

Worship on June 28, 2020

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Announcements:

. This worship is for Sunday, June 28, 2020. May God be with you as you seek his face through today's worship.

. Curbside meeting –I am available between 12-2 on Tuesdays and Fridays please email me or phone me to make the appointment. revsoonghuh@hotmail.com / 647-208-5381. If it's too hot in the midday, let me know, then we can change the time.

. Thank you for the offerings dropped off at the office door and through Pre-Authorized Remittance. (PAR) – and you can check out website to start giving to the LORD.

. I was going to go back to the Armour of God series, but we, as one church, are experiencing difficult time and going through sad time, I am bringing Paul's prayer for our inner being. As we listen to God's message, may our inner being be strengthened and our foundation of our faith be established and rooted in the Lord more deeply and more firmly.

Let us lift up our praise and worship.

SONG – All in all

Prayer for worship

Father God, you are our all. We always think that our lives are all about us, but it's not true. Our lives are all about you, Jesus. You gave us life, you sustain our lives, you know all about our lives. You are the Lord, our true Master. Help us confess your Lordship of our lives. We are coming to you with humble hearts, broken and weary, but with thanksgiving. Although we are weak, you told us we are the salt and the light of the world. And you told us to exercise your power, show your love and grace to the world through our lives. We are here, Lord. We will follow you, Lord. Strengthen us and we pray that you may be increased in our lives and we may be decreased as we deepen our faith in you. Glory to the Lord. All the praises are yours. Take your throne in our hearts. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-19 (NIV)

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father,

15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

17 so 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 Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

This is the Word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.

Title: The Power of the Relationship with God

Today, we will talk about “The Power of the Relationship with God.” When God created the world, what did he do? “Let there be light,” God created the light, and then he named the light “day,” and the darkness “night.” After he created the space, he named it “Sky.” And after creating man, God said to him to name all the animals. God not only knows the name of the living creatures, but also he knows all the names of the stars. Psalm 147:4, God “determines the number of the stars and called them each by name.”

What about us? There are so many people on the earth. 7.6 Billion. Does God really know each one by name? YES! Isaiah 43:1, “He who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name, you are mine.” And Jesus is the good shepherd and John 10:3 says this. “The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.”

What do I want to talk about today? God knows all the names of his creatures. Jesus knows all the names of his flock and the flock knows his voice also. What I want to talk about is the RELATIONSHIP. God knows the name. God has relationship with every creature he created. Jesus, the good shepherd, knows all the names of his sheep. It's all about having a relationship. God gave us names. This means, God gave us meaning of our lives. God cares for us. God wants to build relationships with us.

Today's passage is a prayer, Paul's prayer for the people in Ephesus. Verse 14-15: **“14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.”** In a larger view, he's praying for all God's people, not just the people in Ephesus! He wants to encourage the people of God by praying for them. Let's look at this prayer of Paul. This is Paul's prayer for us. Let's take a look at what's in here and let this pray come true in our lives.

So, what does he pray for?

First, v16&17, “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.” Paul prays for the inner being of the people, our inner being. When thinking about church, there might be various things going on. There might be immediate needs. For example, in the church of

Ephesus, there were Gentiles and Jewish Christians together. They didn't get along very well. Paul might have to pray for the harmony of the church. There might be certain people who caused problems. Paul didn't mention anything about immediate needs. Instead, he prays for their inner being to be stronger.

How can we be strong? How can we become good in some areas? By repetition, by practice. To have stronger inner being is the prayer to be with God, so that we don't live by our own power, but live by the power of God. That's what it means. We need to admit that we are sinners. We don't have any good in us. Goodness only comes from God. So, the prayer for inner strength means to be with God. To live in the presence of God.

There was a priest in 17th century. His name was Lawrence. He wasn't like a regular priest. Lawrence had a lower education. His main duty was to cook for other priests and fix some broken stuff. But, he was always happy and filled with joy. Other priests asked him why. "Why are you so happy all the time? You are serving us all the time." He answered, "My heart is filled with joy and hope because God has a life prepared for me." One day, during the winter, Brother Lawrence looked at a barren tree, stripped of leaves and no fruit, and he realized that it was waiting for the sure hope of the spring time. When the spring comes, the leaves and fruit would revive and there would be abundance in the summer time. Pondering upon this barren tree, Lawrence thought of God's grace, the unfailing sovereignty, and the perfect plans for each person. Like the tree, he sometimes felt depressed and hopeless, but that's not all. The hope and life that God had prepared for him was waiting for him. Like the spring time will come for sure, the perfect plan of God will be accomplished in his life for sure. Because he had the sure hope of God in his heart, he was able to live with God all the time with joy, love, and gladness in his heart. Brother Lawrence is famous

for his book, "The Practice of the Presence of God."

We can be strong when we are with God. Our inner being can have power when we are with God. We are built to be with God, in a good relationship with a good connection. We are supposed to have God's power in our lives. This is what Paul meant through the prayer for the inner being. "Strengthen their inner being, so that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith." "Strengthen their inner being, so that they have Christ connected in their hearts and live in the presence of God and have faith in whatever they do in their lives. So that God's power may be seen through their lives."

Don't we want to experience the power of God in our daily lives? YES! I want to. Although I am not strong enough or holy enough for God to be with me, I want the power of God. Our sins and weaknesses are not the important issue anymore because Jesus washed our sins and Jesus paid all the price of our death. He died in the place of us. Therefore, what we have left is to be with God. Our fleshly desires, our selfishness, our sins, and our weaknesses are taken up on the cross by Jesus **UNLESS** we bring them down again and embrace them again. Let's practice the presence of God. Can anyone ride a bicycle? When you first learn how to ride a bicycle, how good were you? No one is good at first. We become better through practice. Let's keep in mind being with God and let's dream and desire the power of God in our lives. May God strengthen our inner being through practice to be with God.

What's the second? The second and the third prayers are kind of mixed together. But, I will say that the second is to be rooted and established in the love of Christ. V17, "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may 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." The second prayer is for our

foundation. Paul prays for our foundation be the love of Christ. He wants us to be rooted and established in the love of Christ. John 15:5 says this. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” So, this is like this. Strengthen our inner being first. And then, have the power and have the LOVE of Christ in us.

When we say dimensions, what kinds of dimensions do we know? 1st dimension, a collection of dots – that is a line. That is the most basic dimension we know. And what's next? The collection of lines, then, it becomes a side. It is an area. The next is 3rd Dimension, what is it? It's the collection of sides. It creates a space, a volume. When describing a person, do we say that I know this person like the 1st dimension? I never heard of that kind of expression, but we all know what it means. I know this person barely. Same as 2nd dimension. If I know someone like the 2nd dimension, then it means I know this person a little more than the 1st dimension. The 3rd dimension? This means, I know that person pretty well, through and through. In and out, and, every sides. Paul's prayer of knowing the love of Christ is like the 3rd dimension. “To grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.” Isn't it the 3rd dimension? Let this knowledge of the love of Christ become our foundation of lives and the foundation our relationships with others.

The third prayer is v19, “and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” Very similar to know the love of Christ, but one step further. The keyword of the 3rd prayer is to “surpass.” When we study, do we know that feeling? Some concept is very close to understanding, but not quite. I think I know it, but not inside my brain. It's almost mine, but not 100%. When it comes in to our brain, then we can call that knowledge. But, in v19, Paul says, “may our understanding of the love of Christ surpass the

knowledge.” And the latter part is the description of that state of knowing the love of Christ fully. “You may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” I looked up some other versions. ESV, “You may be filled with all the fullness of God.” NASB, “You may be filled up to all the fullness of God.” CEV, “Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.” MGS, “Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.” When the love of Christ is here in our head, it’s knowledge. But, Paul prays that we don’t stop at the knowledge level, but go further. Our lives be filled with God. The prayer is this. “Our lives be filled with all the fullness of God, our lives be filled with all that God is, and our lives become full in the fullness of God.” That’s what God wants from us. Be filled with the fullness of God!

What God wants is to pour out His abundant glory of God upon us, to give the power to strengthen our inner being, to dwell in us through the Holy Spirit, to make us rooted and established in Jesus’ unfailing, unchanging, and everlasting love, and to fill our lives with the fullness of God’s fullness. That’s the desire of God for us. Let us long for God’s desire come true in our lives.

We want our inner being to be stronger... In other words, we want to grow in faith. And we want to practice the presence of God in our everyday lives.

And we want to know the love of Christ more and more every day. And we want to build the 3rd Dimensional relationship with God as our foundation.

And we want to have the knowledge of Christ’s love beyond our knowledge. Head to Heart... We want our lives be filled with the fullness of God’s fullness!

I believe this prayer is the promise of God and it’s meant to be achieved by the people of God, us. Let’s hope this prayer become true in our lives as we walk our faith journey with God in

this difficult time.

Let us pray

God of love and grace, thank you for this prayer of Paul. Thank you for desiring this to come true in our lives. We believe the sure hope that you will bring in our lives. We pray that you hold us firmly everyday so that we can continually practice your presence. It's too easy for us to forget about you when we carry on our daily tasks. So much time, we live without you or thinking about you. Help us to be with you. Guide us so that we can follow you in our daily lives. As we become stronger in our inner being, and as we have deeper and wider knowledge about your love, let this love overflow from our lives to others. So that we make changes in our surroundings. Although it might seem too small, but help us to be consistent. No one might notice of us, but we believe that you are focusing on our lives. Let us live our lives before your eyes, not other people's recognition. God of power, we desire to experience your power every day. We want to live with your power. The Bible teaches us your power and the Bible is full of miracles in ordinary people's lives. Why not in our lives! Why not! Lord, let us long for it. And let us come out of our comfort zone and live with you by faith. Help us our weak faith and strengthen us as Paul's prayer. Gracious and loving God, engrave this prayer in our hearts and help us to come back to it whenever we fall or become weary. Let this prayer refresh our spirits and let this prayer bring us back to your presence. We long to love you more and more through our everyday. We pray for the good relationships with you.

Prayer for the people

Gracious God. This is the time that we need to be wise and responsible. Stores are open. People are out as well as Coronavirus. Some say it's too early and the other say that go out when you can.

Coronavirus hit the world about 4 months ago and no one can stand against it. This is where we are. We are that weak and we are that small.

Help us know how weak and small we are and give us humble hearts. Help us come before you in prayers asking for your power.

Through this outbreak, help us learn.

Protect us and provide us what we need. Most of all, give us faith that we are in your hands.

Give wisdom upon all the people who are starting their out-of-home activities. Also, give remember the scientists and researchers. Help them find the cure to save people from this virus.

We pray for church. Some are opening cautiously. Cover your church with your wings so there is no outbreak in any churches. Protect all the people who desire to have in person worship in church buildings. And be gloried through all the worship we are offering to you whether it's in-person or on-line.

We pray for our congregation. There are many who were called to you. We pray for the families who lost their loves ones. Help them find peace in you and help them as they face new chapter of their lives. As they grieve, let them relieve their emotions to you in healthy ways and fill their emptiness with your presence and love.

And we are getting ready to call your people into our building again. As we prepare, provide us with your wisdom and power, and patience, so we are not over-do anything, but gradually and safely, we walk together step by step.

Be with all of our members and provide us safety and health.

And whenever we face difficulties, let us come to you.

Be lifted and be pleased with our worship. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Song – Still

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.

Ponder Upon Questions:

1. How is my inner being?
2. What is the foundation of my life?
3. What am I filled with? What am I filling my life with?
4. How can I practice the presence of God?