

Ephesians VI

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Second prayer is in 3:14 "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name." Paul is talking about every group of Gentiles on earth. Ephesian Church is mostly made up of Gentiles and Paul is on his knees praying for all the tribes on their behalf. When I first read verse 14 and 15, I was deeply touched. For Paul prayed for Korea. Paul's prayer includes any nation. Not only his prayer includes you but also this nation. I am grateful Paul prayed for us. That's how deep his revelation was. Paul prayed for every family in heaven and on earth, us.

Two things stand out when Holy Spirit leads our prayer. One is greatness. You don't want to adhere to your own way of prayer. Don't insist upon your style of prayer. God will even give you things that He will do for the world. That's what I mean by "I can see how the world is moving." When you pray, God will reveal His hands that move all nations. In Amos 3: 7 Amos says, "Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets." As you mature in spirituality, God reveals His work and leads you to dwell with Him. That's the reason we don't want to insist upon "my ways and my styles and so on." We should pray for other churches and other nations. We should always pray for our nation and our people. The nation of Korea is severely corrupted with the immorality. Our nation's immorality problem is worse than Japan. As churches are weakened the true leaders disappear. This is affecting this nation. Let us remember that when churches rise up as glorious church, we will have true leaders in the nation. We should pray for nation, people, and what is great. Furthermore, we should lift up a prayer like Daniel chapter nine to embrace their pains as ours. Daniel embraced the sins and pains of his nation and cried out to God in his prayer. The prayer Holy Spirit desires for us is like Daniel's great prayer.

Not only the prayer of Holy Spirit is great but also it is in depth and detailed at the same time. He doesn't lead us to pray with everything thrown in at the same time but rather He guides us to pray in detail and in depth. We would intercede for one person at a time and one's hurt, pain and spiritual problems according to the guidance of Holy Spirit. God is pleased when we intercede for others. These are two characteristics of the prayer Holy Spirit guides us.

The victory of World War II is attributed to Liz Howard's intercessory prayer team which bound Hitler completely and resulted in the Battle of Normandy. In this end time the intercessory prayers have been weakened so much that such prayers are disappearing. Paul, apostle to Gentiles, prayed for all the tribes of Gentiles and his prayers are the reason for the fruits we bear today. In short, Paul's prayer transcends 2,000 years. Such a powerful prayer should arise in our generation. We don't want it just for ourselves but we want to be aware of the work of God which is so great that it is difficult for us to imagine. However, we must believe God and what He is doing. We must also believe our prayers affect God and in turn He is bringing about something surpassing time and space. Great fervor should fill our hearts as we pray. The prayer should not be self-centered but be expansive/ inclusive. We know how God works in light of our prayers we lift up, so we believe in the vision of raising up a powerful 7,000 prayer intercessors crying out 24/7/365. In this Zoe Ministry Network we need a powerful intercessory prayer teams to lead the spiritual warfare to victory in this end time.

The commonality of spiritual people God desires in this generation is prayer. One good example is David Brainerd. Although David Brainerd was a 4th stage tuberculosis patient, he would pray on his knees on a mountain in Indiana. The presence of God was so strong that not even a single deer ran around in the whole mountain. His intercessory prayer was a direct reason God brought a revival through Jonathan Edwards. God sent such a powerful work of repentance into the hearts of many. I am sure Pastor Jonathan Edwards had a great spirituality but his son-in-law David Brainerd was in the background with prayer support. Powerful intercessors should arise in this end time. May you receive a power to lift up a powerful intercession.

The reason God considered Moses as the most glorious servant was because he had the most intimate relationship with Him. It is a fellowship of face to face. God said that I do not have fellowship with you in dreams and visions but with Moses it is face to face. Numbers 12:8 God

asks, "With him I speak mouth to mouth, even openly, and not in dark sayings, and he beholds the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant, against Moses?" The reason God considers Moses as glorious is because they had such a deep fellowship of face to face. God also had such fellowship with David. David spoke to God while hearing His voice and he answered to God's question. This fellowship is not a supernatural thing or an empty theory of Bible. God will approach the holy and pure and speak to them. We can become the holy and pure as we work on our spirituality.

We want to hear the voice of God that is uttered every minute and second. Such a deep fellowship is our desire, isn't it? Being able to hear His voice, respond to Him, speak to Him as well and in turn He replies to us. Just like the intimate fellowship we see in Amos 3:7 "surely the Lord does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets," we should desire for an intimate fellowship with God even to the point of entering of council of the Lord. This is the passion for holiness. "I will rise up as a man of God that You would acknowledge in this generation!"

Moses desired to see more of God's glory although he had seen it countless times. That's because of his passion for holiness. God, May we become such servant to have a deep fellowship with You. In this time and age we should be filled with desire for the holy fellowship with God. When it comes to prayer, the presence of God should cover us and we have the promise of our God *hilasterion* 'there I will meet you.' Let us meet Him in His greatness, who moves the history of nations and the world with His fingers, and receive the prayer requests/topics from Him. As a servant of God let us embrace the hurts and pains of other souls and pray in depth and detail.

Let's look at Paul's prayer in verse 16 "that He would grant you according to the riches of His glory to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man." The first prayer of Paul is to strengthen the inner man. From the first chapter of Ephesians the word of God is fulfilled by the new man and new spirit not the old man. No work of God is done through the old man. The fiercest aspect of spiritual warfare is not the battle with the evil spirits but with the self. The battle between the desire of the flesh and the desire of the Spirit is the fiercest battle in spiritual warfare. I preached about this in the exposition of Romans that it is like handing you a knife and putting you in a small room with a Siberian tiger. It won't be over until either the tiger dies or you die. The possibility to coexist between old man and new man is zero. When new man prospers, old man dies. Reversely, when old man prospers, new man dies. It won't be over until one of them dies. This is the fiercest spiritual battle we have.

From the spiritual perspective in Old Testament we can see how God deals with Amalekites. God destroys Amalekites until they disappear from the face of earth on behalf of His children, Israelites. If we can't acknowledge the fierce spiritual battle, we can't win it. The root of old man in me should be taken out today and throughout. The work of God is not done by the prosperity of old man. The new man must prosper inside and receive the things of God and facilitate them into glory in us. There is not a single thing the old man can do for the glory of God. Paul's prayer for the strengthening of inner man (new man) on the behalf of glorious church is significant. That's the prayer to prosper new man in the Ephesian Church.

Paul has been speaking of "rich" in Ephesians and here we also encounter "the riches of His glory." Ephesian Church was rich. I have said before that when a church is normally established, it does not become a clinic but a major hospital. Whoever comes like one with broken arm, one with dysfunctional liver, or one with injury to head, church should be able to treat/embrace/heal them. When a church sails in a normal route, it will become a department store. When the glory of God takes place in the church as it should in all the churches, they will be rich like department stores. A church that is only good with the word is a dysfunctional church. Another church that is only good with demonstration of power is also a dysfunctional church. Fellowship, love, prophecy and everything should be rich in church. That is the principle of Ephesian Church. Do you know the difference between college and university? University offers all the majors allowing every student to choose whichever he decides. Church should become like university. When the believers in church do not have riches in their Christian walk, their expectation in Christian walk will die out. Because of riches of God, the church members should

have an expectation on the sermons of preachers. Believers should have an expectation on the Lord's Day because of riches of God in the church. It is the riches of God's glory.

Apple has unique taste of apple which is sweet and sour. Glory also has its own unique taste. When the glory comes upon the church, glory can be tasted. The taste is riches. How come we don't see riches in churches? That's because the glory hasn't come. When the glory comes, the church can taste it in riches and also the freedom of glory comes upon it according to Romans chapter eight. The taste of glory is freedom, riches and praise. This is Paul's definition of glory. *Doxa* is Greek word for "glory" which means light. It means the same as light and life in the Book of John. In summary, glory is the way of God's existence. When we talk about glory, we talk about God Himself coming down. The rich is beyond our description. Glory is the way of God's existence.

When Roman Caesar won wars and had triumphant return to Rome, his maids and servants would throw the money around Caesar. They also spread the flowers all around him upon his arrival. That's rich! Everyone is full of joy and fervor and have a great celebration upon his arrival. Glory can be expressed in different ways but it is the way of existence of God. Upon the glory of God come riches, freedom and praise. When the substance of glory of God comes upon church, it will be full of celebration every day. There are rich, fun, and freedom.

Wherever the Holy Spirit comes, there is holiness and freedom. Please do not be focused on the phenomena. In every work of the Holy Spirit, there is holiness and freedom. There is also the riches of God's glory in church in which everyone eats the riches of glory and their new man becomes strong and refreshed. However, when the riches of His glory do not come upon church, our new man cannot be strong. Again, new man feeds on the riches of God's glory.

That's the prayer of Paul for Ephesians and us as well. "God, give them grace to live in the riches of Your glory; grace to eat the riches of Your glory, so their new man can be strengthened and not old man." We have to pray for the riches of glory consistently. In order for the glory to come upon us, we must deal with five things on the cross. As the principle of repentance continues in church, the riches of God's glory will come upon it. If we are not pure and holy, the riches of God's glory will not come.

Second prayer of Paul is seen in verse 17 "so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love." In 1 Timothy 1:5 Paul also says, "But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." The nucleus of pastoral ministry in Ephesian Church is to pastor in love just like Paul told Timothy. It is fair to say that love is everything about the riches of God's glory. Love is everything. Pastoral ministry is not about power or spiritual gift. It is love. We all should mature to embrace whoever comes to us in the depth of love. It is critical to pray for love all the time. We should pull on the love to us through three pipes: a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. Once we establish a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith in us, our hearts can be filled with love.

The result of love is to keep commandments. When the community of God is filled with love, we will see obedience in the air of church. 1 Corinthians 12:31 Paul says, "But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way." Build the highway of love! Love is an excellent way according to Paul and we should build the highway of love. Furthermore, by applying the principles of Ephesian Church lay the pavement of a spirit of apostle, a spirit of prophet, a spirit of evangelist, and a spirit of pastor and teacher over the highway of love. Then anything can go and travel on it. You may have power and spiritual gifts and so on but you will not have any problem in the church. Church experiences problems because power comes upon it without the highway of love. Once we have the highway of love and pave it with four spirits, we have a terrific traffic.

We gotta build the highway of love in our church. In order to do that we gotta proclaim and observe a code of conduct of love according to 1 Timothy 1:5. For example, believers should not engage in give and take relationship like lending money for interest. The reason for that is in order to build a true community and fellowship of love in church we should comfort, encourage, and rejoice with each other and at the same time give up selfish behavior. That's the practical code of conduct of love we need in church. Suppose church takes off and 500 or 1,000 new members join at one time, it is not a good thing from the perspective of church doctrine. We build the highway of love by embracing one or two at a time crying with each other and rejoicing with one another.

Church must go through this construction of building a highway of love from five to eight years where everyone embraces each other and cries with one another, former church members who left the church return, and a pastor is hurt/wounded/frustrated/despaired/restored/healed by God. As church goes through such time it paves over with the identity of Ephesian Church. It is not an easy task to pave over with the identity of Ephesian Church when a church hasn't had time to construct a highway of love. Church absolutely needs this time of suffering, labor and love.

"So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith" means to thoroughly live by faith. In John 15 Jesus speaks of "live in the word." We should live by the word of God. Believers in their spirituality should never explore a possibility of existence apart from word, apart from faith, or apart from love. We cannot imagine living our life separated from the will of God that He has for us. Paul's expectation on the Ephesian Church is to strengthen the foundation of love by faith and to allow love to take over the church. "God, May the brothers and sisters in Ephesian live by faith and live by love. That's the type of church I want to see. Completely seize them so they can't even imagine a life apart from You."

That's what happens to the believers, body of Christ, when the principles of Ephesian Church melt into it. Church will continue to be established in that system and the filth of world will be washed away. Moreover, heaven will become wider and the earth will be despised. The believers will no longer be corrupted by money or stumble over by little sum of money. They also do not feel pain any more. If they die, they die. If they live, they live. If they go, they go. If they don't go, they don't go. The life of believers is confidence and boldness. Paul's prayer is for the believers continue to melt in the principles of Ephesian Church so they can stand strong (steadfastness) in faith and love to the point Jesus would completely seize them. That's the life of believers and that's what Paul prayed for.

In the Christian walk of believers, we want roots of faith and love to take place to eventually reveal the fruits. Church is not a place for theories but what I just have shared with you would be embodied in the life of believers as confirmation. This should take place in church. Believers in their Christian walk can't help but to reveal the fruits. From this perspective believers in their Christian walk for over several years still have financial problems indicate abnormality. Of course not every Christian is going to be a millionaire; however, if a believer continues to suffer from materials, it is indication of spiritual problems. Probe and analyze "why am I living a so and so life? Why is my life so painful filled with misery?" As a result of their probe and analysis they should come to a conclusion and confirm their Christian walk (lifestyle) as they confirm their fruits of faith from God and of love. "Do you have faith? Confirm yourself." We gotta confirm this word in our daily fruits. "I am seized by faith! I am seized by love!" Let us confirm it every day. Fruits are important to church.

According to the principles of Ephesian Church, church must be clear of three things: Presence, Proclamation, and Persuasion. First, let's look at Presence. Our life must change according to the will of God so that people may say, "He was so wicked but he is totally changed!" That's the

presence of God in our life. Second, we have Proclamation. We didn't have this authority of proclamation before, but now we do. The word that is proclaimed out of the mouth of believers does not fall to the ground. Church is supposed to reveal the way of existence of God. When a church reveals its expression of God in life, we see the three Ps in the life of believers who are already seized by faith and love. This is the prayer of Paul that the believers are seized by faith and love.

Third, Paul prays "you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God." In Korean Bible, verse 18 and 19 are not divided like English translations. In short, believers ought to know the surpassing knowledge of love of Christ to deepen it and to be filled up to all the fullness of God. I talked about the love previously but Paul is further requesting us earnestly to deepen the knowledge of love of Christ and to heighten it as well.

I would like to address the knowledge of love. It is love that surpasses knowledge to be accurate. Paul's emphasis on the love that surpasses knowledge in Ephesians refers to revelation. He can't imagine love that is not from God. Paul is praying for a pure soul that can always receive and use the love from God and be ready for everything God will give. It is a prayer for a pure spirit that God loves. God is extending His intense love to everyone 100%; however, everyone differs on what he/she receives in His intense love. Some may receive 50%, 10%, or 100%. It is not because God's intensity of love differs based on people. God doesn't discriminate. It is matter of how pure your soul is to receive His love. If your soul is pure, you can receive the full intensity of God's love. Paul wants to see the continual growth of love in width, height, and depth. When Paul says "knowledge of love," he is speaking of revelation. In short, the epitome of revelation Paul received in Ephesians is the word of cross. Paul spoke of cross before but cross is all about understanding, forgiveness, sacrifice and love. They are supposed to go deeper.

Ezekiel writes in 1:10 "as for the form of their faces, each had the face of a man, all four had the face of a lion on the right and the face of a bull on the left, and all four had the face of an eagle." The first vision is about man. Cross represents the character of Christ which is the same as the word of cross. It is about sacrifice, love, compassion and so on.

Second, we see the vision of a lion. That's the boldness of cross. If you are willing to die for God, no one can stop you. Anyone that's willing to die for God he has confidence. You don't want to mess with anyone that has nothing to lose. When I was in high school, students are numbered from 1 to 60; one being the shortest and 60 being the tallest. One day number one got into fight with number 60. They fought for a whole month and obviously number 60 won every time. However, at the end number 60 gave up and surrendered. This small teenager would challenge the biggest boy in class at the end of school every day, "hey, come out to the small hill!" Interestingly, he got beat up every time and he got black eyes. He had so much boldness in challenging him to fight. Number 60 about a month later got on his knees and begged number 1 to forgive him. Later, they became good friends. In cross we have such boldness which is the confidence of love. When the love of God comes upon us, we have boldness. Paul said in Romans 8:38, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor thing present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Even if thousands surround him, he would not be afraid of them. When the love of God comes upon us, we are not afraid any more. We become bold. When we receive the climax of love, the word of cross, we become bold. That's the vision of lion.

Third, we have the vision of cow. Cow represents sacrifice. It is like a nursing cow that carries the Ark on the way to Beth-shemesh with a calf following behind crying for mother's milk. The nursing

cow that's carrying the Ark would not turn to the right, the left or cow and finishes the job all the way to Beth-shemesh. She fulfills her mission, cart is used as fire wood, and she is ultimately sacrificed as burnt offering. That is the sacrifice of cross. There is sacrifice in the love of God. That's what the vision of cow is all about. There is a sacrifice a servant makes after laboring with extreme pain and yet calls himself "useless." In this love of cross we are to repent every day. When the authority of King, our God, is restored, as believers we receive the characteristic of love of cross. When that happens, you are always joyful and your righteousness is not revealed no matter how much sacrifice you make for the church. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea stayed in the back and followed Jesus, but when they saw cross, they immediately said, "Give me the body of Jesus." When you face and see the cross, you become bold. On the same token, when you have the love of God in you, you become bold.

Final vision is about the eagle. When the depth of spirituality goes through cross, the eye of the eagle turns into multi-vision. I am not talking about the multi-vision that is made up of tens of televisions hooked up together. When an eagle flies up high, with his multi-vision he can see even the back. Therefore, he can see everything. If you go through the cross, with multi-vision you can see all. You can see how the earth revolves/rotates. When we are cleansed through the cross, we have the word of cross, the knowledge of love.

Fourth, Paul speaks in verse 20, "Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us." What is Paul asking for? He is asking for the power of God to help with the prayer and thoughts. Once the believers forge a perfect relationship with God according to the principles in Ephesian Church, not only their prayer will be powerful but also the meditation in their heart would be same as God's heart. They are in a level where their meditation in heart is lifted up to God. The power of God fills their prayers and their thoughts; thus, the presence of God fills them. In eighth chapter of Romans, Paul prays that God would seize the root of his soul which is his thoughts. May I remind you that once your thought is fixed on flesh, it will open up the fleshly desires further resulting in the prosperity of old man? On the other side, if your thought is fixed on God, you will have the desire of the Spirit and new man will prosper. What your mind decide to do is critical. It warrants the train over our thoughts fixing it on God. God answers even to what we think.

In conclusion, let's look at verse 21 "to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." According to the Greek grammar what comes in the front has more emphasis. Since Ephesians is the doctrine of church, "in the church" is more important than "in Christ Jesus" which comes after. Just like we saw in twelfth chapter of Hebrews, church, Jesus, God, general assembly of first born are on equal status. The unlimited authority and power of the Creator have come upon the church which in turn must raise itself up. That's the reason Paul emphasizes the church and says that every soul will be together in church and Christ Jesus. May God bless your church with all the great works that already took place in Ephesians!

The history of the great work of Ephesian Church is not for just religious visionaries or our ambition, but it is the promise of God. It is only a matter of time a powerful church like Ephesian Church to appear in the end time. Even as I speak this word is being embodied in people and it is possible a church that's even more powerful than Ephesian Church can appear. It is about time to start preparing for the end time and change the spiritual map of the world and Korean churches according to will of God. I believe, through the Book of Ephesians, God will raise up glorious believers who will reveal the Almighty God, His greatness, the love of Jesus Christ unto others, the deep spirituality the evil cannot touch, and the identity of praise of glory. Amen.