

**40 Days of Prayer – Day 2**  
**Three Lakes Evangelical Free Church**

*A Commitment of Extraordinary Prayer, Part 1*  
**Ephesians 3:14-21**

Located near Yuma, Arizona, an electrical substation became the focus of attention in our nation's news the first week in September of 2011. This substation connected enough electrical power to provide the energy needs for Arizona, Southern California and Mexico's Baja California state – a total of approximately five million customers, both private and commercial. At about 3:30 A.M., one San Diego Gas and Electric Company employee went about his *routine maintenance*, changing out one piece of equipment. In the process, he interrupted power for his entire region for over 12 hours. Schools were shut down, planes were grounded, businesses and traffic were brought to a halt, hospitals went to generators for back-up power, and two nuclear reactors automatically shut down due to a change in the power grid. It was a genuine mess.

It is astounding to realize the enormous volume of power that this one person had right at his finger tips and to consider how his action—that caused the largest blackout in the history of the South West—was described as ordinary routine maintenance. How could dealing with that much power be considered routine and ordinary?

However, when we think about it, every customer considers plugging into that power routine and ordinary. The normal experience of the normal homeowner or business customer would be to tap into this massive power grid and draw a few kilowatts to light a lamp for reading, activate a hair blower, boot up a personal computer or power a night light in the bathroom! We think nothing of it. That's just normal—an ordinary occurrence.

I'd like us to think of this power outage and all of its surrounding implications as a picture of how we, as Christians, deal with the presence of the power of God that is at our disposal in prayer. I think it is quite possible that, for some of us, it is the normal experience of our Christian routine to tap into the power of God as an ordinary routine. We routinely say, "Thank you for our food, bless my family, please provide for my needs, make the pain stop." The reality is, when I bow in prayer, I am tapping into the power grid that runs the universe and is outside the limitations of physical time and space. I am connecting to a power that spoke the world into existence, a power that keeps molecules from exploding and governs the nations, a power that creates life, governs the weather, and sets limits on evil. The truth is that power is anything but ordinary, and when we tap into that power through prayer, that prayer should be anything but ordinary.

As we continue our *40 Days of Prayer* campaign, I'd like to challenge us to make a commitment to extraordinary prayer. That is, prayer that is anything but normal and routine maintenance of our lives, prayer that recognizes the power of God that is ours when we bow our hearts before him.

Notice the prayer of the Apostle Paul as recorded in Ephesians 3:14-19:

*For this reason I kneel before the Father,<sup>15</sup> from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.<sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,<sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,<sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,<sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

The unifying theme of this passage is the power of God (Vs. 16 and 18), specifically, the power of God that is extraordinary. Paul prays to the Father, the all-powerful God of the universe, who has glorious, limitless riches at his disposal (Vs. 16). Since the power of God is extraordinary, we would be foolish to treat prayer that taps into that power as anything but extraordinary.

**Prayer that taps into the extraordinary power of God is extraordinary prayer.**

We must not fall into the practice of routine prayer, maintenance prayer, ordinary prayer. Since God's power is extraordinary power, when we pray, our prayers are extraordinary. It is very unfortunate to believe that extraordinary prayer is about technique, or schedules, or ceremony. I used to think that. I used to think that prayer is extraordinary only when it is inconvenient, difficult, has a high cost or price to my life. Prayer is extraordinary, simply because it taps into the extraordinary power of God.

Jesus taught that all that is needed to move a mountain is faith as small as a mustard seed. That's not much faith. But the prayer of a person with a mustard seed of faith will tap into the extraordinary power of God and it is that extraordinary power of God that moves the mountain. It is not the amount of our faith—it is the power of the object of our faith. Extraordinary prayer is the prayer of faith in the extraordinary power of God.

As we embark on these *40 Days of Prayer*, let's raise our expectations of what will happen. Prayer is extraordinary, because we are praying to the God of extraordinary power. It is not our prayers that count, but the one to whom we pray that counts.

Here is the application for today. Pray through Ephesians 3:14-19, applying all the pronouns (you) to yourself, praying these verses with "me" and "I" instead of "you."