

Ephesians

Process of Empowerment

June 8 & 11, 2017

(Ephesians 3:14-21) When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

1. Develop a position of humility.

(Ephesians 3:14-15) When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth.

✓ Voice His goodness.

(James 1:17) Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

✓ Voice sincere gratitude.

(1 Chronicles 16:34) Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

✓ Voice your desperation.

(John 15:5) "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."

2. Develop pathways for God to strengthen me.

(Ephesians 3:16-17 MSG) I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in.

✓ He strengthens me as I read His Word.

(Psalm 119:147) I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word.

(James 1:22) Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

✓ He strengthens me as I cultivate His presence.

(Proverbs 18:10) The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe.

(Jeremiah 29:13) "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

✓ He strengthens me as I get planted in His church.

(Psalm 92:11-13) My eyes have seen the defeat of my adversaries; my ears have heard the rout of my wicked foes. The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God.

(2 Chronicles 16:9) The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

3. Develop great confidence in the Lord.

(Ephesians 3:20-21) Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

✓ Be confident in His grace.

(2 Corinthians 12:9) But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

✓ Be confident in your assignment.

(2 Corinthians 5:19-20 MSG) God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.

✓ Be confident of His power within you.

(Philippians 2:13) For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.