

Ephesians

Lesson #13, Chapter 3:14-21

Before you begin today's lesson, spend some time in prayer asking God to help you learn and understand His word.

1. Paul begins verse 14 with the phrase, *For this reason*. What previous thought is he now connecting to verse 14?
2. What does that information cause him to do in verse 14?
3. What does that action communicate? See Ps. 5:7; 95:6; Is. 45:23; Rom. 14:11; Phil. 2:10.
4. As you came to God in prayer today, yesterday, this week, what was the posture of your heart and body? Did it communicate reverence and respect to God?

It is poor worship to move our hats, but not our hearts. ~Thomas Adams¹

5. What do you learn about the Father in verses 14-15?

¹Adams, Thomas. *A Puritan Golden Treasury*. Ed. I. D. E. Thomas. The Banner of Truth Trust: Carlisle, PA, 1989. 317.

6. Notice how Paul uses the same name for God in other epistles. Record what you learn about the Father. See Rom. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:6; 2 Cor. 1:3; Gal. 1:1; Eph. 1:17; 2:18; 5:20; 6:23; Phil. 2:11; Col. 1:3, 12, 19; 3:17.

7. Define *grant* (NIV *pray* [Strong's #1325]) from verse 16.

8. What is the first thing that Paul prays for the Ephesian believers in verse 16? What are the qualifiers that go along with that request (also in verse 16)?

9. Every believer has the Holy Spirit residing within them (Rom. 8:5-13; Gal. 5:22-25), which means that what Paul prays for his readers is already available to you. The Holy Spirit in you can and will strengthen your inner man with His power. There is nothing too difficult for God. You have every resource you need to overcome sin and weakness of character in your life. How can you practically apply this truth to your life this week?

10. Define the word *dwell* [Strong's #2730] from verse 17.

11. How is Christ's ability to dwell in you the result of the Holy Spirit's making you holy in your inner man?

12. What is the result of the strengthening of the Holy Spirit and Christ's ability to be at home in your inner man according to verse 17?

13. Define *rooted* [Strong's #4492] and *grounded* (NIV *established* [Strong's #2311]) from verse 17.

14. What does being thoroughly centered in love allow you to do? What is the final result? See Ephesians 3:18-19.

15. Define *comprehend* (NIV *grasp* [Strong's #2638]) from verse 18.

16. *How* are you filled up to all the fullness of God (verse 19)? Is it because of any effort on your part?

17. Paul closes this chapter with a benediction. What do you learn about God in verses 20-21?

18. Kenneth Wuest explains about verse 20, "The compound word [exceeding abundantly] is a superlative of superlatives in force. It speaks of the ability of God to do something, that ability having more than enough potential power, this power exhaustless, and then some on top of that. Thus, Paul says that God is able to do super-abundantly above and beyond what we ask or think, and then some on top of that."² Our God is a great God. Does your prayer life reflect that? If it doesn't reflect that understanding, what needs to change?

²Wuest, K. S. (1997, c1984). *Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament* (Eph 3:20). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

John MacArthur has said, "What am I believing God for, that only He can do, so that when He does it, He gets all the glory?"

19. What is the power that is working in you according to Ephesians 3:20-21? See also Eph. 1:19-20 and Col. 1:29.

20. What is the relationship between God's power working in us and God doing more than we can ask or think? Consider verse 20 as you answer.

21. Who gets glory (verse 21)? From whom? Where? When?

22. Summarize what you learned about God from this lesson and then give Him glory in your words and thoughts.

Note, further, that our desires are a test very much superior to several other favorite modes of self-judging. For instance, many people judge their religion by the regularity of their attention to its outward duties. "I was never absent on a Sunday morning, nor even from an evening service. I attend the communion at least once a month, I go to the prayer-meetings, I read a chapter or half a chapter every day, I bow my knees at my bedside every morning and evening; I have never omitted any part of my duty for years past." I am very glad to hear it, respected friend; but if you have no desires towards God, all your regularity of attendance does but liken you to the church clock, which is quite as punctual, or to the pulpit Bible, which never leaves its place. You may be a capital Pharisee, but you are not a true Christian unless your soul is full of living desires. If you cry out, "I am thirsting for God, the living God. My spirit groans after holiness. When I have bowed my knee, I groan before God because I cannot live as I would, or even pray as I desire to pray. I have come to the house of God longing to be fed with spiritual meat. I have always been a hungry soul

towards divine things”: then I quote my Master’s words, “Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.” Living desires are better than dead duties, as a living dog is better than a dead lion. The most regular outward performance of pious duties may be the revolution of heartless machinery; but desires mean life, and life is needful if we would please the living God.³ ~C. H. Spurgeon

³Spurgeon, C. H. (1998). *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 26* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons. Albany, OR: Ages Software.