

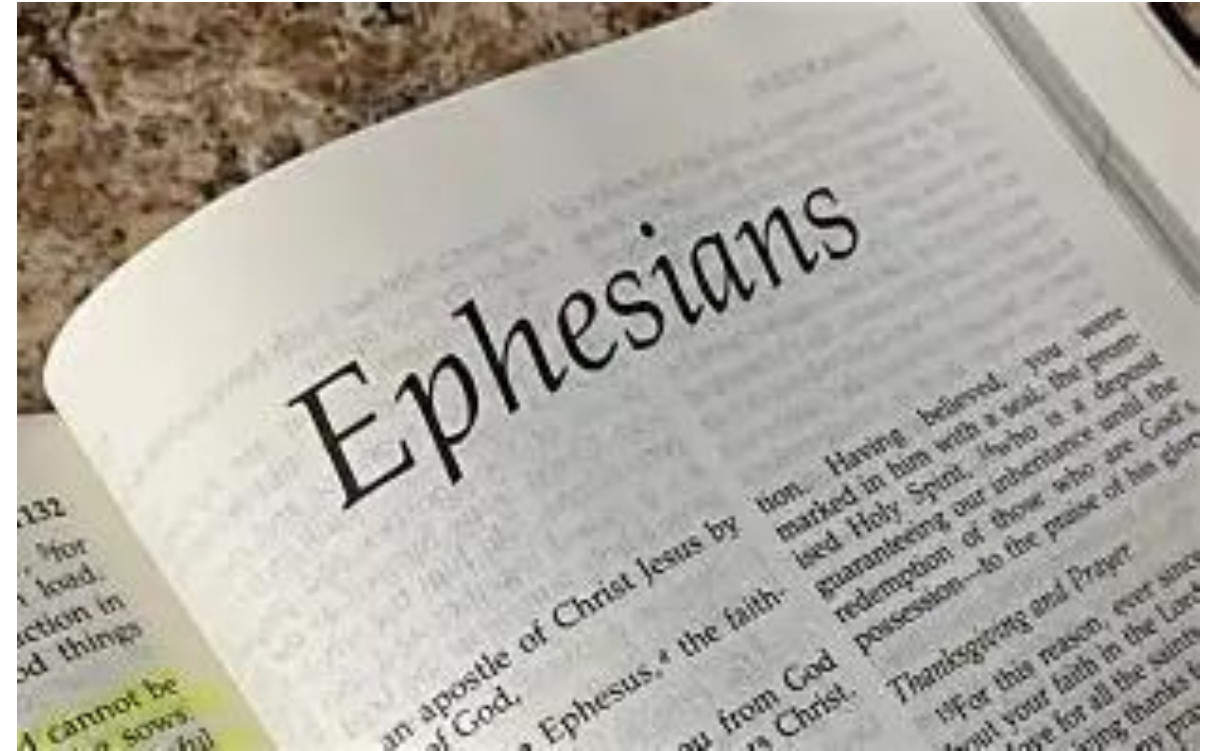


The WORD Series

Part 7- The Great Prayer!

Introduction...

- Last session we began to study Ephesians chapter three
- We looked at the powerful principle of being a 'prisoner' of Christ.
- How to see the Hand of God even in very difficult situations or circumstances.
- We borrowed a leaf from the life of Joseph on how to rise above human failings against us whilst seeing the divine dealings.

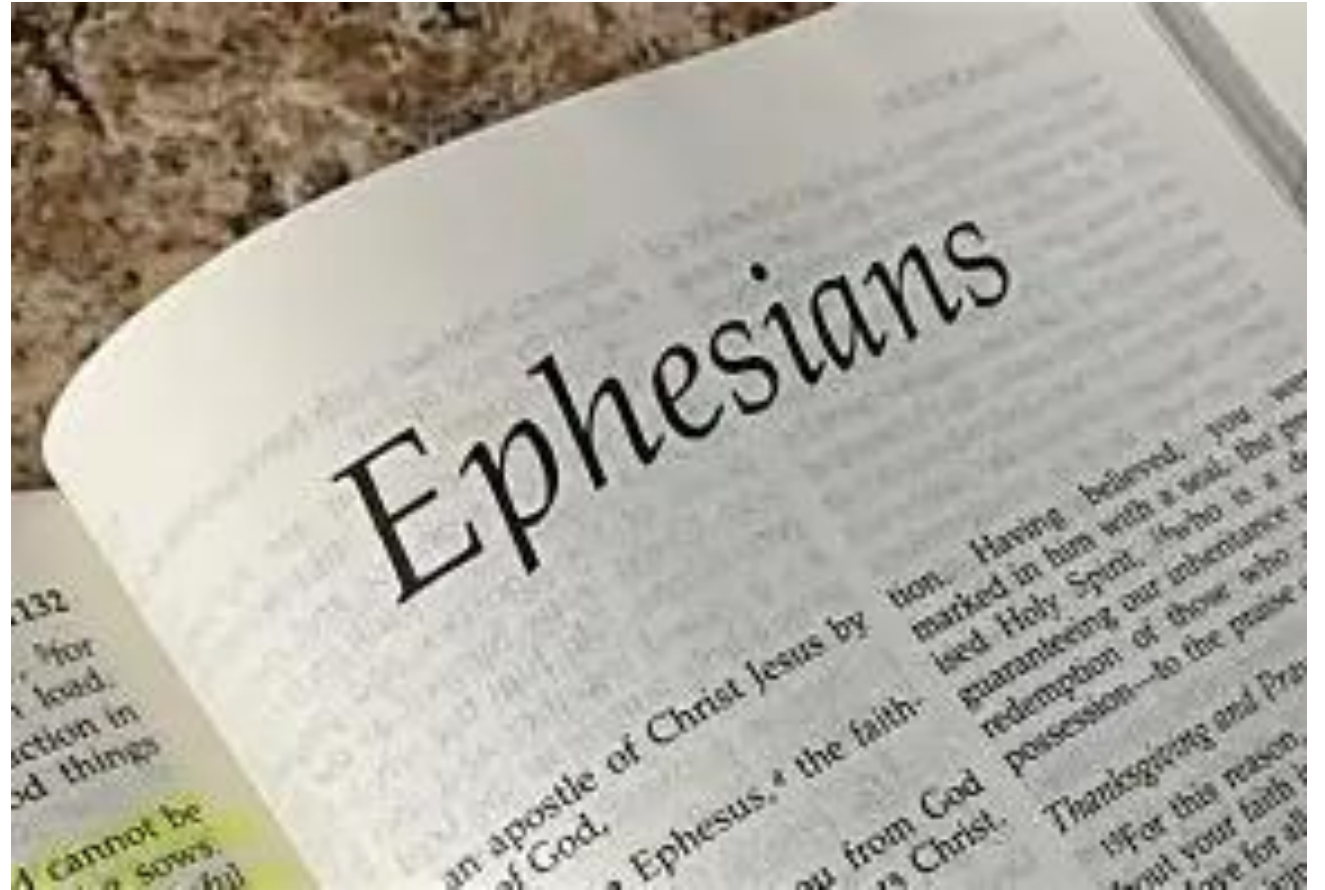


Bible Reading...

- *14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*
- *15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*
- *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,*
- *17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, .
Ephesians 3:14-21*
- *18 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.*
- *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,*
- *21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.
Amen*

Therefore...

- For this reason..
- Paul repeats this phrase from verse one again.
- The Holy Spirit uses Paul literary style to build a case or point to a crescendo.
- The preceding verses have spoken of the amazing Grace of God upon a former terrorist and persecutor.
- Paul reaches this point to now say this: I BOW...



BOW...

- This simple word has great meaning and depth.
- The act of bowing is an illustration of a Servant before a King.
- It is an act of recognition and submission to a higher authority and power.
- When we look into God's supreme Love and essence, we can only bow in humble adoration.



Bow the knee.. "OW THE KNEE"

- Come let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker – Ps 95:6
- True worshippers bow
- The body mirrors the heart
- When you look at Believers in worship, the body posture naturally flows with the heart.
- We also have an insight into how Paul probably prayed physically



Father...

- The pattern of prayer is TO the FATHER through Jesus.
- Whatever you ask in My Name, the Father will give you.
Jn 16:23
- I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me
Jn 14:6
- For through Him, we both have access to the Father by one Spirit
Eph 2:13



Only Father..?

- *59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."*
- *60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.
Acts 7:59-60*
- *2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are [a]sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: 1 Cor 1:2*
- *8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.*
- *9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."
2 Cor 12:8-9*
- *20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!
Rev 22:20*

The Family...

- *15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*
 - The saints in heaven and those on earth are ONE Family.
 - We do not pray to or communicate with those who have passed on, but...
 - *2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. 3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Matt 17*
 - *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, Heb 12:1*
-
- *22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,*
 - *23 to the [] general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,*
 - *24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.*
 - Hebrews 12:22-24

Grant You...

- *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*
- DIDOMI - Supply, furnish, bestow, give, Present to, profuse, come forth, administer to
- The general idea is a free and profuse supply of energy, life, essence of God
- A river of life flowing out to the Believer!



Inner Man

- We will touch on this a number of times because it is so key to living the victorious life in Christ.
 - When you Believed and became Born Again, you didn't have a mental shift only, something fundamentally spiritual happened.
 - Your spirit became ALIVE in God and you were BORN.
 - The new person is called the Inner Man or the hidden man of the heart or Your spirit.
 - This new being is the real you that is now seated in Heavenly places in Christ Eph 2:6
- *12 But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the right [the authority, the privilege] to become children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name—*
 - *13 who were born, not of blood [natural conception], nor of the will of the flesh [physical impulse], nor of the will of man*
 - *[that of a natural father], but of God [that is, a divine and supernatural birth—they are born of God—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified].*
John 1:12

Born...

- The phenomena of being born again is truly amazing!
- The fact that Christ by His Spirit now lives inside you is the most incredible finding of the New Testament!
- ²⁶ This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people.
- ²⁷ *For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you....*
Col 1:27



Bible Reading...

- ¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
- 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,
- ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, .
Ephesians 3:14-21
- ¹⁸ 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.
- 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,
- ²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen

Love...

- Rooted and grounded in love
- The height, depth, length and width of God's love
- Christ dwelling in your heart is the key!
- Walking with Jesus is very different from texting Jesus!
- One is exchange of information
- The other is fellowship and intimacy
- Having a zoom call with someone is very different from having a meal with them.



Love...

- ⁴ *Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud*
- ⁵ *or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.*
- ⁶ *It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.*
- ⁷ *Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.*





Reflections....