

Grace Within; Shown Without

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Ephesians 3:14-21

Review: Ephesians 1:1-14 our new *Identity in Christ* and acceptance into His *family*;

Ephesians 1:15-23 *More Than Meets the Eye* all that God does for the believer;

Ephesians 2:1-10 *Miracle of Grace* being *dead in sin* but by sincere repentance and real faith in Jesus now *alive in Christ*;

Ephesians 2:11-22: *Grace Builds Bridges*—breaks down *walls* and brings the family together—inspired to say *I Love you*.

Ephesians 3:1-13 *Grace to Mission*—compels us to *show* His grace to the world.

The grace God gives us does not just change our *position* before Him; grace changes our *inner* life, *strengthens* our faith in the Lord Jesus, *fills* us with Christ's love for others, and enables us to *show* that love, grace, and forgiveness to everyone, every time and anywhere.

I. Prayer Begins on Our Knees

Ephesians 3:14 “*For this reason [cause *av*] I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*”

His prayer is that God will give grace to anyone who comes to Him in sincerity, faith, and

repentance; and because Christ has *broken down walls* of animosity and resentment.

God *calls us* to a *mission* of praying for others; and because our life can be a Christlike influence for the world to see and emulate.

We may have been at the end of our strength and not know which way to turn—that compels us to go from a routine request, to falling to our knees in wholehearted surrender to God and pleading for His mercy and grace to be given and to show us what changes we need to make.

The apostle writes from a prison cell, restricted in movement, and isolated from his church, but he doesn't write a letter of defeat or bitterness.

Instead, he kneels before the Father in profound reverence and in complete submission to Him—showing us that example.

He doesn't ask God to change his circumstances or open the prison doors—but prays that an *internal revolution* would result—a change from *the inside out*.

He prays that God will give him the *opportunity* to share the Truth with the world.

He prays that God will make the *Word of God* a *living Word* within them, so that the change within their heart will be *shown* and *seen* by others.

His prayer: *Lord, may they take what they have heard and make it **shown** to an unbelieving and faithless world.*

II. Prayer for Inner Strength

Ephesians 3:16 “*That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,*”

Being strengthened within by the Spirit of God is first—because outward circumstances can change, but the indwelling Spirit enables us to remain *faithful* to God when difficult situations are met.

God gives *according to His exhaustless riches in glory*. The power He gives us to make scriptural decisions and to make any changes He shows us to be necessary, goes to our *inner being*—the soul and heart where decisions are made.

III. Deep Roots—Founded in Love

Ephesians 3:17 “*That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love.*”

To *dwell in our heart* is to *make our heart* His permanent residence.

It is not just having Christ **in our life**, but allowing Christ to **rule our life**.

We say *I have Jesus in my heart*, but the question is—*Does He feel at home? And are we acting from His control?* Can we ask Jesus to come into our—*thoughts?* Our *attitudes?* Our *friendships?* And Our *conversations?* Yes!

Galatians 2:20 “*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*”

We are now an integral part of His family—He *rescued* us from the world; He *built a bridge* for us to cross over from **Dark to Different** to this *new life* with *new attitudes*.

We are now to be a living testimony of God's *mercy, love, and grace*—so we forgive immediately!

If God's *love* is our *foundation*, we will love those who are difficult to love; we will forgive people who hurt us; and we will want to serve people who may never thank us.

IV. Love That Surpasses Knowledge

18 *You "May be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the **width and length and depth and height**—*

19 *to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be **filled with all the fullness of God.**"*

There are four dimensions of Christ's love—**1 Breadth**; wide enough to reach *every one* of every culture, every background, and to atone for every sin;

2 Length; long enough to go from eternity *past* to eternity *future*; and all who may be in between.

3 Depth; Deep enough to reach down to our lowest point of despair His "*Love Lifted Me.*"

4 Height; High enough to lift us *out of* the depths of sin to seat us in *heavenly* places.

How can we, a *finite* created being, contain the *infinite* fullness of the Creator?—by getting rid of self and sinful ways from our heart.

It means every part of our heart, soul, mind, and emotions are to be *saturated* with His presence and of His divine love within.

There is *no room* left for bitterness; *no room* for fear; and *no room* for self-pride—God's love now *flows* through us.

It is to fully *accept* it and be *absorbed in it that you may be **filled with all the fullness of God.**"*

V. More Than We Can Ask or Imagine

20 *"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,"*

When we know *who* we are praying to—that He is the *eternal God* who created the universe, and He isn't limited by our imagination or our meager resources—but He is able to *do exceedingly abundantly **above all that we ask or think,**"* there is no room for doubt if believing faith is there.

It is *"According to the power that works in us."* His power strengthens our *inner* person. It is God working from *the inside out* to enable us to live a Christian life.

VI. Purpose of It All

21 *"To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

It is the *purpose* of everything we do on earth—bringing glory to God. AV 1 Corinthians 10:31 *"Whatsoever ye do, do **all to the glory of God.**"*

God's love *rescues* us from the world; *brings* us into His presence; *accepts* us into His family; and *empowers* us to live out His purpose on earth—while we look for our new home in Heaven.

We are to *totally receive* Jesus into our heart; to *truly repent* of past sins; and to *sincerely ask* that He bring us into His Kingdom as we keep our *faith* on the atoning sacrifice of His Son.

God's *grace* is given so we can make **Him visible** through our life—the way we *speak, respond*, and our *behavior* around all people in every activity—lets the Light of Christ.

God's *grace* brings it all together—**Miracle of Grace—Grace Builds Bridges—Grace to Mission—Grace Within; Shown Without.**

The power of the Spirit **within** us empowers us so that God's glory can be seen **through** us.

He wants us to *be **filled with all the fullness*** of Him, and so deeply *rooted* in His love; so *strengthened* by His Spirit; and so *filled* with the Lord Jesus—that His glory would *radiate* from us in a way that the world would *see* and *want* that *same life*—one that is fully surrendered to Him and His will for us.

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