

DEVOTION 1

ON YOUR KNEES

Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family 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 Lord's holy people, 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.

Ephesians 3:20 says: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine." These 5 daily devotions explore this statement by Paul and the prayer that precedes it. This passage suggests a pathway towards the impossible. If you are praying for God to work beyond your wildest dreams, these devotions will be a guide and encouragement.

I once saw God raise a young girl from our community from the dead. She had smashed her head in a bicycle accident and the doctors had declared her brain dead. Her life support was going to be turned off. When we heard about the accident, our church prayed desperately for a miracle at a special prayer meeting, and on the following day, she sat up in her hospital bed and spoke. Her parents were deeply appreciative of the miracle and the church's contribution but weren't interested in following Jesus. I must admit I was disappointed with their response, but I had seen what God could do. It was beyond my wildest dreams.

Over the next five days, we will be studying a prayer that Paul prayed for the Ephesians. Each day we will examine a small section of the prayer, but I would like you to read the whole passage every day (it's only 8 verses). Today's focus is on verses 14-15.

Paul was convinced that when God really got hold of people he could do "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (3:20). So he didn't hold back in this prayer. I'm hoping that Paul's prayer will inspire you and assist you to enjoy a work of God in you and through you that is way beyond your wildest dreams.

It's important to note that Paul had been in prison for years when he prayed this prayer. He wasn't in the middle of a revival or experiencing great miracles or seeing a huge number of converts. He was stuck in chains. Yet he knew that God was not chained. He knew what God wanted to do in and through his people, so he prayed in faith. You may not be seeing God do much through your life at the moment. That must not stop you from praying along with Paul. This is a prayer that can be prayed in every circumstance.

It's helpful to know that Paul kneeled as he prayed (3:14). As a kid, I used to kneel at my bedside to pray, but I must admit that I don't kneel to pray much these days. Neither did Paul. The normal prayer posture for Jewish men was standing with arms raised. This is how we sometimes pray as we talk to God in our worship songs. But this prayer called for a different posture. Paul was earnest and determined. He was on his knees

humbly crying out for God's mercy and love to flow through the Ephesians. His posture indicated the seriousness and desperation of his prayer.

But Paul was not trying to force a reluctant God's hand by his humble posture. By no means. He was praying to the Father (3:14) who cares deeply for the children who bear his image. He was echoing what the Father loves to do: completely fill his kids and pour out his love on them.

This is a magnificent prayer. As you study it more deeply, may Paul's passion and confidence infect your own prayer life and grow your expectation of what Jesus wants to do in and through you. May you experience the grace of your Father who works in ways that are beyond your wildest dreams. If you are serious about this, perhaps a good place to start would be on your knees praying this passage through once again.

QB PRAYER POINTS

1. Praise God for signs of his power already at work. Baptisms are increasing in our churches and many churches are finding new people coming to church services looking for God.
2. Pray for your church – that God will increase your hope and vision and that there will be a growing sense of expectation that God will move in power. Pray with faith.
3. Pray for Queensland – that God will make us desperate for truth and reality and that God will awaken our hearts to his presence and power. Pray particularly for anyone you know that needs Jesus.