

IGNITING GOD'S POWER IN US
An Introduction to Ephesians 3:4-21

**Read Ephesians 3: 14¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom his whole family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Pray

Illustration : In all of the fights of Manny, his opponents come out all serious and trying to give that impression that they are in for the fight.

Manny Pacquiao comes out with a big smile on his face as if knowing he will win the fight already. I just have to go to the ring.

Connect : A lot of Christians have this all seriousness in their face as if they are losing the battle. When what should be seen in our face is a big smile knowing that Christ has already won the battle for us. You just have to fight knowing that Christ has already won it for you.

***Ravi Zacharias' Hindu friend :**

“If the conversion is truly supernatural, why is it not more evident in the lives of so many Christians that I know.”

***Evangelist Gypsy Smith :** “There are five gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the Christian, and some people will never read the first four.”

Let's go back to the basic :

I was reading a site for Pinoy Mac users. One of the users posted a shoutout saying, “Any born-again Christians here?” A lot of the users answered in the positive. But one interesting post I saw replied, “We don't say born-again Christian. It's redundant. We either say, we are “born again” believers or we are “Christians”.

But just the same, the question in my mind popped up, “What is a Christian?” or better yet, ***“Who is a Christian?” Is he the one who studies the Bible? Is he the one who goes to church? These are evidences but who is really a Christian.?**

Answer : So I went back to the Bible regarding this to find out when they were first called Christians

***Read Acts 11:26** *“They were first called Christians in Antioch”*

Situation :

1. Disciples of Christ suffering persecution in connection with Stephen so they were scattered as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch. They told the good news to the other Jews there but some of them also told the good news to the Greeks.

**Read Acts 11:¹⁹Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. ²⁰Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.*

Note : Christians are the ones who don't abandon the faith even if they undergo trials simply because they have something valuable in their possession.

**Verses : Matthew 13 ⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.*

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

***Questions to be asked :** As a Christian, is Christ your treasure? Is He the most valuable possession that we have?

***Note :** This is important because the Bible says, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21

Important : A Christian shows his "supernatural conversion" if people will see that Christ is his/her most valuable possession.

Application : It will be seen when we undergo trials and persecutions, and people will see that you still have this “joyful faith” in Christ.

That's why Barnabas saw, *“the evidence of God’s grace and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.” Acts 11:23*

And if you read further : *²⁵Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people.*

What did Saul teach the people? God’s revelation of the mystery which we have found in *Ephesians 3* – The riches that they have in Christ- and in *Colossians 1:25-27 the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in me/you, the hope of glory.*

***So who is a Christian? A person who has Christ in them.**

Application : Now what does it mean to have Christ in us?

This is the reason why we took the time to study from Ephesians 1 up to Chapter 3:13

Because this is the riches/our position we have in Christ.

*** (Summary) QUICK REVIEW :**

1. Who we are in Christ Ephesians 1:3-14

*a.) we have all the spiritual riches to live the Christian life v.3

Quotation : The Christian life is not hard it is impossible. But we already have all the spiritual riches to live the Christian life.

*b.) we are chosen by God to be holy and blameless in his sight v. 4
- you are already holy in God’s sight so live a holy life.

Illustration : hypocrites “actor” -

Question : Why did Jesus called the Pharisees hypocrites?

They were “acting” holy when the truth is they are not really holy.

Now question : When does a Christian become a hypocrite?

Answer : When we act “unholy” when the truth is we are already holy.

*1 Peter 2:9 "But **you** are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a **holy nation**, a people belonging to God.*

Sample : Nakikibagay ka sa mundo to be accepted when the truth is, we are not of this world already.

Solution : Be true to who you are. That's why the Bible says, "Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect." A.) The term is "father" *Eph1:4 "holy and blameless in his sight."*

*c.) we are adopted as His children because of Jesus Christ v.5 and 6

Application : God is our "Abba, Father".

*d.) we are redeemed and forgiven v.7-8

Question : Sino ang taong palaging pinagtataguan natin? Yung taong pinagkakautangan natin.

We don't have to hide from God anymore because all of our sins have been forgiven.

*e.) we are part of His plans v.9,10,11,12

Question : Who planned the future? God. Who holds the future? God. And we Christians are part of His wondrous plans.

*f.) we have the seal (assurance) of the Holy Spirit in us v. 13, 14

Illustration : Manny practicing gruelling hours and taking all the verbal abuses from the other camp but in the end he got the crown and the cash.

We Christians must have that mindset spiritually. We might be undergoing gruelling trials and taking all kinds of assault but in the end we are sure that we will get the crown and have Christ eternally. That's more important.

*** 2. Ephesians 1:14-23 The 1st prayer of Paul so that we will grasp/know our position**

¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit^{of} of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Illustration : You remember that story of that old lady who died of malnutrition in a small messy apartment. They found two keys and they were keys to two safety deposit boxes. One safety deposit box contained cash worth 250k, the other box

contained stock certificates and cash. Totally that she has resources worth more than a million.

***3. How did we get into our present position? Ephesians 2:1-22**

*a.) Who we were before Christ came into our lives?

- dead in sin (in short, can't respond to God)

Remember that dead infant in the hands of his loving mother story

- a slave to Satan (we don't even know it)
- object of God's wrath (magalit na ang lahat wag lang ang

Dios...don't fear those who kill the body, fear the one who can send our souls to hell)

- separated from Christ (Christ is the only way to heaven and if we are separated from Him, then we have lost the only way we have.)

- without God (that's why a lot of people feel empty because only God can fill that vacuum)

*b.) How we came to be in Christ Ephesians 2:4-9

- because of God's love and power

Eph 2:⁴⁻⁵*But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy Eph 1:¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,*

- by grace v.8-9 *For it is by grace you have been saved*
- through faith

* IT IS GOD'S GIFT - it should be received and we should always be thankful for

*c.) What happens when we are in Christ Eph 2:5-22

- we are now alive in Christ
- we are seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (explain significance)
- we are now near Christ (how near?)
- we are now one with Christ and His Body
- we are now one with Him. He is in us. God in us.
-

***4. What is our privilege of having this position Ephesians 3:2-13**

- *- we have access to God anytime
 - access to His love
 - access to His riches
 - access to His strength
 - access to His power

- access to His wisdom

Excited : Now that we have this? What's next?

Illustration : The most powerful cars in the world today, 1000 hp, top-speed of 300-400 km/h, one car goes from 0-100 in 3.7 seconds.

But how do we feel the power of the car? By just looking at it, by just admiring it. NO! By driving it.

We Christians have a powerful engine inside us – it is the power of the Holy Spirit. Now, in order for us to feel its power, we have to drive it. In order for others to see its power, we have to drive it around. And when they see it, they would want to ride it also. And if you want them to feel its power too, we have to invite them inside our life.

But how can you drive it without a key?

Ephesians 3:14-21 is the key to start what we have right now.

**Read again Ephesians 3: 14¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom his whole family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Illustration : Start your engines!!!!

Let's pray

Quote : It is because of our position that we have the power to practice the Christian life.

I. GOD IS THE SOURCE OF A CHRISTIAN'S POWER

¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom his whole family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches....

A.) How do we tap the source of our power

For this reason I kneel...
I pray that out of His glorious riches...
And I pray to you...

B.) Our relationship with Him is the assurance that we will have this power
...before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on
earth derives its name

C.) It is His power that we use
I pray that out of His glorious riches

II.