

Sermon Series: *Identity*

6/28/26, “Love’s Work in Us,” Eph. 3:14-21, MEV

INTRODUCTION

Paul prayed a prayer inspired by God (holy scripture)

MAIN IDEA: Surrender fully to God. Why? Here are 2 reasons.

I. First, God wants to give us these five good gifts

A. to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in our soul (16)

Inner: the soul **Power (*dunamis*):** strength, ability

1. Holy Spirit strengthens our mind, will, emotions
2. helps us think His way, behave His way, feel free... *no longer controlled by emotions from hurt, trauma, bitterness*

B. to have Christ dwell in our hearts by faith (17)

1. take up residency, not coming & going
2. only by our genuine faith, our genuine repentance
3. He is in us, helping, encouraging, speaking to; His Presence

C. to have us *understand* the love of Christ (18)

Comprehend: to understand for ourselves, perceive—fully “get”

1. with all the saints (the “Greats” of the Bible)
2. that He accepts us as we are at rebirth
3. that He loves us no matter what, even when we slip

D. to have us *know* the love of Christ (19)

Know: to know experientially **Love (*agape*):** unconditional love

1. being rooted/grounded in love...*solid, unshakable*

Rooted: agricultural term; having deep roots in good soil

Grounded: architectural term; built on a strong foundation

2. that surpasses all knowledge...*head knowledge*

3. that we might be filled with the fullness of God...
all His goodness, light, awareness of Him

4. that we *know* deep inside—*confidence, trust*

E. to have Him do more than we can even think to ask

1. He gives us His Spirit, who can do *anything*
2. when we ask according to His desires, we see miracles...*in His time, in keeping with His holiness*

ILLUSTRATION: being new as we talked about last week

II. Second, our failure to surrender will block our having them

A. I must trust God without doubt: *Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit*

Hebrews 11:6, MEV: And without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He exists and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

James 1:6-7, MEV: But let him ask in faith, without wavering [doubting]. For he who wavers [doubts] is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed with the wind. **7** Let not that man think that he will receive anything from the Lord.

B. I must desire His Spirit...*can refuse His Spirit*

Luke 11:13, MEV: If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.

C. I must live by His Spirit in grace... *not mock His grace*

EX: Ezra & intermarriage...*delivered by grace, sin*

James 4:4, MEV: You adulterers and adulteresses, do you not know that the friendship with the world is enmity with God?

Hebrews 10:26, MEV: For if we willfully continue to sin after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: