

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Ephesians 3:14-21

I. INVOLVEMENT OF THE TRINITY—all 3 Persons of the Trinity at work

A. Father's Blessing (14-16)

1. Bowing to the Father (14)—request is made to Him
 - a. Especially Fervent Prayer
 - b. Establishing Christian Precedent
2. Family in Heaven and on Earth (15)
 - a. Every Family—all the individual families
 - b. All Fatherhood—God the Father is the archetype of fatherhood
 - c. God's Entire Family—church universal everywhere, throughout time
3. Source of Blessing (16; Jam 1:17)
 - a. Confidence in Fatherly Goodness (Mat 6:25-32)—able, willing
 - b. Reverence in Approaching God (Heb 5:7; 1 Pet 1:17)—holy, power
 - c. Effectiveness of Prayer—(Jam 5:13-18)—God can & will do

B. Spirit's Agency (16; Act 1:8; Rom 1:4 & 15:19; 1 Cor 2:4; 1 Thes 1:5)—Holy Spirit dispenses God's power, energy, ability

1. **Supernatural Power**
2. **Spiritual Gifts**

C. Jesus' Love (18-19)

1. Christ's Presence (17a; Rev 3:20)—
 - a. Dwelling—(Jn 1:14; Rev 3:20)—continuous, maintained relational
 - b. In Your Heart—inner self; personal, intimate
2. Christ's Love (18-19)—
 - a. Comprehending its Dimensions—vastness
 - b. Knowing what Surpasses Knowledge (1 Cor 8:1; Jer 9:23-24)—intimate relational knowledge

II. REQUESTS OF THE PRAYER ()

A. Encouragement (16)—to cheer, hearten, give courage

1. **Your Inner being is where the primary battle is fought.**
2. **The Holy Spirit brings courage.**

B. Understanding (17b-18; Lk 24:45; Jn 14:26)—ability to comprehend

C. Love (17b, 19a)

1. **God's Love for Us**
2. **Our Love for One Another**

D. Maturity (18,19b)

1. **With All the Saints**—growing up together
2. **Filled with the Fullness**—be like Jesus, enjoy all the benefits

III. GLORY TO GOD (20-21)—doxology to the Father

A. His Ability (Isa 64:4; Ps 115:3-7)—able to **do**—acts, answers prayer

1. **Far More**—much more
2. **More Abundantly**—much better
3. **Than We Can Imagine**—ask or think

B. His Power at Work in Us ()

1. **Working *on* Us**—our stuff; sanctification & inner healing
2. **Working *through* Us**—to minister, witness, build His kingdom

C. His Glory (21)—God gets all the glory

1. **In the Church** ()—church is to be about God's kingdom & glory
2. **In Christ Jesus** ()—Servant, image, Logos; Savior of the Church
3. **Through All Generations** ()—every generation tells His wondrous deeds
4. **Throughout Eternity** ()—never ending, beyond this life
5. **Amen**—agreement, yes, earnest desire that it should be so

Listen: "In Need" (Acappella Worship)
<https://youtu.be/-wQgJvdp00Q?si=sFunPJP2XPa9TwuR>