



Going Deeper Questions

- Week Seven -

These questions cover Ephesians 3:14-21, please read that passage out loud.

1. Let's start with **Ephesians 3:14 For this reason I bend my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,** These verses begin by reminding us that God is the source of all life, the Father from whom everyone derives their name. Then Paul reminds us that inner strength is available for us from the Holy Spirit. **¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,** What do you think verse 16 means?

Have you ever felt weak or overwhelmed and had the experience of being **strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner being?** Tell that story please.

Do you think this strengthening by the Spirit is consistently available? How do you think one could approach God in weakness and walk away strengthened?

2. Now let's focus on the next verse, (ESV) **Ephesians 3:17 ...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love...** Verse 17 begins with what some consider a mystery, does not Christ already dwell in our hearts through faith? The best way for us to understand this verse in context is that as we are strengthened in our inner being by the Spirit, we are assured that Christ is dwelling in us. The phrase **rooted and grounded in love** demonstrates again how important it is for us to deeply experience God's love. Paul, in this section, is using tree roots as an example. Trees that are well rooted have both stability and life-giving nutrition coming from the roots. This ensures that the trees are grounded or firmly established and not blown about by winds or storms. Underground, tree roots often intertwine with other tree's roots which gives them greater strength. This reminds us that our strength comes from being rooted in Christ and that other believers can also provide a significant source of strength to us. Be honest, can you say you have deeply experienced God's love? Please tell that story.

Knowing that trees help support and strengthen each other through intertwined roots, can you honestly say that you have people in your life to help support and strengthen you through the storms of life?

- 
3. In the next verse Paul prays that we **Ephesians 3:18 ...may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.**

In these verses Paul goes out of his way to draw our attention to the importance of grasping or understanding the love of Christ. He also prays that we would know a love that he describes as unknowable. What do you think these verses mean?

Personally, I do know a love that defies description, that I cannot make knowable. That is the love I have for my children. I know and often experience my love for them but I can't really explain it. This is the kind of love that Paul is speaking about, a love so rooted in mystery it's just something you know. Do you know a love like that? Explain

Knowing the love of Christ in its height and berth and length and depth requires the power of the Holy Spirit, as Paul points to in verse 18. How do you think one would approach knowing this love?

4. Let's conclude by focusing on **Ephesians 3:20 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,²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.** These verses have a lot to say. What stands out to you?

I believe the conclusion of Paul's prayer is a powerful reminder that God can and often does exceed all expectations. Have you ever experienced God doing **immeasurably more than you asked or imagined?** Describe that please.

Paul ends with a beautiful benediction. That God will receive glory from his Son, Jesus Christ and the church **throughout all generations.** Our Vision is to build generations for Jesus Christ, discuss how you are currently working to impact the next generation.