

IGNITING THE POWER Part 1 **Ephesians 3:14-21**

INTRODUCTION

***Icebreaker :** Dingy car

Illustration : Huge giant windmills we saw along the way, thousands of kilowatts available to the houses there. The same power that was available to Paul, Peter the apostles, the great Christians of yesteryears is available to us. Sad to say, most of Christianity today is unlike the Quebec Bomb but is running on that dingy car

**Read Ephesians 3:14-21*

¹⁴For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; ¹⁷That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; ¹⁹And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

²⁰Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

²¹Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

PRAY

***Review : Two prayers of Paul**

***First prayer : For enlightenment** (to know what we already have)

Ephesians 1 : ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, **may give you the Spirit^{ffj} 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. (NIV)*

***Second prayer : For enablement** (how to ignite what we already have)

*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 **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, ¹⁸**may 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.** (NIV)*

Illustration : Diagnosing what's wrong with the aircon. Tony was fixing the aircon of the van. But the radiator fan wasn't working. He checked the motor of the radiator fan and it's working. He then checked the fuse that gives power to the radiator fan and it's working. So, the diagnosis is, there's a problem in the relay or the connection between the fuse and the radiator fan.

Just like in our Christian life, there's nothing wrong with God who gives the power and there's nothing wrong with the power that is already in the Christian. But in order to use this power, then there must be the right connection...AND that connection must always be there in order for the radiator fan of our life will keep on working.

***THIS IS HOW THE POWER OF GOD FLOWS INTO OUR LIFE.**

***Point out illustration :**

God -----Spirit-----Christ in us

****Question :** Do you want to live a powerful Christian life?

***Question 2 :** What is the powerful Christian life?

1. A life full of joy (even in the midst of trials)
2. A life full of courage (even in the midst of trouble)
3. A life full of peace (even in the midst of uncertainty)
4. A life full of triumph (even in the midst of temptation)
5. A life full of love (even in the midst of bitterness)

****v.19.... that **you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*****

****John 10:10 I came that you might have life, life to the full.***

***In short,** a victorious Christian life is a life full of God.

Illustrate : If you are full of alcohol in your body, who has the power over you? And your life is showing that. (Eph 5:18 Do not be drunk with wine but be filled with the Holy Spirit.)

The Secret : Here's the secret in living a powerful Christian life :

***Answer :** A constant connection with God :

That's why in the Bible :

**Joshua 1:8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

**Psalm 1: ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.*

*³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.*

**1 Thessalonians 5 : ¹⁶Be joyful always; ¹⁷pray continually; ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

Quotes :

***Brother Lawrence :** Practice the presence of God

***A.W. Tozer :** Constantly practice the habit of inwardly gazing upon God. You know that something inside your heart sees God. Even when you are compelled to withdraw your conscious attention in order to engage in earthly affairs, there is within you a secret communion always going on.

***Now look : Read again :**

*¹⁴For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶That **(hina)** he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*

*¹⁷That **(hina)** Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that **(hina)** ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; ¹⁹And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that **(hina)** ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

²⁰Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

²¹Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Etymology : that – hina – in order...

Explanation : It's a chain reaction. The first action triggers the next action

Illustration : That chain reaction inside from the fuse to the relay to the motor. That's why I'm getting the full benefit of the aircon.

Review earlier : As said earlier, the secret of a victorious Christian life is the constant connection with God

But before we can do that, we have to make sure of the following :

***1. Are we connected properly?**

Illustration : Our friend bought a lamp in Ikea but nasunog, kasi because of improper connection

***2. Are we connected at all?**

Illustration : Have you experienced talking and talking on the telephone, realizing wala ka na palang kausap....In short, is there someone else at the end of the line?

***Question :** Do you want to connect to God properly?

¹⁴For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

Because if we do...here's the result...

²⁰Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think...

***I. LOOK AT THE REASON BEHIND YOUR PETITION**

⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom his whole family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name.

What is the reason behind the petition :

From Chapter 1 up to this verse.

Explanation : Paul was saying to God, Lord you already gave them all the necessary tools to live the Christian life victoriously, now give them the power to live it.

In short, Paul is praying according to God's will.

In short, Paul is saying, "Lord, you gave it to them already, make them see it and give them the power to apply what they have in their everyday lives."

Application : Do you want your prayers to be answered?

***1. Are you praying with the right motives?**

^{James 4:} ³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

***What is the right motive?**

*²⁰Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,
²¹**Unto him be glory** in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

John 14: ¹³And I will do whatever you ask in my name, **so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.*

***2. Are you praying according to God's will?**

***Question :** How would you know if it's God's will?

John 15: ⁷If you remain in me and **my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.*

Illustration : An old sailor repeatedly got lost at sea, so his friends gave him a compass and urged him to use it. The next time he went out in his boat, he followed their advice and took the compass with him. But as usual he became hopelessly confused and was unable to find land. Finally he was rescued by his friends. Disgusted and impatient with him, they asked, "Why didn't you use that compass we gave you? You could have saved us a lot of trouble!" The sailor responded, "I didn't dare to! I wanted to go north, but as hard as I tried to make the needle aim in that direction, it just kept on pointing southeast."
That old sailor was so certain he knew which way was north that he stubbornly tried to force his own personal persuasion on his compass. Unable to do so, he tossed it aside as worthless and failed to benefit from the guidance it offered.

***II. LOOK AT THE ACTION CONNECTED WITH THE PETITION**

*⁴For this reason **I kneel before the Father**, ¹⁵from whom his whole family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name.*

Before anything else : We can pray to God in whatever position.

***What God is looking at :** The intensity of the petition

Story : Bagong kasal kami ni Chicay noon...and we were praying memorized prayer...

Sample : Koreans praying as a group...and praying individually (they really pour out their hearts to God) in the prayer mountain

Personal : I forgot to be audacious in prayer

Story : Dentist who said, ayaw ko nang istorbohin ang Dios. Tulungan niya yung mga nangangailangan...ako hindi na.

Look at the increasing intensity of praying in this verse:

**Luke 7: ⁹"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.*

¹¹"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

***The Sample of Hannah**

1 Samuel 1: ¹⁰ In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the LORD. (she was praying for a son)

Then

v. ²⁰ So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, [^c] saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him."

***Why does God want us to be persistent in prayer ?**

**Luke 18: ¹ Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ²He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. ³And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'*

⁴"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!' "

*⁶And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. **However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?***

***Next :** Are we approaching God with humility?

v.4 For this reason, I kneel before the Father...

**Hebrews 4: ¹⁶Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

Explain : Although it is a throne of grace...nevertheless, it is still a throne we are approaching.

**Luke 18: ⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers,*

evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

¹³But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

¹⁴I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

***III. LOOK AT THE RELATIONS INVOLVED IN THE PETITION**

*⁴For this reason I kneel **before the Father**, ¹⁵**from whom his whole family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name.***

***1. Do we have the proper Father-child connection?**

Note to fathers : Read (read lots of books) in a book when I became a first time father that the first perception of who God is will be dependent on their relationship with their earthly fathers. If your relationship with your children is not good. It's not yet too late. GRACE.

Imagine : A seven year-old kid would be taught that God is our father. So her first understanding of what kind of God as a Father is would depend on her earthly father

Sample : Absentee father, discouraging father, overly critical father, OR loving father, disciplining father, encouraging father

Anyways : Whether we have a false perception or not, we can trust God our Father

Story : Burning house. the mom got out but the father just came home from work. The son was still on the second floor window. The father saw him and shouted, "Son, jump, don't worry, I'll catch you." The son shouted back, "I can't Dad", The father asked, "Why?" The son answered because of the thick smoke "I can't see you." The father answered, "Don't worry, I'll catch you because I can see you."

***Evangelistic :** (Holy Spirit, take control) **THE REAL QUESTION IS :** Are you connected at all? Is God your Father? How? Through Jesus Christ.

***2. Do we have the proper spiritual connection?**

v.4from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

***a.) Are we carrying His name well?**

Sin disrupts the connection.

**Psalm 66: 18 If I had cherished sin in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened; 19 but God has surely listened
and heard my voice in prayer.*

***b.) Are we in good relationship with our spiritual family?**

**Matthew 5: 3"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.*

REVIEW :

***I. LOOK AT THE REASON BEHIND YOUR PETITION**

Are we praying with the right motives?

Are we praying according to God's will?

***II. LOOK AT THE ACTION BEHIND THE PETITION**

Are we intense and sincere in our praying?

Are we humble in approaching God?

***III. LOOK AT THE RELATIONS INVOLVED IN THE PETITION**

Do we have a Father-child relationship with God?

Are we carrying His name well? (One of the works of the spirit is to convict us if we're not carrying His name well)

Do we have a good relationship with His family?

NEXT WEEK : What happens when we are constantly connected with God?