

40 Days of Prayer – Day 4
Three Lakes Evangelical Free church

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

As we have been discussing extraordinary prayer, you may have had thoughts that this way of viewing prayer is much too complicated. Can't we just learn something simple, easy, three steps to answered prayer? Can't you just tell me how I can get stuff from God? How God can get me ahead in life? How I can get him to stop the pain of my circumstance? But that is not how Paul prayed for us. Paul unleashed the extraordinary power of God through extraordinary prayer. The peril of Christians today is microwave faith, pre-packaged discipleship, and instant prayer.

Here is my promise—on the authority of this passage, I can guarantee that if we learn how to pray as we have learned the last two days, our circumstance will change *because we will change*.

We will experience change in our inner being (Vs. 16).

Our inner being is a way to describe the spiritual side of the human make-up. That spiritual make-up will be changed when we unleash the extraordinary power of God in our own lives through extraordinary prayer.

This verse introduces us to a vital principle of prayer. The power of God is unleashed through the Holy Spirit. It is the ministry of the third person of the Holy Trinity to bring the power of God to our lives and change us from the inside out.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. Romans 8:26-27

When we pray with a vision of the majesty of God, an awareness of the presence of God, gratitude for the grace of God, and with the goal being the glory of God, the Holy Spirit unleashes the extraordinary power of God. The result is inner spiritual renovation. Our will will be conformed to his, our passions will become his passions, his sorrow will be our sorrow, his joy will be our joy.

We will experience growth in discipleship (Vs. 17b-19).

As we learn to pray with a vision of the majesty of God, an awareness of the presence of God, gratitude for the grace of God, with the goal being the glory of God, God will unleash his extraordinary power in our lives so that we will grasp the dimensions of the love of Christ.

The love of Christ is broad enough to encompass all mankind, long enough to last for eternity, deep enough to reach the most degraded sinner, and high enough to exalt him to heaven.

The more we grasp the love of Jesus for ourselves, the more we will love one another. We are loved by Jesus so that we may love for Jesus. We will know the unknowable. Here is a realization of mystery—and growth in discipleship means that we begin to be OK with mystery.

Further, we will be filled with the fullness of God. This can only refer to our eternal state, when we rest in the arms of God in heaven, filled with all that God intended us to be. Result is growth in discipleship.

Extraordinary prayer does change things because it changes us. My promise to you is that if you stay with us for the full *40 Days of Prayer*, things will never be the same.

1. Pray that we would grow in the way we love one another and that we promote unity in the Spirit, submit to one another, encourage one another, and forgive one another.
2. Pray that we would increase in humility, counting others as being better than ourselves, thus building unity in our body.
3. Pray that we would be empowered by the Lord to serve with passion and enthusiasm, realizing that we are handcrafted by God to walk in good works.
4. Pray that we would develop an environment where the biblical role of men as leaders in their homes, as well as at church and in culture, is encouraged.
5. Pray that God would give us new believers to establish in the faith and to disciple in the Word.
6. Pray that marriages will be healed, families strengthened, and relationships reconciled.

BUT DON'T PRAY PRAYERS OF ROUTINE MAINTENANCE AND ORDINARY PRAYERS. Pray with:

A vision of the Majesty of God
An awareness of the Presence of God
Gratitude for the Grace of God
The goal of the Glory of God

Then, our circumstance will change because we will change.