

IMMEASURABLY MORE ..

[Part 2]

learning from the letter to the Ephesians

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! [Eph.3.20f]

The letter to the Ephesians sets out for us ‘the unsearchable riches of Christ’ (Eph.3.8), and assures us that God is ‘able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine’ (Eph.3.20): this set of studies is intended to help us all enter into and enjoy that ‘immeasurably more’.

You can find the background to this series [here](#).

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No pressure!

As always there are 7 [sets of] questions in this study: that’s to provide the option, which some find useful, of the material being used as a daily study guide.

Priorities!

You’ll know your own group, so use what you’ll find most helpful. Ideally all questions should be covered this week: but if you have to restrict yourselves to just three, then the ones to start with might best be **3, 5 & 6**.

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Prayer!

Do try also to make a point in your Community Group of leaving time for praying together!

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3. Eph.3.14-19 [w/b Sunday 7th May]

“.. to know this love that surpasses knowledge ..”

Paul's prayer is worth waiting for! He'd prayed previously for the Ephesian believers (Eph.1.15-23), and the burden of his prayer was that they might know the full measure of God's *power*. Here his prayer is (at least in part) that they may know the full extent of God's *love*.

It's interesting to see how this two-fold burden in his praying corresponds to David's 'summary' of the message of the Bible in Psalm 62.11f. Is God *able* to help us? And is God *willing* to help us? Few things matter more than our knowing that the answer to both questions is a resounding 'Yes!'

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1. **Read the whole passage (Eph.3.14-19).** This is the prayer of a pastor for his people: as such it reflects the heart of the 'good Pastor (Shepherd)' Himself, and His desires for us as His people.

When you write and tell someone that you are praying for them, do you let them know *what* in particular you are praying?

Read **Romans 15.30-32**: when Paul here asks the Roman believers to pray for him, what four things does he ask them specifically to pray for?

What four 'specifics' would you ask others to be praying for in your life at this time?

2. Read Ephesians 3.14-15. Paul is careful to address his prayer to “the Father”, perhaps providing them with an example of what he had taught in 2.18 (“.. *we both have access to the Father*”).

Do you find yourself tending to address your praying simply to ‘God’ or do you deliberately come before ‘the Father’? Do you think it matters or makes any difference?

Why do you think Paul amplifies his reference to ‘the Father’ in the way he does?

3. Read Ephesians 3.16. This prayer of Paul is commonly understood to have four distinct ‘strands’ to it, the first of which is set out in this verse.

How will this work of the Spirit, strengthening you with power in your inner being, show itself?

While the inner transformation to which Paul alludes is the work of God’s Spirit in our lives, are there ways in which we may be co-operating with Him?

4. Read Ephesians 3.17a. This is the second ‘strand’ to Paul’s prayer: that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

Christ *already* dwells in the hearts of believers – so why do you think Paul now prays as he does? What is he hoping to see increasingly in their lives?

5. Read Ephesians 3.17-19. Here Paul moves to the third 'strand' in his prayer for the Ephesian believers, the desire that they should 'grasp' and 'know' the love of Jesus.

What does being 'rooted and established in love' mean?

Why is it only '*together with all the saints*' that we will have the power to grasp and know the love of Christ?

6. Read Ephesians 3.18-19. Paul is effectively asking that these believers in Ephesus may be enabled to grasp and know what essentially 'surpasses knowledge': to know the unknowable in a sense!

To what do the four 'dimensions' of the love of Christ (wide, long, high, deep) refer?

What does Paul mean by saying that this love of Christ '*surpasses knowledge*'?

7. Read Ephesians 3.19. In this verse we come to the final and culminating 'strand' to Paul's prayer – "that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

What does Paul mean by this phrase (our being 'filled to the measure of the fullness of God')?

Do you think there is a deliberate 'progression' in Paul's praying, so that this would be the climax to that progression?

Is this request dependent on the others being previously granted?