



TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE POWER OF PRAYER

“14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

- Ephesians 3:14-21

Transform Your Life Through The Power of Prayer

I know, for some of you, it looks like the devil has got your number. I know it looks like the problem has got your number, but you know somebody now under Him who is able. Why do you pray? Because you need Him.

I don't know how bad it is, how deep it is, or how long it's lasting, but I can tell you He is able. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. This discussion series is learning about Kingdom Prayer, Igniting Kingdom Prayer, because that is the link, the wiring, if you will, that God has given us to link us with the power that He has provided.

Kingdom Prayer may be defined as the divinely authorized methodology to access heavenly authority for earthly intervention. It is the divinely authorized methodology to access heavenly authority for earthly intervention. Prayer was given to us by God to contact heaven in order to get help on earth.

That's what it's designed for. And it is God's point whereby we connect with the power that we've been connected with once we become believers. In today's discussion I want you to look at a well-known prayer in Ephesians three about connecting with your spiritual power that you already possess.

Paul wants to pray for the church at Ephesus, and he wants to pray for you and me that we get a hold of this power, that we no longer live in the realm of the mundane and the realm of the regular, that we're no longer limited to the natural because we've been hooked up to a power company that ties us to the supernatural. If you only see the supernatural from time to time, if the supernatural only visits you on holidays because it's not part of how you roll, then you either don't have the power because you're not a believer, or you have the power but don't know how to use it, get it, access it, and benefit from it. So, Paul wants to help you and me through igniting kingdom prayer to connect with the power.

Paul says in verse 14 of Ephesians three, for this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth derives its name. He introduces his prayer, he

says, I go down to my knees, the posture of humble prayer, for this reason. For what reason? Well, in verse 13 he says, I don't want you to lose heart.

To lose heart means to quit. To lose heart means to be overwhelmed by discouragement. When the Bible talks about losing heart, it's talking about quitting because of discouragement.

And so, there are those reading this discussion document, I am sure, who are on your last leg, or you've been there before, or you know someone who is losing or who has lost heart, who wants to quit, throw in the towel, give up. That is what is leading Paul to pray, and that is what is leading many of us to need to pray. He says, "I am praying because I don't want you to quit."

He says, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. Every family on earth derives its name. Every believer has God as their father. Which means every believer has equal access to your heavenly daddy. Every believer, if God is your father because you are a Christian, then God has named you. You're one of his kingdom kids.

And so, you have access to him in prayer. So Paul says, I'm praying, but he's your daddy too. And so, what Paul is getting ready to tell them, he's telling us. What he's telling them, he's telling us. I want you to pay close attention because if this connects with you, you will not be the same. And you won't mind praying. Because if you get this, if this is your way to get heaven to join you on earth, you're going to grab it. Now he's going to say three things in these verses.

Three things. I want you to follow each of the three. If you're going to get heaven to come down in prayer to meet you on earth, that will be determined by your level of spiritual intimacy.

Let me say that again. If you're going to get heaven to join you in history, it will be affected and infected by the level of your spiritual intimacy. If you are having a long-distance relationship with God, don't expect to see heaven enter history.

Your level of intimacy will determine your level of power. Look at what he says in verse 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. What's happening on the inside, the inner man, will affect what God does for you on the outside.

He says, I want you to be strengthened with power by the spirit in the inner man. See, we go to God to fix stuff, to fix people, to fix problems, to solve dilemmas, but God looks at the inside to determine what he's doing on the outside. To be strengthened with power in the inner man.

If the inside is not growing, there'll be no power in prayer. If the inside is not getting deeper, there will be no strengthening of power in prayer. He bows his knee, and he says, the inside, the inner man, by the work of the Holy Spirit has got to be deepening if you want to be strengthened with power.

So, if you're going month after month, year after year, and there is no power, then you need to visit the connection. He says, you will be strengthened by the spirit of God with power, but it starts with the inner man. So, if you're not caring for your soul, taking time to grow your spirit, then don't be surprised that you're not getting answers to your prayers.

It is to the degree that you're going deeper spiritually that you experience greater power. The kingdom of God from heaven visiting you in history. In fact, God will withhold answers to prayer when his whole purpose is to make you go deeper and not be satisfied with where you are.

So, he will force you deeper by holding back and saying, I want to make sure the connection is straight before the flow of power is manifested. You say, but what do I need to grow deeper? Do I need to pray more, read the Bible more? And all of that has its place, but in this passage, he gives you a secret. Verse 17, so that Christ may dwell in your heart through faith.

Here it is. The way you go deeper is for Christ to dwell in your heart by faith. The key word is the word dwell.

The Greek word for dwell means to make yourself at home. To make yourself at home. So when it says that Christ might dwell in your heart by faith, he is saying your inner spiritual life will develop to the degree that Jesus is at home in you.

But if you want power, Jesus has to be free to roam. To dwell, to make himself at home in all the crevices of your life. He must be free and welcome to tour the library of your mind and interact with your thoughts.

He must be free to visit the kitchen of your appetite. To be able to look at the things you're desiring to consume. He wants to visit the living room of your physical relationships. To talk about the kind of folk you're hanging out with. He wants to be able to go to the addict of your hidden habits. To deal with the things you've snuck away that nobody can see.

He's got to be able to go to the garage of your toys to see the kind of things you're playing with. You see, if you're going to grow in the inner man, he's got to be able to take a tour of the whole house. You can't just say, Jesus, this part of my life belongs to you.

But these parts are off limits to you. Because the moment you limit Jesus Christ to only the rooms that have been cleaned up in your life. Only when you limit him only to the religious side of life.

When he can have Sunday, but he better not touch Monday. Then what you have done is uninvited his power. But I know what some of you are thinking.

You're thinking, well, yeah, but some of those rooms of my life, the things I think about, the places I go, the things hidden in the attic of my life, I don't want Jesus to see. But those are the rooms he wants to go into so he can help you do a cleaning service. He wants to be invited into all the rooms of your life.

And to the degree that he can roam. To the degree that you come before the Lord with the real deal and not play Christian and speak Christianese. To the degree that he can infiltrate all the rooms of your life is to the degree you access power.

He says Christ must dwell in your hearts by faith. He must be free to roam. So you can be keeping the power away because you've limited Jesus to a certain location in your life.

He wants to be part of your work life, your entertainment life, your relationship life. He wants to be part of all aspects of your being because now he's free to share his power with you. If the life is not opened up, God is not going to share his power.

So, your pursuit of intimacy, which means exposure to the Lord is critical for power. So, anything you're hiding from him is limiting power from him. So, the first thing is there must be the pursuit of spiritual intimacy.

That must be the goal. Time in His presence, time in His word. You say, but I don't have time. Well, you always have time for what's first. No, you can't use that excuse, especially if you are calling for Him for power. So, I got it.

You gave him a welcome sign. You brought him into your life, but he's limited to certain places. And therefore, he knows he can't dwell there.

Can't hang out in your realm of existence. The second thing, if you want spiritual power and you want to see through prayer, heavenly authority, entering into earthly intervention is that spiritual intimacy must expand spiritual capacity. He says that you being rooted and grounded in love, verse 17, may be able to comprehend with all the saints, what is the breadth and the length and the height and the depth to know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

God will only give you as much of him as that you can handle. Okay. He's not going to give you more than you can handle. So that means you have to have more capacity to handle more of him (letting go of self and allowing the Holy Spirit to take more control over your life). Cause God is not going to waste God on you or me. It starts with spiritual intimacy, but then he wants you to expand spiritual capacity.

So, he can do more. He says, I want you, if you're going to get more capacity to be rooted and grounded in love. So, let's look at a little theology here.

The Bible says, God is love. It is an essential characteristic of God's nature. He doesn't just love, he is love.

Now love is a meaningless word, unless there is an object. To love means that you're loving something or someone. God is loved by nature. He doesn't have to try to love, it's built in. Now the reason that love can be built in with God is because God has always had someone to love. Because God is a triune being.

He's God, the Father, God, the Son, God, the Holy Spirit. All three members of Trinity fall in this passage. You pray to the father, he says, you are strengthened in the inner man by the Holy Spirit and Jesus dwells in you. So, he just went over the father, the son, and the Holy Spirit. So, God has never been alone. He's always had somebody to love without having to leave himself.

Because of the triune nature of Trinity. That's why the Bible says God is love because it's built into his triune nature. He says, "I want you to be rooted and grounded in love."

Love has to have an object. Which means if when you go to God for power, it's only about you. You're not rooted and grounded in love. It's for you, but it can't be only about you. That's why he goes and says, with all the saints. If you only exist for you, if you only pray for you, if you only want God's power for you, you're not rooted and grounded in love, so you're not hanging out where God hangs out.

So, I'm going to give you a secret. It's a secret, don't tell anybody. It's a secret, but it's a big secret. When you go to God for something for you, tell Him if He does it for you, how it will benefit somebody other than you. That's why God wants every believer to be part of a spiritual family. He wants you to be part of a spiritual family because He wants you to give an environment to express his love. And if you're building spiritual intimacy and expressing his love, you're expanding spiritual capacity. It's like blowing up a balloon. The balloon is very flat, but it's been built to expand.

It's been built to take on more air, and more air, because you're expanding capacity. God is only going to give you as much of Himself as He knows you can handle. Your spiritual intimacy sets the stage, and your loving expands the balloon, because he knows it's not only

about you. You're going to be a channel, not a cul-de-sac. You're going to be a blessing. See, that's the problem with everybody coming wanting to be blessed who don't also want to be a blessing.

You've actually blocked God's movement. God told Abraham, I'm going to bless you, and through you, all the nations of the earth will be blessed. So, whenever you bring being a blessing into the equation, you are now being rooted and grounded in love, and not just rooted and grounded in you, which means you've expanded the balloon, which means you've allowed God to do more.

And so, spiritual intimacy expands spiritual capacity, and then you get to see spiritual power. In verse 20. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly, beyond all we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to him be glory in the church.

Now see, everybody wants verse 20 while they skip verse 14 to 19. They will quote verse 20 in a minute, but having built spiritual intimacy, having built spiritual capacity, but they want spiritual power. Here's what God is offering us through kingdom prayer.

That is praying for heaven to intersect history. This is where your mind gets blown. This is where God is doing stuff you can't even figure out. This is where God's bringing stuff to you that you were trying to force to happen. And this is where God is shaking you and baking you. This is where God's doing a crossover on you.

First of all, his power is personal. Now unto him. God is not the force in a Star Wars movie. He's not some inanimate object. He's not whatever God they may be. Now unto Him, the triune God that's in this passage, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Unto him, that God. Because guess what? He's the only God. And you are not He, and you don't know anybody else who He is. Now unto him. Why do you pray? Because you need Him. You don't need them, you need Him.

Now unto Him. His power is very personal. Now unto Him. But it's not only personal, it's potent. He's able. Now unto Him who is able. Now I love that. He's able. That speaks of His ability.

God has ability. Scripture says nothing is too difficult for Him. On that first Christmas, Mary the Virgin wanted to know how can this possibly be? And the angel said, because nothing is impossible with God.

You think your situation is impossible? You think your dilemma is unresolvable? You have got to understand, you're dealing with Him. And He's able. When you look at some of the times in the Bible where the word able is used.

Jesus asked a blind man one day; do you believe I'm able to give you sight? Hebrews 7, 25 says, God is able to save to the uttermost. The most unsavable person you know. Second Corinthians nine, verse eight, God is able to supply all grace. The three Hebrew boys said to King Nebuchadnezzar, our God is able to deliver us. When Daniel was thrown in the lion's den, the king came to Daniel and said, was your God able to save you in the lion's den? Oh, this verse says he's able. I don't know how bad it is, how deep it is, and how long it's lasted.

But I can tell you, if there's spiritual intimacy and expanded spiritual capacity, He is able. Let's go deeper. To see what He is able to do.

See, a lot of folks are able to talk. A lot of folks are able to talk smack. A lot of folks are able to rap. A lot of folks are able to promise. But He is able to perform. He is able to do. He is able to act. And then he hits the superlatives. Far more. Oh, I love that. Far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think.

In other words, He is able to blow your mind. If you put it in contemporary English, He is able to mess you up. He's able to do far more, not just a little bit more, far more, and then it's abundant.

Then it's beyond what you, let's take those two terms, ask. Let's deal with ask. Because most of us don't ask. Now, I know what you're saying. Yeah, I do, I ask. No, most of us don't ask.

Because we're so vague that the request isn't specific. God is so good at answering prayer that he not only can answer what your brain told your mouth, he can precede your brain. So that he can answer what your brain never thought to ask you.

Ask for. I don't know how many people have ever experienced this. I know what it is to see God do what I ask and then throw in bonuses.

There are others who've seen God throw in bonuses, that which you did not request. But it comes with a condition. Verse 20, according to the power that works within us.

See, we love that first part, He is able! He's able. But we left the second part. It's in accordance with, in alignment with, the power on there.

So, when you pray for him to do something out here, he checks to see what's happening there. And it's according to the power that is working within that determines what he does without. So, if you want spiritual power, go deeper. Go deeper. Jesus says, you abide in me, my word abides in you. Ask Me what you will, and my Father will do it.

So, the question is, how much of him do you want? Because He is only going to give you as much of him as you can handle. Not only individually, but he closes in verse 21 and he says to Him, be glory in the church. So, when we all come together, oh, then you're going to see heaven fall down. You're going to see God blow your mind because it's not just about you, it's about us as we serve the living God.