

**Gathering Question:**

Describe a time when you feel certain that God's power was at work in your life. How did you know it was his power?

## **The Power and the Love of Christ**

From poverty to riches! Just after Paul reminds the Ephesians that they were once, "without hope and without God in the world," he immediately reminds them of the incredible riches that they now have as believers in Jesus. It is so important for Christians to be reminded of the blessings we have in Christ because so many tend to forget. They live as if God had not given them riches and resources beyond measure!

One of the key ideas in this passage is "being filled with all the fullness of God." What Paul means is that we should live out fully what we already possess fully. It means that one is so fully filled with divine the divine presence that he or she is dominated by the Lord with nothing left for self. To fully comprehend the fullness of God is beyond human comprehension! Even the most spiritual believer cannot completely grasp the full extent of God's love and his characteristics—his power, majesty, wisdom, love, mercy, patience, kindness, and everything he is and what he does for us. But we can experience the greatness of God in our lives when we are completely devoted to Jesus and when we are completely indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Wilbur Chapman often repeated the testimony told by a man at one of his meetings. The man said, "I got off at the Pennsylvania depot as a tramp, and for a year I begged on the streets of that city for a living. One day I touched a man on the shoulder and said, "Hey mister, can you give me a little money for some food?" As soon as I saw his face I was shocked to see that it was my own father. I said, "Father, Father, do you know me?" Throwing his arms around me and with tears in his eyes, he said, "Oh my son, at last I've found you! I've found you! You want a little money? Everything I have is yours, son. Just please come home with me." Think of it, the testimony continued, I was a tramp and I stood there begging my own father for a few coins, when for 18 years he had been looking for me to give me all that he had.

**Read and Reflect:**

Ephesians 3:14-21 and Romans 8:31-39

1. When Paul prays that the Ephesians be strengthened through his Holy Spirit in the inner being, what does he mean? In what ways does the Spirit give strength to Christians?
2. How can a person know something that passes understanding? How can we fully know the love of Christ?
3. How are the power of God and the love of God related? In what ways do they depend on each other?
4. In the Romans passage, Paul exclaims that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Do you agree with Paul? Name some events in Paul's life that helped him to know that love?
5. In what ways does Psalm 96 depict more of the fullness of God?
6. Have you ever experienced a time when God did more than you could ask or imagine? Describe that time.

**Gathering Question:**

Describe a time when you feel certain that God's power was at work in your life. How did you know it was his power?

## **The Power and the Love of Christ**

From poverty to riches! Just after Paul reminds the Ephesians that they were once, "without hope and without God in the world," he immediately reminds them of the incredible riches that they now have as believers in Jesus. It is so important for Christians to be reminded of the blessings we have in Christ because so many tend to forget. They live as if God had not given them riches and resources beyond measure!

One of the key ideas in this passage is "being filled with all the fullness of God." What Paul means is that we should live out fully what we already possess fully. It means that one is so fully filled with divine the divine presence that he or she is dominated by the Lord with nothing left for self. To fully comprehend the fullness of God is beyond human comprehension! Even the most spiritual believer cannot completely grasp the full extent of God's love and his characteristics—his power, majesty, wisdom, love, mercy, patience, kindness, and everything he is and what he does for us. But we can experience the greatness of God in our lives when we are completely devoted to Jesus and when we are completely indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Wilbur Chapman often repeated the testimony told by a man at one of his meetings. The man said, "I got off at the Pennsylvania depot as a tramp, and for a year I begged on the streets of that city for a living. One day I touched a man on the shoulder and said, "Hey mister, can you give me a little money for some food?" As soon as I saw his face I was shocked to see that it was my own father. I said, "Father, Father, do you know me?" Throwing his arms around me and with tears in his eyes, he said, "Oh my son, at last I've found you! I've found you! You want a little money? Everything I have is yours, son. Just please come home with me." Think of it, the testimony continued, I was a tramp and I stood there begging my own father for a few coins, when for 18 years he had been looking for me to give me all that he had.

**Read and Reflect:**

Ephesians 3:14-21 and Romans 8:31-39

1. When Paul prays that the Ephesians be strengthened through his Holy Spirit in the inner being, what does he mean? In what ways does the Spirit give strength to Christians?
2. How can a person know something that passes understanding? How can we fully know the love of Christ?
3. How are the power of God and the love of God related? In what ways do they depend on each other?
4. In the Romans passage, Paul exclaims that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Do you agree with Paul? Name some events in Paul's life that helped him to know that love?
5. In what ways does Psalm 96 depict more of the fullness of God?
6. Have you ever experienced a time when God did more than you could ask or imagine? Describe that time.

**Gathering Question:**

Describe a time when you feel certain that God's power was at work in your life. How did you know it was his power?

## **The Power and the Love of Christ**

From poverty to riches! Just after Paul reminds the Ephesians that they were once, "without hope and without God in the world," he immediately reminds them of the incredible riches that they now have as believers in Jesus. It is so important for Christians to be reminded of the blessings we have in Christ because so many tend to forget. They live as if God had not given them riches and resources beyond measure!

One of the key ideas in this passage is "being filled with all the fullness of God." What Paul means is that we should live out fully what we already possess fully. It means that one is so fully filled with divine the divine presence that he or she is dominated by the Lord with nothing left for self. To fully comprehend the fullness of God is beyond human comprehension! Even the most spiritual believer cannot completely grasp the full extent of God's love and his characteristics—his power, majesty, wisdom, love, mercy, patience, kindness, and everything he is and what he does for us. But we can experience the greatness of God in our lives when we are completely devoted to Jesus and when we are completely indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Wilbur Chapman often repeated the testimony told by a man at one of his meetings. The man said, "I got off at the Pennsylvania depot as a tramp, and for a year I begged on the streets of that city for a living. One day I touched a man on the shoulder and said, "Hey mister, can you give me a little money for some food?" As soon as I saw his face I was shocked to see that it was my own father. I said, "Father, Father, do you know me?" Throwing his arms around me and with tears in his eyes, he said, "Oh my son, at last I've found you! I've found you! You want a little money? Everything I have is yours, son. Just please come home with me." Think of it, the testimony continued, I was a tramp and I stood there begging my own father for a few coins, when for 18 years he had been looking for me to give me all that he had.

**Read and Reflect:**

Ephesians 3:14-21 and Romans 8:31-39

1. When Paul prays that the Ephesians be strengthened through his Holy Spirit in the inner being, what does he mean? In what ways does the Spirit give strength to Christians?
2. How can a person know something that passes understanding? How can we fully know the love of Christ?
3. How are the power of God and the love of God related? In what ways do they depend on each other?
4. In the Romans passage, Paul exclaims that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Do you agree with Paul? Name some events in Paul's life that helped him to know that love?
5. In what ways does Psalm 96 depict more of the fullness of God?
6. Have you ever experienced a time when God did more than you could ask or imagine? Describe that time.