

Sermon Outline
Praying the Church Full
November 18, 2007

Ephesians 3:14-21

Often we find ourselves at a loss for the passion to pray. Perhaps this is one reason many trials do come our way: they bring us to our knees in ways virtually nothing else can. Yet we can be brought to our knees by the magnificence of Christ and God's great redeeming purpose. The Christian who awaits "stirring" will never pray, but the praying Christian must be sustained not by the need of man but by the glorious plan of the Father. Man-centered and me-centered prayer – remember the prayer of Jabez?!? – leave the soul bankrupt. Fullness of life and fullness in the Church arise from Apostolic Praying.

- I. The Passion of our Praying – Ephesians 3:14
 - “For this reason...”
- II. The Posture of our Praying – Ephesians 3:14
 - Kneeling vs. the common practice of standing
- III. The Person addressed in our Praying – Ephesians 3:14-15
- IV. The Petitions of our Praying – Ephesians 3:17-19
 - A. ***Strengthened with might*** in the inner man
 - ➔ that Christ may dwell in your heart
 - B. ***Rooted and grounded*** in love
 - ➔ that you may, with all the saints, comprehend the incomprehensible
 - C. ***Know the love*** that transcends knowledge
 - ➔ that you may be filled with the fullness of God
 - The perfections of God perfected in his people
 - “You shall be holy for I am holy.”
- V. The Power of our Praying
 - A. The riches of heaven
 - B. The glory in the Church
 - Christ and his Church are inseparable
 - In the Body and in the Head, in the Bride and in the Bridegroom