

Praying for the Church

Ephesians 3:14-21

Biblically Shaped Worship:
Psalms and Prayers (4)

04 September 2022 Christies Beach Baptist Church
Stephen Spence

The Epistles: Prayers for God's People

Paul prayed regularly and passionately for his churches.

We can explore those prayers abstractly, or we can learn from them and **allow Paul to teach us pray** for the church.

Ephesians 3:14-21

I pray that...

- you may be strengthened in your inner being
- Christ may dwell in your hearts
- you may comprehend the love of Christ

so that...

- you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

...filled with all the fullness of [the Triune] God

Spirit ...in your inner most being
Christ...in your hearts
Father God...you may be filled

It is a metaphor (don't look for God in MRIs) for **genuine relationship in the now**, not “heaven in the sky, by and by.”

Personhood exists beyond “space and time,” it is relational.
My inner most being is not a location in my body, but the heart of my deepest relationships.

A close-up photograph of a lit sparkler against a dark background. The sparkler is the central focus, with a bright, intense yellow-white core from which numerous long, thin, golden-orange sparks radiate outwards in all directions. Some sparks are blurred due to motion, while others are sharp points of light. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and light.

Personhood
is relational



...filled with all the fullness of God

This is **the fundamental promise** of the gospel: a life that is lived in the NOW participating in the life of God. (Theosis)

NOT merely sins forgiven and a ticket to heaven.



Parable of the Prodigal Son, Luke 15

Sin is a broken relationship, not broken laws. (Because fundamental reality is RELATIONAL, not legalistic.) Forgiveness, therefore, is the opportunity for restored relationship.



He Qi, A Christian Chinese Artist

The Means to a FULL Relationship with God

We must be strengthened by the Spirit in our inner being

Dwelling...through our faith and grounded in his love

Knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond knowing

- Awe and Wonder
- Breadth, length, height, and depth
- Nourished and secured

Ephesians 3:20-21, A Benediction

to him who by the power at work within us* is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,

to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen

*a full, mutually indwelling, relationship with God

we grow by leaning into God's love