



# KING'S CHAPEL

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## Daily Devotional Guide

Friday March 27, 2020

### A - Approaching God – Start with Prayer

***Psalm 27:4-5** - One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.*

David invites us into his prayer life with these verses. Notice the singular focus of his prayer - what he wants most is communion and connection with God himself. To have God himself, experientially and in all his beauty is to have all the safety, security, and joy he will need in times of trouble. How can you approach God that way today?

### B - Bible Reading & Meditation - *Read this passage slowly 2 or 3x's.*

#### **Ephesians 3:14-21**

**14** For this reason I kneel before the Father, **15** from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. **16** 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 Lord's holy people, 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. **20** 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, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

#### **Look in God's Word**

- As you read back through this text, what words or phrases are repeated or emphasized. Circle, underline, or highlight any words or themes that are repeated.
- Vs. 14 tells us what Paul is doing right now. He is praying. He says, "For this reason..." Look back to the beginning of chapter 3 in your bible and try to identify what some of those reasons might be?

- Now, look at vs. 14-21. In somewhat grandiose and ornate terms, Paul tells us what he is praying for. Can you get to the bottom of what Paul is praying for? Try to make a list of what Paul is praying for and why?

### **Look in Our Own Lives**

- Now ask yourself:
  - As you consider what Paul is praying for, where do you need that in your own life right now? What could you ask God for today?

### **Read this short gospel summary about today's passage:**

In Ephesians 3:10, Paul tells us what brings him to prayer: It's the awareness of God's great plan to reveal his glory through Christ's united body, the church - God's people coming together as the church across cultural and personal barriers to give witness to the power of his love. When this happens, the world and the heavens will see the greatness of the gospel's transformation of the human heart. Paul is considering this while in jail - while in "quarantine" and cutoff from his brothers and sisters in the faith. Nevertheless his vision of how the gospel can change the world through the church drives him to pray.

Paul's main petition is for Spirit-given power or strength in our inner being. The reason we doubt God's ability to do far more abundantly than "all that we ask or think" is that we grossly underestimate the power at work within us. We do not have a little 9-volt battery of spiritual power inside of us, but an entire nuclear power plant of divine might. The same power that raised Christ from the dead (Eph 1:20) now indwells us by his presence and Spirit. We ought to anticipate, and request, that God will overcome big sins, change bad habits, and make us into better followers of Christ.

### **Look Outward Towards Others**

- How might God be preparing you and the church - "the family" of Jesus Christ to come together in new ways through what's happening in the world around us? What do you need to discover and experience about God's love to prepare you for the mission ahead of us? Journal some of your thoughts

### **C - Close in Prayer**

Take a minute now to go back through Paul's prayer (starting in vs. 16) and pray that for yourself or someone else. Ask God to make these a reality in your own life today.