

Bible Reading: Ephesians 3:1-21

Our lives are not vacuums. We are either filled with Christ and the Holy Spirit or the world and the devil. Last week, we experienced Christ's delivering power from sin and the flesh so we can freely serve God. Having received this precious liberty, we should be conscious of Christ dwelling in us, get strengthened in our inner man by His Spirit, commune with Him and do exploits in His kingdom. This is the essence of today's message.

AWARENESS OF HIS PRESENCE Eph 3:17-19^a

It is a mystery that He lives in us (Col 1:27). What does this mean and what are the implications?

1. It starts with the consciousness of who/what we are in Him: we are His temple (1 Cor 3:6) because He lives in us, His righteousness (2 Cor 5:21), His property, we are redeemed and washed (1 Pet 1:18,19).
2. He is always there with us, releasing us from crippling fear on one hand, and ensuring godly fear on the other hand. You are complete in Him. He disarmed principalities and powers, openly triumphing over them (Col 2:15). Don't fear any man or evil power. They can only kill the body and not the soul. Rather fear God. He has ultimate power (1 John 4:4; Phi 2:9-10). He can kill both the body and soul in hell (Mat 10:28). Allow Him to work in you both to will and to do His good pleasure (Phi 2:12,13).
3. We are rooted in Christ's love and word (Eph 3:17-19, Col 3:16). We commune in the Spirit to maintain His constant presence. We are His 'sheep', we hear His voice, and follow Him (John 10:27,28).
4. We are crucified with Christ (Gal 2:20). We do not seek our own will but His (John 5:30). We live solely to please Him. Our primary goal in life is to get to heaven. Therefore, if we die, it is a gain (Phi 1:21).

ARMED BY HIS PROMISE Eph 3:16,19^b

Being conscious of His presence in us, our 'inner man' needs to be strengthened so we can be strong and equipped for our spiritual journey. Christ has given us great and precious promises for our spiritual **GRIT**.

1. **Growth** (Eph 3:16). We will be strengthened with might by His Spirit in your inner man. We will grow in virtue, knowledge, grace and love (2 Pet 1:3-8; 3:18), ensuring stability of character and life.
2. **Renewal** (Rom 12:2). Our minds will be renewed by the Spirit of God. He will change the way we think. We will grow in faith. As our outward man (body) becomes weaker, our inner man is be renewed daily with prayer and the word of God (2 Cor 4:16).
3. **Invigoration** (Eph 6:10-18). The Holy Spirit will strengthen and equip us with God's armour, ensuring daily victory over sin and the wiles of the devil. We must be sober and vigilant (1 Pet 5:8).
4. **Transformation** (Eph 3:19^b): We will be filled with all the fullness of God. Jesus is the image of God (Col 1:15,19). He lives in us. As we look at Him, we will be changed into God's glorious image (2 Cor 3:18).

ADVANCING IN HIS POWER Eph 3:20,21

As a result of our spiritual grit (strengthening of our 'inner man'), the Holy Spirit works in us so we can be effective and impact our world – empowered mobility. What does this entail?

1. The Holy Spirit guides us (John 16:13) and give us spiritual discernment and revelation (1 Cor 2:12,13). As we serve God faithfully, the gifts of the Spirit will be manifested in our life and ministry (Acts 16:16-18).
2. He quickens us (Rom 8:11; John 6:63). Coldness and stagnation will give way to fire, revival and dominion.
3. He open doors for us (Rev 3:8). As we reach out to preach the gospel and conquer the land with our Accelerated City Evangelism (ACE) this year, the Lord will work with us and confirm His word with signs following (Mark 16:20) according to the power that works in us (Eph 3:20; John 15:7).
4. Christ will be glorified in our families, the church, throughout all ages, world without end (Eph 3:21).

Today, Jesus is knocking at the door of your heart. Open the door. Let Him come into your heart (Rev 3:20). Abide and commune with Him. He will make you to be fruitful (John 15:5). The greatest use of life is to spend it on something that will outlast it. Let the powerful Christ in us enable us to live in His power and glory!

"For with God nothing shall be impossible" – Luke 1:37