

**The Prayer that Defines and Directs the Christian Life (pt. 8)**  
**Ephesians 3:14-19**

Pastor Jim Sole

January 19, 2020

A. The Prayer: It's about the Family

1. Individually in relationship with our Heavenly Father
2. Impartially in relationship with God's people

B. The Prayer: Its Main Petitions

1. Strength to live the whole of the Christian life: Eph. 3:15-17

1<sup>st</sup> Necessity: Need for strength for this abiding life

"For apart from me you can do nothing" – John 15:5b

2<sup>nd</sup> Necessity: Need for strength to defeat what hinders this abiding life

- The designs and schemes of the devil: 2 Cor. 2:11, Eph. 6:11, John 17:15
- The allurements and deceptions of the world: 1 John 2:15-17
- The cravings of our flesh for ease and comfort: 1 Cor. 9:24-27

TODAY

2. The source of this strengthening

Eph. 3:16, Eph. 1:7, Eph. 1:8, Eph. 2:4, Eph. 2:7, Eph. 3:8

1<sup>st</sup> - God is not miserly and reluctant in His giving to His children

Rom. 8:31-32

2<sup>nd</sup> – God's boundless riches flow from His heart through His Son to us

Phil. 4:19, Col. 2:9-10

Second Petition

3. Strength to grasp the limitlessness of Christ's love

Eph. 3:18-19, Rom. 5:1-5, 2 Cor. 5:14, Gal. 2:20

- The power to handle suffering in a God-honoring way  
Romans 5:1-5
- The power to be delivered from the bondage of selfishness  
2 Cor. 5:14
- The power to maintain the joyful and vibrant Christian life  
Galatians 2:20
- The power to wean us from the foolishness of this world  
Philippians 3:7-8
- The power to bring contentment to the heart  
Philippians 4:10-13

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## The Excellent Christ

They that have found Christ have a fountain that is exceeding full, full of that which they stand in need of for the supply of the wants, and satisfying the cravings of their souls; a fountain of that happiness that is true happiness, that which is exquisitely sweet, a fountain of living waters from whence rivers are continually flowing. They that find him find rivers of waters in a dry place.

Here they find an inexhaustible treasure. Here they find balm to heal the wounds of their souls, excellent food, “fat things full of marrow, and wines of the lees well refined” (Isaiah 25:6). Here they find god tried in the fire. Here is white raiment to clothe them. Here are crowns of glory.

Here they have enough, enough to live upon as long as they live in this world, and to all eternity. Here is enough; they can desire no more. The fountain is inexhaustible and never can be diminished. And has not a poor, ragged, naked, beggar, a wretched outcast, a wandering, famishing, lost creature, cause of exceeding great joy when, after it has long wandered in the wilderness, it finds such a fountain?

Jonathan Edward’s Theology of Prayer, *The Voice of Faith*  
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