

Request 4: Filled with the Fullness of God (Ephesians 3:19)

- I. **Review of Context**
 - A. In the book of Ephesians - chapter by chapter
 - B. As the fourth of four prayer requests
 - C. A bold prayer for a weak and afflicted church
 - D. A model for our prayers today
 - E. Read Ephesians 3:14-19
 - F. This sermon will address two questions (see points II and III)

- II. **What does it mean to be *'filled with the fullness of God?'***
 - A. Are not all Christians filled with the Spirit?
 1. Spurgeon: Yes, but ...
 2. Balloon illustration (pardon my indulgence)
 - B. What it does not mean
 1. The Pentecostal experience
 2. Pantheism (dissolving into god)
 3. God's incommunicable and communicable attributes
 - C. What it does mean
 1. Growing in grace and knowledge (2 Pet 3:18, Eph 4:13)
 2. to be *filled unto the fullness of God* (ie. be conformed more and more into the image of Christ)
 - a. Matt 5:48, 1 Pet 1:15, Rom 8:29, 1 John 3:2
 - D. Pray for one another to be *filled unto the fullness of God*

- III. **What does *the 'fullness of God'* look like?**
 - A. Like Stephen, one *filled with the Spirit* (Acts 6:5,8; Eph 5:18)
 - B. God reigns in our heart, mind, will and emotions
 1. He directs our thought life (Phil 4:8-9)
 - C. We long for righteousness (Phil 1:11 vs. Rom 1:29)
 1. An inward change resulting in an other-worldly life
 - D. We are full of goodness (Rom 15:14)
 1. Demonstrated in good works (Eph 2:10, Acts 9:36)
 2. Not lusting after the eyes
 - E. We are to know the will of God (Col 1:9)
 1. To live confidently know that his steps are ordered
 2. His will is your sanctification (1 Thes 4:3, 1 Cor 1:30)
 - F. Our tongues are filled with God's Word (Micah 3:8)
 - G. We are full of assurance of faith and hope (Heb 10:22, 6:11)
 - H. We are to be full of joy (1 John 1:4, 1 Pet 1:7-8)
 1. Christ, our forerunner ran with joy (Heb 12:1-2)

- IV. **Epilogue**
 - A. This is written to the church as a whole
 1. The church *is* the *fullness of Christ* (Eph 1:22-23, Jn 1:16)
 2. Pray such audacious prayers for your church!