

**“Experiencing God”**  
**Ephesians 3:14-21**  
**Sermon Series: “Be Rich”**

**Introduction:** Paul began a prayer in verse 1 when he said, “For this reason.” He then digressed to write about the revelation of the mystery that Jews and Gentiles have been reconciled into one united body in Christ. He picks up the prayer in verse 14 by repeating the phrase, “For this reason.” This is the second prayer in the letter. The first one focused on God opening the eyes of our hearts so that we can spiritually comprehend what Jesus has done for us. This prayer focuses on us actually experiencing God and what He has done for us in Christ and through the Spirit.

**Main Idea: Through believing prayer, we can actually experience God and what He has done for us in Christ and through the Spirit.**

We are going to focus on the requests that Paul made in the prayer and how they speak to the main idea, but before we do that, let me share some general observations about this prayer and how they apply to us. Remember that he is in prison when he is praying.

- Paul prayed about internal needs instead of external needs.
- Paul prayed for others instead of himself.
- Paul prayed based on the rich resources we have in Christ so prayer is claiming what we already have instead of trying to get something that does not belong to us.
- Paul’s heart posture was humility and submission to God (as indicated by the physical posture of kneeling).
- Paul was praying to his Heavenly Father, who is the source of all things and sovereign over all things.
- Paul prayed with the conviction that anything we pray for will not measure up to God’s capacity to answer.

**-Paul included worship in the prayer.**

Here are four requests in the prayer related to us experiencing God:

- 1. We can pray to be strengthened with God’s power internally (v. 16).** This comes through the indwelling Spirit. God will strengthen us to be and do everything He wants us to be and do through His Spirit.
- 2. We can pray for Jesus to be fully at home in our hearts (v. 17).** “Fully at home” is the meaning of dwell. Jesus indwells every believer through the Spirit, but are we making Him comfortable in the home of our hearts through living lives of trust and surrender?
- 3. We can pray to comprehend and experience the love of God (v. 17-19).** Nothing can separate us from God’s love (Romans 8:38-39), but we can doubt or not feel God’s love at times. This is a prayer for us to understand better and experience His love more.
- 4. We can pray to experience more of the presence of God (v. 19).** This is what is meant by “filled with all the fullness of God.” He indwells us through His Spirit. He is present with us. That is reality, but the issue is how much of God’s presence we are actually going to *experience*.

**Conclusion:** How do we actually experience God? The first step is by receiving Jesus so we actually become children of God (John 1:12). This is actually how we enter into a relationship with God. How do we experience Him once we know Him?

- 1. Meditate on His Word**
- 2. Believing prayer**
- 3. Worship**
- 4. Submission to God**
- 5. Being filled with the Spirit (v. 20, Ephesians 5:18)**