

Gospel-Centered Praying

Ephesians 3:14-21

1. Why pray? (vv. 14-15)

2. How to pray? (vv. 16-19)

Request #1:

"For Paul the 'power of the Spirit' is not only for more visible and extraordinary manifestations of God's presence, but also (especially) for the empowering necessary to be his people in the world, so as to be true reflections of his own glory."¹

¹ Gordon Fee, *God's Empowering Presence*, p. 695.

Request #2:

"Apart from the power of God Christians will have too little appreciation for the love of Christ."²

3. What happens when we pray? (vv. 20-21)

"We simply cannot ask for good things beyond God's power to give them; we cannot even imagine good things beyond God's power to give them. Paul's concluding word of praise thus becomes an immensely powerful incentive to pray."³

Recommended Reading:

The Bible Speaks Today: The Message of Prayer by Timothy Chester
The Valley of Vision by Arthur Bennett
A Call to Spiritual Reformation by D.A. Carson

Next week: What to Say when Trouble Comes, Psalm 34

² D. A. Carson, *A Call to Spiritual Reformation*, p. 193.

³ Carson, p. 202.