

A Prayer for 2026

Ephesians 3:14-21

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- New Year's resolutions -- Easily made, easily broken!
- New Year's Prayer Request for EBCC
- Context of Paul's prayer for the Ephesians
 - Ephesians 3:14-19-- *"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God"*
 - The Flow of the Book—chapters 1-3 Doctrinal
 - Chapter 1-- the eternal plan of God in providing salvation
 - Chapter 2-- Explanation of the method of salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9) and the results of salvation: reconciliation of Jews and Gentiles which results in one body, one spiritual temple in which God dwells.
 - Chapter 3-- Begins with an explanation of the mystery of the church. The prayer of Ephesians 3 picks up on the foundation of the believers in Christ being a spiritual temple.
 - The "Hinge" of the Book—chapters 4-6 Application

A Prayer for 2026

A. The REQUEST

1. **We might experience inner, spiritual strength**
 - Ephesians 3:16-17-- *"that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love"*
 - a. **So that we can face pressures on the outside.**
 - 2 Corinthians 4:6-- *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day."*
 - b. **The strength comes from the Spirit of God**
 - Acts 1:8-- *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*
 - c. **Various means the Spirit uses to strengthen us**
2. **We might experience Christ at home in our hearts.**
 - a. **Connection between Spirit's power and Christ's presence**
 - Galatians 2:20-- *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."*
 - b. **Robert Munger's, "My Heart, Christ's Home"**

3. **We might experience Christ's love in fullness.**
 - a. **Established in love**
 - Ephesians 3:17-- *"that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love."*
 - 1) Grounded in God's love for us.
 - 1 John 4:9-10-- *"In this, the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."*
 - Romans 5:5-- *"the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."*
 - 1 John 4:19-- *"We love because he first loved us."*
 - 2) Love is an attitude of selflessness
 - b. **Comprehending Love**
 - Ephesians 3:18-19a-- *"may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge"*
 - 1) **The Great Undertaking**
 - a) *"breadth"*—available to all.
 - Revelation 7:9-10-- *"a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb,*
 - b) *"length"*—the extent to which Christ goes to save us.
 - c) *"depth"*—how far down Christ reached to save us
 - d) *"height"*—how far we've been elevated
 - 2) **The Group Project—*"with all the saints"***
 - Ephesians 3:18-- *"may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height"*
4. **We might experience a deepening spiritual maturity in Christ**
 - Ephesians 3:19-- *"to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."*
 - Colossians 2:9-10a-- *"dwells all the fullness of God bodily. And you are complete in Him!"*
 - Ephesians 4:12-13-- *"for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ!"*

B. The ANSWER ??

1. **What would happen if God answers this prayer?**—Ephesians 4-6
 - a. Unity in the Church—4:1-16
 - b. Holiness of life—4:17-5:2
 - c. Witness to the world—5:2-17
 - d. Submission to one another—5:18-6:9
 - e. Stand together against the enemy—6:10-24
2. **Is God able to answer this prayer?**
 - Ephesians 3:20-21-- *"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*