

APRIL 6, 2025

# PRAYING

## WITH PAUL



**SERMON:** Praying to Experience Christ's Love ([WATCH SERMON](#)) ([SERMON NOTES](#))

**SPEAKER:** Pastor Dave

**CORE SCRIPTURE:** [Ephesians 3:14–21](#)

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

#### SUMMARY

Pastor Dave leans on the Apostle Paul how to center our prayers and lives on the boundless love of Christ. Paul provides us with four key words—Strength, Dwell, Grasp, and Fill—that guide us in aligning our hearts with God's purpose. By kneeling in humility, inviting Christ to dwell in our hearts, grasping the vastness of His love, and being filled with the fullness of God, we can transform our spiritual journey. It challenges us to shift our focus from self-centered desires to the immeasurable power and glory of God, experienced in a community with fellow believers. Share: Share a moment of focus or distraction.

#### SHARE:

Share a moment from your week where you felt particularly focused or distracted. What was the focal point of that moment, and how did it affect your experience?

#### DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus centered discussions.

Begin by reading Ephesians 3:14-21 together as a group.

1. What most stood out to you about the sermon?
2. What are some prayer traditions you have experienced in your life? Were they helpful or hindering overall?
3. Reflecting on the sermon, what do you think it means to have Christ's love as the focal point of our prayers? How does this focus change the way we approach God in prayer?
4. The sermon highlighted four key words: Strength, Dwell, Grasp, and Fill. How do these words shape your understanding of what it means to pray effectively Which of these words resonates most with you in your current season of life, and why?

5. In Ephesians 3:16-17, Paul prays for believers to be strengthened with power through the Spirit and for Christ to dwell in their hearts through faith. How can we practically invite Christ to “dwell” in our hearts daily? What does this look like in your personal prayer life?
6. The sermon emphasized the importance of community in grasping the love of Christ. How have you experienced the love of Christ through community? How can our group better support each other in this journey?

## **NEXT STEPS**

This week, choose one of the four words (Strength, Dwell, Grasp, Fill) to focus on in your daily prayers. Journal your reflections and any changes you notice in your spiritual life.

Plan a small group activity or service project that allows you to experience and share Christ’s love together. Consider attending the **Prayer and Re-Envisioning 2025** gathering on May 24th as a group.

Experiment with different physical postures in prayer (kneeling, standing, hands lifted) to see how they affect your heart posture and focus on God

## **PRAY**

Begin with a moment of silence, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your time of prayer.

Pray for strength in your inner being, asking God to empower each member of the group through His Spirit.

Invite Christ to dwell in your hearts, surrendering any areas you’ve been holding back.

Ask God to help you grasp the vastness of His love, both individually and as a community.

Conclude by praying to be filled with the fullness of God, seeking His presence and guidance in all aspects of life.

## **CLOSING**

Encourage each member to share one prayer request or praise report to focus on this week.