

WEEKLY SERMON

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The power of God

Ephesians 3:14-21

We live in a power-driven world where everything seems to be seen and measured in terms of power. The power of money and wealth; the power of authority; the power of knowledge and so on. People endeavour to gain some kind of power. What kind of power do you have?

In this passage Paul is also praying for the power, but not the power that this world may strive for; instead the power of God through His Spirit. Not a visible power to march around in our communities and the world and use it for controlling others' lives, but God's power to strengthen us from within, in our inner being. Paul is asking for this power for two obvious reasons.

First, to become Christ's permanent home. The power of Spirit enables us to welcome Jesus into our lives to dwell in us, making himself at home in our hearts.

Jesus does not pop in for a short period of time; he comes into our hearts for ever, permanently, to transform our lives from within. Making everything new within us through the power of the Spirit. Giving us a new heart of flesh replacing a heart of stone (*Ezekiel 36:26-27*).

Are you Christ's permanent home?

The second reason is to grasp more of Christ's love. The love of Christ Jesus is immeasurable, it is so wide, long, high and deep that it surpasses all knowledge and this love is the super food for our faith.

Paul prays that we must be rooted and established in this love of Jesus to grow as deeper disciples. Have you experienced this super food which is the immeasurable love of Christ?

Also, we cannot know the depth of Jesus' love on our own, he says, 'but together with all the Lord's holy people' (v18). We are connected to one another as one body of Christ: despite our differences in culture, race, language or tribe, we are one and we can only fully grasp the power of Jesus' love in unity; in our families, parishes, Diocese and as the worldwide Church of God.

May God strengthen us with His power of the Spirit so that Jesus may permanently dwell in us, and we may know more of his immeasurable love, individually and as well as his Church, for the glory of God. Amen.

**Rev Munawar Din, Area Dean of Burnley Deanery and
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HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES