

PRAYING LIKE PAUL

PLP-25 “That Christ May Dwell”

03/15/2026

EPH 3:16-17A [NKJV] “...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;

As Paul progresses into this prayer, he reveals that God’s desire to unite all those who Believe into one Body in Christ is a result of His great Love.

THE RICHES OF HIS GLORY

Vs 16a “that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory”

The opening statement of Paul’s prayer presents the “key” by which all that follows will be realized:

- **That God would grant...** – “Didomi” – a free gift unrestricted by the Giver – To be brief, “God GIVES...” – the question is: How much of His gift are we realizing / appreciating
- **According to HIS glorious riches...** – God’s “Gifting” is:
 - **According to...** – “Kata” – under the influence of – some translations miss the point when they translate this as “out-of” - a different word
 - God gives “under the influence of Who He is” **Unlimited**
 - NOT “out-of” Who He is – **Partial**
 - **The Riches...** – “Plutos” – exceedingly rich / the “Treasures”
 - **of His Glory...** – “Doxa” – “out-shining”- The outward display – the “perceptible of the imperceptible” – **Sun-Light vs The Sun**

STRENGTHENED WITH MIGHT

This “unrestricted gift” flows out-from the exceeding wealth of the very realization of God’s Essence... The purpose of this gift is...

EPH 3:16B “...to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man...”

In order for the full results of Paul’s prayer [vs 17-19] to be realized... the Believer needs THIS first...

- **To be strengthened... With might...**
 - **Strengthened...** – From: “Kratos” – Dominance / Rule - Power that is “controlling / ruling over”
 - **Might...** – “Dunamis” – inherent power – Power that is available to perform what is needed
“that we would receive the ability [Dunamis] to be in full control / Ruling Over [Kratos] ALL that is in our “heart”
- Through His Spirit in the inner man... – The way this “ability to rule over...” is realized is by His Spirit...
 - Through the “New Birth” we have received the Holy Spirit
 - He dwells within and has transformed our “nature” into the very image of Christ – **“Righteousness and true Holiness”**
Paul’s Prayer is that God would gift the Believer the reality of the indwelling Presence of the Holy Spirit

MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS

Vs 17a “... [So] that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...”

- **May dwell...** –
 - Not: “**might dwell**” – as if questionable whether He will or not
 - It is: “**may dwell**” – a matter of agency... through the principles of verse 16 the reality will be known...
 - This does not negate / conflict with the reality of the fact that every Believer is “**IN Christ**” and “**Christ is IN them**”
 - “**Katoikeo**” – “to settle-down at home... to occupy the place” – a more descriptive sense than “**Mone**” (to Abide – be there) – to be at ease, fully enjoy, be “at home”
- God “grants” the ability to “**take control**” over our “**hearts**” **IN THAT WAY...** Christ’s “inner presence” takes up “full occupation” of our “hearts” (spirit / soul)
Paul wants Believers “**to be able to RULE**” over the tendencies to **division / strife / jealousy / that are “natural to man”** BUT negated by the “**Cross of Christ**” **EPH 2:13-22**