

**“God Is Able”**  
*Gleanings From the Book of Ephesians*  
Ephesians 3:20

**Lesson 3**  
**God’s Desire for the Believer**

The Apostle Paul was a man of prayer. This section of Scripture is his second great prayer in this epistle. Because of Paul’s interest in and great love for this church, he wanted them to experience all the riches of God’s grace in Christ Jesus. He prayed that every spiritual blessing that was theirs would become realities in the lives of the believers. As we go through this section, consider whether you are living as a spiritual pauper or enjoying the spiritual riches with which God has blessed you.

**Read Ephesians 3:14-21.**

1. Many believers are ignorant of the spiritual wealth that is theirs in Christ. In the first part of this epistle, Paul reminded the Ephesians of the riches and resources possessed by children of God. In John 10:10b, how did Jesus describe the kind of life He desired Christians to experience?
  
2. Paul’s desire for the Ephesian believers to experience the abundant life prompted him to pray for them. Verse 13 says that he bowed his knees to the Father. What do you think Paul’s position while praying indicates about how he feels or what his attitude is during this prayer?
  - a. Look up the following verses and write out the different postures of prayer found in these scriptures.

2 Chronicles 7:3 –

Ezra 9:5 –

Psalm 95:6 –

Daniel 6:10 –

Matthew 6:6-14 –

Luke 22:41 –

Acts 20:36 --

- b. Do you think the position in which you pray is important? Why or why not?
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- 3. Looking at verses 14-21, make a list of Paul's desires for the Ephesian saints as found in this pastoral prayer of his.

Paul prayed *that*:

a.

b.

c.

d.

4. To whom is Paul referring when he speaks of *the whole family in heaven and earth*?

a. What makes you a family member?

b. Can you say with certainty that you are a member of this family? (If you're not sure and you would like to take the step to become a family member, please speak to your group leader.)

5. According to what does God grant *strength*?

a. Read Ephesians 1:7 and Philippians 4:19 and record what else God gives *according to His riches*?

- b. Through Whom does this *strength* come?
  - c. What does Isaiah 40:29-31 say about this *strength*?
  - d. Share how you have experienced God's *mighty strengthening*.
6. Although physical strength is a great asset, this is not the focus of Paul's prayer. What kind of *strength* does he pray for?
- a. Describe someone who has *strength in the inner man*.
  - b. What does 2 Corinthians 4:16 say about this *strength*?
  - c. What part do/can we play in strengthening our inner man?
7. Paul's next request is that *Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith*. Christ *dwells* in the heart of every believer. Yet, there are various degrees of

*dwelling*. The New Living Translation records the first phrase of verse 17 as: *And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him*. How does *trust/faith* affect Christ's being *at home* in the heart of the believer?

- a. Conversely, what effect does doubt have?
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8. From the last part of verse 17 through verse 19, Paul's prayer revolves around the subject of *love*. Why is it important to be *rooted and grounded in love*?
    - a. Paul wants us to comprehend the vastness of Christ's *love*. According to the following verses...

John 3:16 What is the width of God's love?

Jeremiah 31:3 What is the length of God's love?

Philippians 2:7-8 What is the depth of God's love?

Ephesians 2:6 What is the height of God's love?

9. Paul wraps up the first three chapters of Ephesians with words of praise. What did He say God is *able* to do in Ephesians 3:20?
- a. There are numerous Scriptures that reveal to us what God is *able* to do. Record what the following verses say...

Jeremiah 32:17, 27 --

Daniel 3:17 --

Matthew 3:9 --

John 10:29 --

Romans 4:21 --

Romans 16:25 --

Hebrews 7:25 --

Jude 1:24 --

- b. Share a time when God did *exceedingly abundantly above what you asked*.
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- 10. Paul closes the chapter in verse 21 writing *to Him be glory...* The purpose of much of what God does is for His *glory*. Look back at the following verses in Ephesians 1 and summarize what they say: 6, 12, 14, 18.
    - a. Since *glorifying* God is so important, how are you challenged to daily live in such a way as to produce a life that brings Him *glory*?
    - b. What does it mean to *give God glory*?

[illegible]











