

PRAYER – 10
AUGUST 10, 2016

INTRODUCTION:

By studying the prayers of others, we can learn how to pray more effectively and what to pray for. In Paul's first prayer, he prayed for enlightenment. In his second prayer, he prayed for divine empowerment. Tonight, we'll study his second Ephesians' prayer.

EPH. 3:13-21

1. The petition is for spiritual strength within. **EPH. 3:16**
 - A. In **verse 13** "Faint not" means don't get discouraged, give up, lose heart.
 - B. Challenges, tribulations, persecutions can sap our strength.
 - C. "Might" is dunamis or mighty power. We get dynamite, dynamic from it. Paul prayed they would be made strong with power that would blast through all the obstacles and challenges of life.
 - D. **JOSHUA 1:6-9 (NLV)** – God knew despair, discouragement and frustration could weaken one's spiritual condition. **PROV. 4:23** The heart is to be protected from things that weaken it.
 - E. **EPH. 6:18-20** – While in Prison, Paul prayed for boldness.
 - F. Pride can weaken the spirit.
 - "I'm strong, wise, resilient, capable, good and resourceful enough to do it! Actually, we're not.
 - God's grace is our sufficiency to resist temptation, endure persecution, overcome obstacles and do our daily tasks.

2. The results of spiritual strength within.
 - A. Christ dwelling within. **EPH. 3:17a** Our heart is like a home with many rooms, we don't want Jesus living in our entryway. We want Him filling every chamber of our heart, and having complete control over our lives. He doesn't want just to be a visitor.
 - B. To experience God's boundless love. **EPH. 3:17b-19a** Love's breath, length, depth and height. This revelation strengthens us within.
 - C. Being filled with God's fullness. **EPH. 3:19b** This should be every believers goal. Being filled with something means being dominated by something.
 - If we're full of fear, jealousy, anger, rage or hate, these emotions will dominate our lives.
 - If we're full of God's fullness, His fullness will drive out fear, jealousy, anger, rage, hate and whatever tries to dominate our lives. It's like pouring clean water into a cup of dirty water until the water becomes clear.
 - D. God can do above all we ask or think. **EPH 3:20**
 - The Greek words for "exceeding abundantly above" mean infinitely above and beyond all human measurement. It's off the charts and can't be measured or imagined. There are no limits to what God can do for those who are filled with His fullness and activate His power within.
 - He saves to the uttermost. **HEB. 7:25**

CONCLUSION:

Paul wasn't inferring that God was deficient in power, he was saying the God of all power can do what He wills to do when we get filled with His fullness and make a highway for Him to move in our lives.