

Chapter 31. The Holy Trinity

*"For this reason I bow my knees to **the Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might **through His Spirit** in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded **in love**, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the **love of Christ** which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the **fullness of God**. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to **the power that works in us** [the Holy Spirit], to Him be glory in the church by **Christ Jesus** to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." – **Ephesians 3:14-21***

These words have often, and with good reason, been regarded as one of the highest expressions of what the life of a believer may be on earth. And yet, it is dangerous to foster the idea that the attainment of such an experience is to be regarded as something exceptional and distant, or to hide the blessed truth that in varying degrees it is meant to be the certain and immediate inheritance of every child of God.

Every morning each believer has as much the right as the need to say: "My Father will strengthen me today with power. He is strengthening me even now in my inner man through His Spirit." Every day we are to be content with nothing less than the indwelling of Christ by faith, a life rooted in love, and strengthened to know the love of Christ. Each day we believe that the blessed work of being filled with all the fulness of God is prepared, carried out and accomplished in us. Every day we should be strong in the faith of God's power, and give Him glory in Christ, as being able to do above what we ask and think, according to the power of the Spirit working in us.

The words are, among many other things, remarkable for how they present the truth of the Holy Trinity's influence on our practical life. Many Christians do understand that at different times in the pursuit of the Christian life, it is right and needful to give special attention to the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity. They often feel that it is difficult to combine various truths into one, and to know how to worship the Three-in-One. Our text reveals the wondrous relationship and perfect unity of God. We have the Spirit within us as the power of God, and yet He does not

work at our will or His own. It is the Father Who, according to the riches of His glory, grants us to be strengthened "*through the Spirit in the inner man.*" It is the Father Who does exceedingly abundantly above what we ask or think "*according to the Power that works in us.*" It is not that the Spirit in us takes the place of God. In fact, He renders us more absolutely and more unceasingly dependent on the Father. The Spirit can only work as the Father works through Him. We need to combine the two truths – a deep reverent, trusting consciousness of the Holy Spirit as indwelling us, with a continual and dependent waiting on the Father to work in us through the Spirit.

It is the same with Christ. We bow our knees to the Father in the Name of the Son. We ask Him to strengthen us through the Spirit with the one aim, that Christ may dwell in our hearts. In this way the Son leads to the Father and the Father reveals the Son in us. When the Son dwells in the heart, it is rooted and grounded in love, drawing its life out of Divine love as its soil, bringing forth fruits and doing works of love, all the while being filled with all the fulness of God. The whole heart with the inner and outer life becomes the scene of the blessed interchange of the operation of the Holy Three-in-One. As our hearts believe this, we, through the Triune God in us, give glory to Him Who is able to do more than we can think, by His Holy Spirit.

Our hearts are the scene of a wonderful salvation: The Father always breathing His Spirit into us, and by His daily renewal fitting our hearts to be the home of Christ; the Holy Spirit always revealing and forming Christ within us, so that His very nature, temperament and character becomes ours; the Son imparting His life of love, and leading us to be filled with all the fulness of God.

This is meant to be our everyday religion. O, let us every day worship the Three-in-One God in the fulness of faith. In whatever direction our Bible study and our prayer lead us, let this always be the centre we depart from and return to. We were created in the image of the Three-in-One God. The salvation by which God restores humanity is an inward salvation. It means nothing to us unless it is worked in our hearts and enjoyed there. The God who saves us can do it no other way than as the indwelling God, completely filling us with His fullness. Let us worship and wait; let us believe and give Him glory.

Have you noticed how the three Persons of the Trinity is always mentioned together in Ephesians?

1:3 - The Father, Jesus Christ, spiritual or Holy Spirit blessings.

1:12,13 - The Father, to the praise of His Glory, in Christ, sealed with the Holy Spirit.

1:17 - The Father, our Lord Jesus, the Spirit of Wisdom.

2:18 - Access through Christ, in one Spirit, to the Father.

2:22 - In Christ, a habitation of God, through the Spirit.

3:4-9 - The mystery of Christ, hidden in God, preached by the Grace of God, revealed by the Spirit.

4:4-6 - One Spirit, One Lord, One God and Father.

5:18-20 - Filled with the Spirit, giving thanks to God, in the Name of Christ.

6:10-18 – Strong in the Lord, the whole armour of God, the sword of the Spirit, praying in the Spirit.

As you study and compare these passages, and seek to understand their teaching in some true and humble concept of the glory of our God, notice what an intensely practical truth the Holy Trinity is. Scripture teaches little of its mystery in the Divine nature. Almost everything has reference to God's work in us, and our faith and experience of His salvation.

True faith in the Trinity will make us strong, smart, God-possessed Christians. The Divine Spirit making Himself one with our life and inner being; the Blessed Son dwelling in us, as the way to perfect fellowship with God; the Father, through the Spirit and the Son daily working out His purpose – that we will be filled with all the fullness of God.

Let us bow our knees to the Father! Then the mystery of the Trinity will be known and experienced.

Prayer: Father, Son and Holy Spirit! I bow my knees before You. Reveal to me the mysterious work of Your Trinity in my heart. I want to know and experience You. Be glorified in me. Amen.