

RCMI L-Path Teaching

April 02, 2023

MONTHLY THEME: HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERMENT

BIG IDEA: This series shows that the Holy Spirit is the key person in our spiritual lives. His power is enough to enable us to live according to and do God's will.

TITLE: EMPOWERED FOR GODLY LIFE

TEXT: Ephesians 3:18, 2 Peter 1:3

Ephesians 3:14-19 (NIV)

A Prayer for the Ephesians

¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches, he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may 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, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

2 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

Confirming One's Calling and Election

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his glory and goodness.

Introduction:

1. Paul turned his heart toward the Lord to pray for the believers in Ephesus and his prayer contained five requests: strengthened (:16); dwell (:17); comprehend (:18); know (:19); filled (:19).
2. As Paul prayed for the Ephesians believers, he made some very specific requests on their behalf that matter most in their inner being, their spirituality, and their relationship with God.
3. It is interesting to know that Apostle Paul did not ask for some material and personal gain. He did not pray for anything physical, material, or financial. He did not pray that they would be delivered from persecution and hardships.
4. His prayer for the Ephesians believers will revolutionize their faith in God and will discover the immeasurable love of God.

5. **Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)** - ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Three Specific Things For God's Empowerment:

Apostle Paul prayed...

1. That they may be strengthened by GOD in their inner being (vv.16-17a)

¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches, he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

¹⁶Idinadalangin kong sa pamamagitan ng kanyang Espiritu ay palakasin niya ang inyong buhay espirituwal ayon sa kanyang kayamanan at kadakilaan. ¹⁷Nawa'y manatili si Cristo sa inyong mga puso sa pamamagitan ng inyong pananalig.

- To be strengthened (Gk. "krataioo from krataios" = strong, the root word for "Kratos") means to be empowered, to be increased in vigor, to strengthen with the implied meaning of, to establish, to grow strong, to be made strong,
- to be braced (as to the coming of Super Storm signal no.5),
- to be invigorated, to be fortified (like a "spiritual fort").
- Apostle Paul prays that they will be made sufficiently, marvelously powerful in their inner life for whatever the circumstances may demand of them.
- CHARGING YOUR SPIRITUAL "BATTERY"

Why do we need this power in our "Inner Being?"

A. Because we all face and experience problems and situations that are beyond our control.

Zechariah 4:6 (NIV) - "...Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty."

B. Because God is changing our character from glory to glory.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV) - ¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

QUESTION?

- What is your inner need in your present situations and circumstances?
- Do you need a joy that lifts you out of the sorrow of your situation?

- Do you need the peace that calms your heart amid the storms of life?
 - Do you need faithfulness when your heart longs to wander?
 - Do you need self-control when you are tempted to sin?
 - God has placed His Holy Spirit in us to empower us to live a Christ-like victorious life. AMEN!!!
- Paul asked God to grant them, “according to the riches of His glory.”
 - ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches, he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,
 - God’s glory is the sum of all of His attributes, or everything that makes Him glorious.
 - The universe declares the glory or splendor of His mighty power (Psalm 19:1; Romans. 1:20).

Psalm 19:1-4 (NIV)

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

¹The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ²Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. ³They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. ⁴Yet their voice[b] goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Romans 1:20 (NIV)

For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

- The point is, God is not lacking in resources to meet our needs. As Paul prays (Phil. 4:19), “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

2. That they may grasp the vastness of God’s love (vv.17b-18)

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may 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,

Dalangin ko na ang pag-ibig ang maging ugat at pundasyon sa lahat ng inyong gawain ¹⁸upang inyong lubusang maunawaan, kasama ng mga hinirang ng Diyos, kung gaano kalawak, kahaba, kataas, at kalalim ang kanyang pag-ibig.

- The Four Dimensions and Magnitudes (how wide and long and high and deep) describe an infinite, incomprehensible love.
- A. W. Tozer's said, '... because God is self-existent, His love had no beginning, because he is eternal, his love can have no end because he is infinite it has no limit because he is holy it is the quintessence of all spotless purity because he is immense, his love is an incomprehensibly vast, bottomless, shoreless sea....'
- God's love is WIDE enough to hold, embrace and hug the whole world. – John 3:16
- God's love is LONG enough to love us forever. (may forever kay Lord)
- ⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. ⁸Love never fails. - 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
- God's love is HIGH enough to forgive sins and lead us to Himself. But God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. – Romans 5:8
- God's love is DEEP enough to offer His life to the lowest sinners. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! - Philippians 2:8
- Christ's love is indeed immeasurable and incomprehensible, but Paul prays for his readers to comprehend the love of God and that we may have power, together with all the saints, "to grasp" its dimensions to take hold of them, to seize them.
- Apostle Paul knows this is impossible, but he calls us to experience His goodness.
- To know His love, and to show His love is to experience a miracle like no other!

3. That they may be filled with all the fullness of God (v.19)

¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

¹⁹At nawa'y maunawaan ninyo ang pag-ibig ni Cristo na hindi kayang abutin ng pag-iisip at sa gayo'y mapuspos kayo ng buong katangian ng Diyos.

- Paul prays something extraordinary; that his readers be filled with all the fullness of God!
- Question: How can we—people, who are small, mortal beings—be filled with all the fullness of God when the whole universe itself could not contain HIM?
 - It can only be done as Jesus Christ makes Himself completely at home in our hearts and we enjoy His fellowship always.
- The word "filled" means "to be full, or to be filled to the fullest." It speaks of "total domination."

- The person filled with anger is conquered and dominated by hate.
- The person filled with worldly desires is conquered and dominated by lust.
- The person filled with happiness is conquered and dominated by joy.
- So, to be “filled with the fullness of God” is to be conquered and dominated by Him.
 - o Domination means dominion, control, command, authority, and power.
- Instead of thinking of our lives as mere buckets that can contain only a small portion of His fullness, think of our lives as ships, which have been sunk in the ocean of His grace, until we are filled with all that He is and can give us. – Precepaustin commentary.
- Total domination is what the Lord wants for us. He will love us until He controls our lives to the fullest. It is only when we yield to Him fully, when we surrender fully to Him can we be filled with all that He is.

CONCLUSION:

2 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

Confirming One’s Calling and Election

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.”