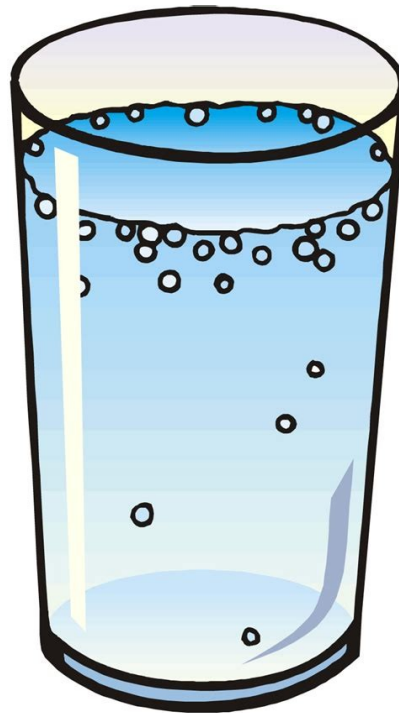
--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Paul prays that the church and the individuals in it may be filled – do we have limited capacity?

He prays we may be stretched!

The ultimate fulness – compared to the fulness of God

We have the infinite God at work within us to bring all his blessings to his people.



Now to him who is able to do

This is the closing part of his prayer – worship

Thanks and praises to the Father

He is fully capable to do what he promises



Now to him who is able to do

Do we believe this – yes. But do we question his willingness to do it?

Focus on his promises in his word.



immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,

God is able to go far beyond our limits of asking (too small) or imagining (too limited).

Immeasurably – so let us not limit our expectations of him.

Cf examples of Hannah in 1 Samuel, Ruth, the Psalms eg 40



according to his power that is at work within us,

God is able to do immeasurably more because it is according to his power at work, not ours. And it is this power that is at work in us.



to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus

Closing praise.

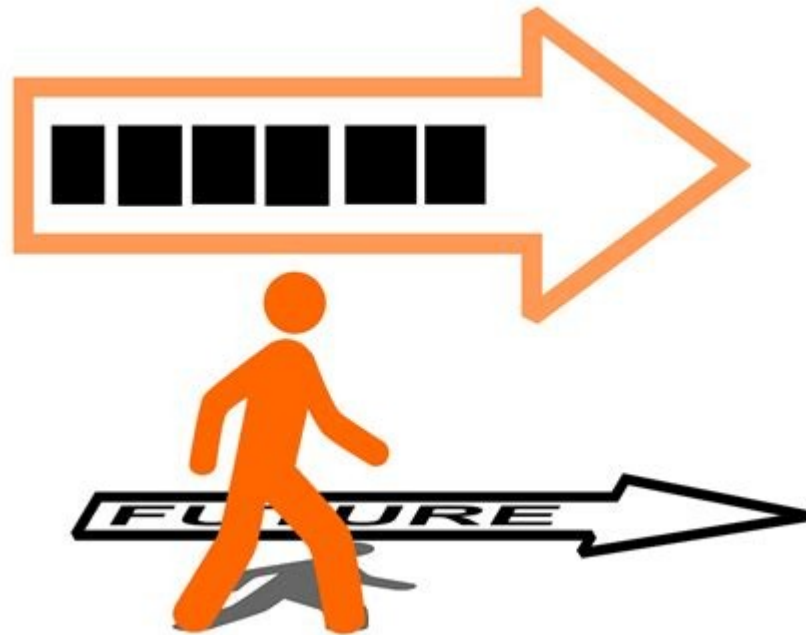
God's glory to be manifested  
in his church

What he has done in us and made of us  
In Christ - as the head of his church  
All that he is and has accomplished.



throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

This is not some passing thing  
Ongoing blessing and worship  
Throughout the duration of earth's generations and then  
on forever into the eternal state.  
God has the glory and the praise through us his people





Amen.

The end. Hebrew word – related to the words for truth and faithfulness- yes! may it be! Answer Lord!

Note : it is not a long 'prayer'  
But pray always ...

AMEN