

Series: Ephesians: Our Life In Christ

Sermon: Strength for Living

Passage: Ephesians 3:14-21

Illustration:

Need: Knowing about our life in Christ is blessed, but living out this life in the face of trial and opposition takes inner strength that only God can provide and sustain.

I. Surrender (3:14-15)

- Kneeling was a posture of surrender and represented the fervent nature of the prayer.
- Acts 20:36 - the last time Paul saw the Ephesian elders he had knelt to pray with them.
- Paul prayed to the Father - of every believer in Christ by faith, & every human in respect to His creation.

II. Power (3:16)

- Paul's main request for the Ephesian Christians was inner strength divinely applied.
- Eph. 1:19 - this power is ours already, the prayer is that we will walk intentionally into it.
- Human strength is fragile and limited (physical, mental, emotional).
- The Holy Spirit empowers believers to walk in obedience. (Acts 1:9)

III. Love (3:17-19)

- Jesus dwells with every believer. But is He "at home" there? Is He a guest (welcomed or unwelcome) or is He Lord?
- "through faith" we continually invite Jesus to be "at home" or control our hearts/lives.
- His love (agape) becomes our foundation (cornerstone).
- Paul desired that believers understand and live by the limitless love of Jesus:
 - So broad that it extends to all (Jew & Gentile).
 - So long that it stretches from eternity to eternity.
 - So high that it extends right into the throne room of heaven.
 - So deep that no one is too far gone or too broken to reach.

IV. Doxology / Worship (3:20-21)

V. Take Aways:

- #1 - There's nothing more Christlike than a surrendered child of God.
- #2 - Inner, spiritual strength leads us even when physical, mental, and emotional strength is spent.
- #3 - The more we experience the love of Christ, the more we will love others like Christ loves.
- #4 - God desires to do way more through you than you ever thought possible.