

St Martins C3 – June 16, 2024

God's Great Power

Sermon Summary:

In our family service today we have seen the importance of prayer and the way that God's power can make a difference in our lives as it did in the book of Acts and Abraham's life. We will continue that theme in our message.

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. 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. May you experience 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.

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

Ephesians 3:16-20

We need God's power in big and small ways.

1. Be Strong on the Inside

What Paul is saying here is that living for God without the power of His Spirit is like trying to balance without using your eyes. We need God to fill our lives and it is only then that we

can have the inner strength to live our life the way he wants us to.

It's about knowing that God is giving you power from his unlimited resources. Think of what it would look like for you to be filled with inner strength from His Spirit.

2. Know God's Love

God wants you to know His love. Its width, it's length, it's height, it's depth. This is not just something we know about, but we experience the love of Christ. Even just a tiny little bit of it is enough for us! This is what Paul says makes us complete. It's not correct doctrine, good church structure or moral behaviour. It is the life and power that comes from the love of God.

Ask God to reveal His love to you and live in it.

3. Make an impact

God can accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Just ponder on that for a moment. Our most God focussed dreams, our greatest longings for the Kingdom are like a drop from a tap in comparison to the ocean of wonders that God can achieve through us.

Let's dream again for what God can do through us.

Now is the time

This is the hour

To dare to be different

God will give you power

Connect Group Material:

Key Point

God's power gives us inner strength, reveals His love and gives us the strength to make an impact.

Questions

What stood out to you from this week's message?

What does this message tell you about God and humans?

We usually associate God's power with salvation, miracles and spiritual gifts – why does Paul highlight different effects of God's power?

What does it mean that God's power gives us inner strength (verse 16)?

To what extent do you feel that God is at home in your heart (verse 17)?

How would you describe the awesomeness of God's love to someone who has never experienced it (verse 18)

How does experiencing God's love make you complete (verse 19)

Share a time you experienced God's love.

Ponder what it looks like for God "to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." (verse 20) How does this change the way we pray?

Monday Devotion: Power for Inner Strength

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.

Ephesians 3:16

This week we will take a slow walk through the verses from Sunday's sermon. These are some of the richest verses in the New Testament, proclaiming the power, love and purpose of God.

Paul has been talking about God's great plan in the world and how He uses the church and even himself to be part of it. It draws him boldly to fall to his knees and pray to his Father the creator of Heaven and Earth. The verses we read are that prayer.

In verse 16, Paul extols the richness of God and the power He has to strengthen the believer. The Bible acknowledges there is an inner self connected to the body, but it is the place where the mind and emotions reside. God wants to transform this part of our lives.

It is the inner self that may be continually renewed and strengthened. This happens through the work of God's Spirit. We must continually submit to His Spirit and ask for Him to move in our hearts to have the strength He wants for us.

Tuesday Devotion: My Heart Christ's Home

Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.

Ephesians 3:17

Two weeks ago we used My Heart Christ's Home as our devotion. It is derived from this verse and concludes this way.

Then a thought came to me. I said to myself, "I have been trying to keep this heart of mine clear for Christ. I start on one room and no sooner have I cleaned that then another room is dirty. I am just not up to it!"

So I ventured a question: "Lord, would You take the responsibility to keep my heart what it ought to be and my life where it ought to be?"

I could see His face light up as He replied, "Certainly, that is what I came to do. You cannot be a victorious Christian in your own strength. That is impossible. Let me do it through you and for you. That is the way."

Running as fast as I could to the strongbox, I took out the title deed. I eagerly signed it over to belong to Him alone for time and eternity. He took my life that day and I can give you my word, there is no better way to live the Christian life. He knows how to keep it in shape and deep peace settles down on the soul.

Wednesday Devotion: Power to Know Love

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.

Ephesians 3:18

I find it fascinating the way Paul talks about the power of God in this passage. We are a Pentecostal church and believe in the power of God to achieve amazing signs and wonders:

- God's power in the way we can pray for people and see them healed.
- God's power to see demonic strongholds removed.
- God's power as the means by which we can use spiritual gifts like prophecy and speaking in tongues.

In this passage, however, Paul does not mention any of these things about God's power. Instead, he highlights how the power of God helps us to understand God's love.

Paul's way of describing God's love is to talk about it in a three dimensional capacity. This may reflect the way ancient people thought about the heavens and the earth. They believed the world was flat and that it did have an end, but no one had found it. They believed God lived in the heavens but no one could reach it. They believed the depths of the earth had a bottom but no one could dig to it.

This is the vastness of the love of God. May He give you the power to understand it, today.

Thursday Devotion: Power for Completeness

May you experience 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.

Ephesians 3:19

It is one thing to know something, it is another to experience it. You can know that Mt Everest is 8,849m high, but those who stand before it and try to climb it have a completely different view of it.

We are not just to be those who know the love of God by reading about it and analysing it. We are to be those who experience it for ourselves by asking God to bring His Spirit to fill our hearts and our lives.

It is the experience of God's love that will make all the difference in our lives. One of its work is to fill the believer with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

This is the love that Jesus gave when he died on the cross. It is the love that led our Saviour to come to earth and give everything for us.

Today, spend some time in worship thanking God for pouring His love out onto the world. Then simply pray the prayer, "God, please reveal your love to me today. May I experience it?"

Friday Devotion: Power for More!

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

Ephesians 3:20

God does amazing work. The two examples that help us see the marvellousness of His works are creation and the cross.

Take a moment to examine a leaf and see the intricacy with which it is designed. Then look at the night sky to see the massive universe that we live in. God is creative and mighty.

Consider the cross and the coming together of God's plan in history. Jesus is fully God and fully man, the perfect sacrifice for all mankind—a ransom for many, who not only died but conquered the grave. What power.

According to Paul the power of creation and the cross is the same power that is alive in you and me!

As we consider the things in this world that God wants us to achieve for His glory, let's remember that His power is alive in us. Spend some time thinking about the things God could do through you today and then lean into His Spirit, His power and His love.

See God do amazing things through you.