

purpose: to lay a foundation for this year in prayer and “the fulness of God”; to answer two questions
January 2, 2000

Be Filled with All the Fulness of God

Ephesians 3:14-19

- I. The prayer (Eph. 3:14-19).
- II. What is the “fulness” of God?
 - A. The word means **abundance, plentitude, copiousness.**
 - B. It speaks of filling an **individual** and/or a **group.**
 1. It should be pursued individually (3:19) and corporately (1:23).
 2. Each person has a part (4:7).
 - C. It speaks of **present** and **future** aspects.
 - D. It is not feeling **good** all the time, ability to work **miracles**, or **perfection** in this life.
 - E. It is **Christ** in you (Eph. 2:17; Col. 1:27): the **Spirit** of Christ and the **image** of Christ (II Cor. 3:18). You are filled with Christ as you’re perfected (Eph. 4:11-13; Col. 1:20-24).
 1. It is the light and life of God (Jn. 1:4; 8:12; Ps. 36:9). See and savor: sweetness and anguish (Col. 1:24; Ps. 16:11).
 2. It is the full fruit of the Spirit within you as you’re perfected (Gal. 5:22-23)
 3. It is the wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption of Christ in us according to I Cor. 1:30; it is the wisdom, power, and goodness of God in you since in Christ dwells all the fulness of the Godhead according to Col. 2:9. It is holy boldness and (access to God with) confidence (Eph. 3:12); knowledge of divine things (II Pt. 1:3); it is meat and drink, comfort and peace (Eph. 2:14); and a sense of his love-grace. We have a satisfying view of our relationship (interest) in Christ’s righteousness.

- F. It includes complete **satisfaction** [with the life, light, love and liberty we have in Christ and with the person, power, praise, precepts, and perfection we have of Christ. We can say with better realization than John the Baptist that with him “this my joy is fulfilled” (Jn. 3:29).
- G. It is why Christ came: that we might have life and life more abundantly (Jn. 10:10). The disciples were filled with joy, and the Holy Ghost (Acts 13:52).

III. How can I be filled with the fulness of God? (the filling)

- A. (vs. 14-15) Be **saved** and **faithful** (1:1).
 - Eph. 1 God’s plan to fill the church with all the fulness of God (1:23)
 - 2 Gentiles to be part of that body (church) (2:22).
 - 3 Paul’s role to help them (3:19) the fulness (4:10-13).
 - 4-6 exhortations to cooperate in this fulness
 - 1. Recognize that God is the sole source [producer] of the fulness of God.
 - 2. Have someone pray and teach to the end that you be filled with all the fulness. Paul bowed his knee: 1) prayed 2) yielded to God’s call to teach; this apostolic responsibility passed on to pastors (4:11-13)!
- B. (v. 16) Be **strengthened** with might by His Spirit in the inner man.
 - 1. Be **renewed** in the spirit of your mind (4:23-24).
 - a. daily meditation and communion
 - b. memorize
 - 2. **Eschew** evil (4:22).
- C. (v. 17) Be **indwelt** by Christ.
 - Where is Christ bodily? seated at the right hand
 - It is the Spirit and the Word of Christ which dwells in you!
 - 1. Let the **word** of Christ dwell in you richly... (Col. 3:16). This includes meditation, memorization, and singing! Be knowing God’s ways of life (Acts 2:28). Learn Christ! (4:20, 25-32)! “These things have I spoken unto you that my joy... (I Jn. 1:4; Acts 2:28; Jn. 15:11).

