



ALL IN

Week 3 | All In on Prayer

| KEY THOUGHTS

- What if we prayed because **we're convinced it matters**?
- Paul prayed for the believers in Ephesus that they would understand how much God loved them. Do we get that? Can I grasp how much God really loves *me*?
- When we pray, we're talking to the most **caring, loving, faithful God** there is, who cares for you more than you can ever imagine.
- When I respond to God's love by falling to my knees and saying, "God, I need you," he responds, "Come as you are," not, "Come back when you're all cleaned up."
- **He wants to hear you, not because of how good we are, but how good He is.**
- **To understand the gospel is to be overwhelmed by it;** and the more we understand, the more we're overwhelmed.
- How do we come to God? Desperate for Him; confessing that we're helpless and powerless without Him.
- We come in humble confidence, knowing we're His, and knowing Him well enough to be confident that He'll show up for us.
- Much like when we move into a house and begin to remodel it to suit us, when Christ moves into our hearts, **His character eventually characterizes the dwelling.**
- Paul prayed for believers to know God's love better - not for us to love better, but to better know Christ's love for us.
- God doesn't love us because we're obedient; rather, we're obedient because we know how much God loves us.
- We can pray with confidence because the God who loves us has all power and authority; he can do in and through us more than we could ever ask, or even think of asking.

| SCRIPTURE

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ¹⁹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21 (ESV)

⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! ⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Psalms 95:6-7 (ESV)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

| PRACTICAL

- To help you contemplate the breadth and length and height and depth of God's overwhelming love, memorize and meditate on Ephesians 3:14-21.
- Pray for opportunities to share the things you're learning with others, and for the courage to do so.
- When you pray, begin and end your prayer with worship, with confidence that God loves you, and hears you, and will be glorified through your prayers.
- Knowing God can do far more abundantly than we can ask or think, is there anything you would like to ask, but don't for fear He won't come through for you?

| REFLECT

- God knows you as you are right now better than you know yourself, because He created you. Knowing you perfectly, He wants to take who you are and make you perfectly His.
- Christ “dwelling” in our hearts means He moves in and makes us His own. He’s a permanent resident, not just a guest; He’s the homeowner, not a renter.
- This truth of God’s love is too great to keep to myself. Who can I share it with?
- If you don’t know this love we’re talking about, you can experience God’s love now and throughout all eternity. What’s keeping you from asking Him for it?

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