

A Prayer for Transformation

Ephesians 3:14-21

1. _____ (vv. 16-17a)

2. _____ (vv. 17b-19)

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

The NIV 84 edition is an excellent translation of Paul's prayer: "14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, 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."

1. Paul started to pray in 3:1. He began there, "For this reason...", but then broke off and explained his calling as an apostle to the readers. Now he begins again in 3:14, "For this reason..." What is the reason from 2:11-22 that is motivating his prayer?
2. The NIV translation helps us to see that there are two basic requests with purpose or result statements added to the requests. What requests of God does Paul pray for his readers?
3. What does Paul mean when he says that the purpose of his first request is that Christ might dwell in their hearts through faith? Doesn't Jesus dwell in the hearts of believers already?
4. Why do you think love is such an important part of Paul's request?
5. What effect do you think it would have if the whole church [Paul says, "with all the saints"] deeply understood the love of Christ? In what ways have you experienced his love?
6. Read Eph. 3:20-21. How is God's power revealed in this benediction? In what ways have you experienced the power of God in your life? In your church?