

January 1, 2017
Ephesians 3:14-21

LET'S BEGIN WITH PRAYER

I. Introduction: Spiritual Inventory

- Are you growing in the Christian Faith?
- Does your life resembles that of our Lord and Savior more today than it did last year at this time?
- Have you grown in your understanding and knowledge of God?
- Has your love for our Savior grown?
- Have you used your spiritual gifts to bless the body of Christ and to make an eternal difference for the Kingdom of God.
- Have you been involved in a Sunday School Class, Bible Study or Small Group to learn and grow and to fellowship with other believers?
- How have your quiet times been this past year? Have they been good and consistent?
- Do you have a better grasp of the Word of God today than you did a year ago?
- Have you been obedient to apply that which you have learned?
- Have you been a significant witness to the love and truth of God to your family and friends, those among who you work with?
- Does your life reflect the fact that you have met Jesus and that a non believer would know that you are a Christian by the way that you live?
- **How is your prayer life?** Have you spent quality time listening to God and talking to God, Praising God for who He is, thanking him for the abundant blessings he has shown, and have you spent time praying for the needs of your family, friends, church, community, and the world?

II. A Reminder for 2017

“ So I will always **remind** you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. [13] I think it is right to **refresh your memory** as long as I live in the tent of this body, [14] because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. [15] And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able **to remember** these things.”

2 Peter 1:12-15

III. Let's Begin With Prayer

A. Pray with a **Reason**

“For this **reason**.....”

B. Pray with the proper **Attitude**

“For this reason I **kneel**.....”

C. Pray with **Focus**

“For this reason I kneel before the **Father**.....”

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, [17] so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, [18] may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, [19] and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

IV. Conclusion and Application:

POINTS TO PONDER
Week of January 1st to 7th
Let's Begin With Prayer
Ephesians 3:14-21

Open It

1. What is your favorite posture for praying? Why?
2. *How often do you pray for those you love?

Explore It

3. When Paul prayed, what posture did he assume? (3:14)
4. To whom is God the Father? (3:14-15)
5. *What did Paul request of the Father? (3:16)
6. Through whom would the Ephesians be empowered? (3:16)
7. *How would Christ dwell in the believers' hearts? (3:17)
8. Why did Paul want the Ephesians to be rooted and established in love? (3:17-19)
9. What did Paul want the Ephesians to grasp? (3:18)
10. What does the love of Christ surpass? (3:19)
11. *How did Paul close his prayer? (3:20-21)
12. How did Paul's doxology serve as a fitting conclusion to the doctrine he had presented in the first three chapters of this letter? (3:20-21)

Get It

13. How would you pray Paul's prayer in your own words?
14. *If Paul were your prayer partner, how might he encourage you in your devotional life?
15. What is your understanding of Christ's love for you?
16. In what ways do you need to become firmly rooted in love?
17. How have you allowed God to become too small in your life?
18. *How does Paul's doxology encourage you?
19. What is your favorite doxology? Why?
20. How do you usually end your prayers?

Apply It

21. How can you take a new and creative approach to your prayer life?
22. What do you need to do to spread Christ's love to others this week?
23. *How could you include Paul's doxology as a part of your personal devotion each day?