

# THE FULLNESS OF GOD

*Ephesians 3:14-17a (nlt) When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, <sup>15</sup> the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. <sup>16</sup> I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength (nkjv: inner man) through His Spirit. <sup>17</sup> Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him.*

## BEING STRENGTHENED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER

What did Paul mean by the phrase “*inner man*?”

The Greeks recognized the “*inner man*” greatly influenced external behaviour and actions.

A balanced and virtuous inner life was believed to lead to a harmonious and successful life.

Paul presents where this “*inner strength*” comes from.

*Ephesians 3:16 (nlt) He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit.*

The presence of the Holy Spirit in our life is evidence of our salvation.

**Romans 8:9**... *if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.*

It's the ability (*dunamis*) power of the Holy Spirit (*Acts 1:8*) that empowers us for successful Christian living, and **it is this power** that Paul desired for his readers to receive.

Jesus **outworked His ministry** on earth through the power of the Spirit (*Luke 4:1, 14; Acts 10:38*)

The **ongoing influence** of the Holy Spirit in our lives will cause us to experience the full benefits of Christian living.

**Ephesians 3:17** (*nlt*) *Then Christ will **make His home** in your hearts as you trust in Him.*

(*nkjv*) ...*that Christ may  **dwell** in your hearts through faith.*

The strengthening of our “*inner man*” occurs when the Spirit of Christ takes up His permanent residence within us – to be at home within us.

**Ephesians 3:17b-19a** (*nlt*) ...*Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. <sup>18</sup> And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. <sup>19</sup> May you experience (nkjv: comprehend) the love of*

*Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.*

## KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Paul prays for the believer to be able to grasp the breadth, depth, length and height of the love of Christ.

This is the **length** that Christ's love reaches.

*John 3:16 (niv) For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.*

The love of Christ accepted the cross; in its **depth** it descended to experience death.

*1 Peter 3:18 (niv) For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.*

In its **height**, Christ loves us in heaven, where He makes intercession for us.

*Hebrews 7:25 (gw) That is why he is always able to save those who come to God through him. He can do this because he always lives and intercedes for them.*

No one is outside the love of Christ; no place is out of its reach.

*Ephesians 3:19b (nlt) ...Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.*

God wants us to experience His fullness - all He has for us is provided through the love of Christ.

In one sense, the Christian is already made full in Christ.

*Colossians 2:9-10 (niv) For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. <sup>10</sup> So you also are complete through your union with Christ...,*

Positionally, we are complete in Him. Practically, we enjoy the benefits that we apply by faith.

*Ephesians 1:3 (nlt) All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.*

## Question

Would you be brave and receive Jesus as your Lord through the repentance of your sins?

Maybe you already have received Jesus as your Lord, but have not yet received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, would you like too?