**A POWERFUL PRAYER FOR A NEW YEAR**

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

**OUR COMPLETE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ MUST BE TO GOD ALONE**

* *“For this reason I kneel before the Father”* (Ephesians 3:14)
* *“from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.”* (Ephesians 3:15)
* **God being God is not contingent on whether people acknowledge Him as such; He is the God of all creation independent of anything else.**

**GOD ALONE CAN AND WILL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ OUR INNER BEING**

* *“I pray that He may grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through His Spirit.”* (Ephesians 3:16)
* **The power God infuses into us is to love – a limitless love account that we draw from in Christ to extend to others, no matter who they are or where they come from.**
* *“and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”* (Ephesians 3:17a)
* **We must be willing to have Christ dwell in every aspect and area of our being if we are to walk in His power and love.**

**BEING FIRMLY ESTABLISHED IN CHRIST IS EVIDENCED BY HOW WE DEMONSTRATE GOD’S \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TO OTHERS**

* *“I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love,”* (Ephesians 3:17b)
* **This kind of love we are to demonstrate is not unstable or unwavering. It has a strong foundation because it is a love that is rooted in Christ.**
* *“may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God’s love,”* (Ephesians 3:18)
* **“This love that God grants to the believer’s heart is a love whose depth and height, whose width and length, is beyond human comprehension, yet can be experienced and grasped by believers.”** – Lynn Cohick
* *“and to know Christ’s love that surpasses knowledge so that you may be filled with all the fulness of God.”* (Ephesians 3:19)
* **While we cannot know God fully until we are in His presence in the afterlife, we can know Christ’s love in a way that is beyond our normal human comprehension, because of the Holy Spirit living in and working through us.**
* *“Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us”* (Ephesians 3:20)
* **God is able to do things that our finite human minds cannot even conceive.**
* *“to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever, Amen.”* (Ephesians 3:21)
* **God is glorified when the Church lives and loves like Jesus!**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Ice Breaker:** What would you like to see God do in our Church in 2024? Our City?

**Understanding:**

* What does Ephesians 3:14-21 teach us about God/Jesus?
* What does Ephesians 3:14-21 teach us about love, specifically God’s love through Christ?
* What does it mean for Christ to “dwell” in your heart?
* What does Ephesians 3:14-21 teach us about God being glorified?

**Digging Deeper:**

* What are some things we/others give “allegiance” to rather than God? How can/do you deal with these improper allegiances?
* In a world full of so much division and hate, how does Ephesians 3:14-21 help you to draw from the limitless supply of God’s love through Christ in how you interact with others?
* How are you challenged and encouraged when it comes to praying deep prayers like Ephesians 3:14-19 for others, and yourself?
* Based on this study, how can you glorify God more in 2024?
* What is your big takeaway from this study?

**Loving Outward:**

* Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
* Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
* Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?

If you are not in a Connect Group and would like to get connected

to grow in your relationship with God and others,

contact the church office at 225-272-3740,

and we can help you find a group that fits your schedule.