

Power Prayer

“Avoid That Slip”

[Proverbs 3:23](#)

“Then shalt thou walk in thy way of safety, and thy foot shall not stumble”

That is to say, *if we follow the ways of wisdom and holiness we shall be preserved in them*. He who travels by daylight along the highway is under some protection. There is a way for every man, namely, his own proper calling in life, and if we devoutly walk therein in the fear of God He will preserve us from evil. We may not travel luxuriously, but we shall walk safely. We may not be able to run like young men, but we shall be able to walk like good men.

Our greatest danger lies in ourselves: our feeble foot is so sadly apt to stumble. Let us ask for more moral strength that our tendency to slip may be overcome. Some stumble because they do not see the stone in the way: divine grace enables us to perceive sin and so to avoid it. Let us plead this promise and trust in Him who upholds His chosen.

Alas! Our worst peril is our own carelessness, but against this the Lord Jesus has put us on our guard, saying, "Watch and pray."

Oh, for grace to walk this day without a single stumble! It is not enough that we do not actually fall; our cry should be that we may not make the smallest slip with our feet but may at the last adore Him "*who is able to keep us from stumbling*."

"Paul's Prayer for the Church"

[Ephesians 3:14-21](#)

Theme:

Paul's prayer teaches us how earnest we should be to seize hold of our riches in Christ.

If you're like me, you always find it encouraging whenever you hear that someone is praying for you

I'm especially encouraged when a wise, mature, Spirit-filled saint, who really knows how to pray, comes up to me and says:

“Pastor; I want you to know that I'm praying for you”

* I find such prayers to be motivating

* When I learn that a saintly Christian is praying that I become a specific kind of man, or that I begin to take on certain specific characteristics of Christian maturity, or that I begin to do some specific thing that he or she believes God is calling me to do, I am inspired to grow, or behave more like, or to do that thing that they are praying for.

The apostle Paul demonstrated a life-commitment to the Savior that was total.

* He had been given an understanding of the truths of the Christian faith that was deeper and more profound than could be found among any other redeemed human being

* He had been given a practical and experiential grasp of our riches in Christ that was beyond parallel.

* He was a man who was utterly consumed and driven by the love of Christ. And that's what makes his prayer for the church such an important one to consider.

[Ephesians 3:14-21](#)

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen”

3.

* ***I am greatly encouraged by this prayer***; particularly when I consider the man who prayed it—and especially when I consider that it was a prayer that was preserved for our edification by the Holy Spirit Himself.

* It's a prayer that serves as an example to me, as a pastor, of the sorts of things that I should pray for my church family.

* I believe it should also serve as an example of how we, as individual members of this church family, should pray for one another.

But most of all, I believe this prayer is meant to motivate us

* ***It is meant to impact us*** with a sense the wonder and value of the spiritual riches that are ours in Christ

* ***It is meant to encourage us*** to let the truth of those riches sink deeply into our hearts and lives and transform us from the inside-out.

* ***It is meant to inspire us*** to truly 'seize hold' of what is ours in Christ, and live out the implications of those spiritual riches in everyday life.

WHY PAUL PRAYED FOR THE CHURCH

Ephesians 3:14-21

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”

* Paul is telling the believers under his care about the prayer that he prays for them.

* And he begins by telling them, **“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father . . .”**

* To truly understand this prayer, we need to understand what the reason was that he gives for praying it.

As we look backwards in this letter, we see that Paul started to describe to his readers the things he was praying for them at the beginning of chapter three.

4.

* He begins, in [Ephesians 3:1](#), by saying, “For this reason, I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles . . .”

* **Do you really believe** that, right now—as a result of your being **“in Christ” by faith**—you are already blessed with every possible spiritual blessing of God?

* **Do you really believe** that, in Christ, you already have all the riches of heaven as your possession; and that because of your relationship with Him, there is not a single spiritual thing you will ever need that is lacking from your spiritual treasure-store?

[Ephesians 1:3](#)

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ”

* It is that very fact—that you, as a believer, have already been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ—that led Paul to pray the prayer that is in our passage this morning

After Paul says those remarkable words:

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ”

* Paul spends the next two chapters expounding on what those riches are.

* He talks about how the Father has chosen us to a sure and certain calling—having predestined us for heavenly glory in Christ, and having made us acceptable to Himself through Him.

* He talks about how we have been redeemed from our sins and washed completely clean by the blood of Jesus; and how we have, by faith in Him, obtained an eternal inheritance that is as sure for us as if it were already in our hands.

* He talks about how the Holy Spirit is placed in us as a guarantee—sealing us for the day of full redemption.

5.

*** He talks about the greatness of God's power that is at work in us—the very same power that raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at the right hand of glory; and he talks about how, from God's perspective, we have already been raised from the dead with Christ, and seated at the right hand of glory with Him.**

*** He talks about how—right now—we stand before God as those who have been brought near to Him and made partakers of all of His glorious covenant promises.**

*** He talks about how we have been given a full citizenship into heaven; and are, right now, being built together as a holy habitation for Christ on earth.**

Illustration

A man who had been a poor beggar for nearly twenty years—standing out in the streets of some major city day after day, panhandling for dimes.

*** A wealthy man came by; and when the beggar asked the man for a dime, the man turned to look intensely at him.**

*** The rich man soon realized, to his joy, that the beggar was his long-lost son; and that the wealthy man was his father.**

*** They had been separated those many years ago, and the father had been searching for him ever since.**

*** And now that he found him, the wealthy man told him that he would not only give him a dime . . . but that, as his son, all the riches of his great wealth were already his!**

Spiritually speaking, you and I tend to live like that poor beggar

*** We're going through life panhandling for the world's meager dimes; when, the whole time long, our heavenly Father is trying to tell us that He has already blessed us with the indescribable wealth of every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ!**

*** It is all ours already because of our relationship with Him through His Son Jesus. It was “for this reason” that Paul prayed the prayer he prayed—that the believers to whom he wrote would realize what is already theirs in Christ; and that the truths that he laid out for them in chapters one and two would sink into their hearts and minds so that they would grasp hold of them fully.**

Conclusion

Ephesians 3:14-21

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen”

This what I call Power Prayer!

This is a prayer that well all need to learn to pray

This Ephesians prayer incorporated into our life is Power Praying, Power Praying for others

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Proverbs 3:23

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