

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

January 13, 2024 – Praying the Apostolic Prayers – Erlinda Cruz

Strength in Christ Abiding in Us (Continued)

Ephesians 3:14-19 is a prayer to experience more of God and also gives insight into Paul's approach to discipling young believers. Paul presented four stages in our growth in God as indicated by the four times he used the word "that," designating four distinct aspects of spiritual growth.

"...I bow my knees to the Father... from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you...to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell [manifest His presence] in your hearts...that you... 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... that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 3:14-19

Christ Dwelling in Our Heart—Christ Abiding in Us

One distinctive of the new covenant is that He puts or writes His word on our heart and mind by illuminating our mind and inspiring our emotions (Hebrews 10:16).

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them..."

Hebrews 10:16

Jesus' manifest presence dwelling in our heart speaks of the Spirit actively inspiring our mind and emotions. In other words, He reveals and convinces us that God loves us in a personal way.

"He who has My commandments and keeps them... I will love him and manifest Myself to him... My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

John 14:21-23

There is a deep correlation between our obedience to Jesus (pure heart) and our ability to "see Him," which includes feeling His presence and understanding His heart. We do not earn God's blessing by our purity. But we position ourselves to receive more grace by walking in obedient love.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Matthew 5:8

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Rooted and grounded in love: Paul used architectural and agricultural terms to convey our lives being spiritually strong in the midst of storms—of fears, accusations, temptations, pressures, etc. Being “rooted” is related to agriculture and being “grounded” to the architecture of a building. A tree that is deeply rooted and a house that is built on solid ground doesn’t blow over in a storm.

1. This includes receiving insight into God’s love to such a degree that we define our life by it. We define our primary success and value in context to God’s love.
2. Our confession is, “I am loved by God and I am a lover of God; therefore I am successful.”

God’s primary method in changing His people is to reveal how much He loves and cherishes them. The enemy wears down many with accusations and condemnation. Being preoccupied with shame and fear takes energy to manage, and it hinders us from going deep in God and from loving others.