

Study of Ephesians – Ephesians 3:14-21 Bellevue Church of Christ – Spring & Summer 2013

Posture in Prayer

Bowing κάμπτω (kamptō) – bow on the knee to worship – symbolizes submission
- 1Ki 8:54
- Luk 22:41
- Act 7:60; 9:40, 20:36, 21:5
- Rom 14:11
- Php 2:10

Standing – traditional posture among the Jews
- 1Ki 8:22
- Mat 6:5
- Luk 18:11-13

Seated
- 1Ch 17:16

Fell on Face
- Mat 26:39
- Luk 5:12

Strengthened... Christ May Dwell...

-Compare to Gal 2:20

-Only with God's strength, through His Spirit, are we able to put to death the deeds of the body (Rom 8:13), and hold fast to our faith in Christ.

-Christ becomes our way of life, our identity.

GOD is BIGGER and more POWERFUL than ANYTHING we will EVER face in this life...

AND

His power is "at work within us."

Repeated from v.1 – Here Paul continues his prayer that began in v.1, after his aside in vv. 2-13.

I. Prayer (14-15)

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the **Father**,

Father = πατήρ (patēra)
Family = πατριά (patria)

Eph 2:18

¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

Rom 9:23; Eph 2:4-7

Isa 40:27-31

The whole family of angels in heaven, saints in Paradise, and believers on earth is named (of the Father), being 'the children of God' -John Wesley

II. Petition (16-19)

That – ἵνα (hina)

A marker of purpose:

- (1) **Strengthened** – through His Spirit
- (2) **Comprehend** – the love of Christ
- (3) **Filled** – with the fullness of God

Each petition builds upon the previous.

¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

2Co 4:16; Col 3:10

The opposite of "lose heart" from v.13

¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—

¹⁸that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Paul mixes biological and architectural metaphors
Mat 7:15-20, 24-27; 1Co 3:9; Col 2:7

¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

Rom 5:6-11

How can we know something that "surpasses knowledge?"

¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,

²⁰that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The pinnacle of Christian maturity – Eph 4:13

III. Praise (20-21)

Jewish prayers often ended with a blessing to God
-1Ch 16:35-36
-Rom 16:25-27

²⁰Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

God deserves our praise for what he's done for us
Eph 1:6, 12, 14

Study of Ephesians – Ephesians 3:14-21
Bellevue Church of Christ – Spring & Summer 2013

For This Reason

Ephesians 3:1–13 (ESV)

¹ **For this reason** I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶ This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. ¹³ So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

Posture in Prayer

Bowing

2828 κάμπτω (*kamptō*): vb.; ≡ Str 2578; TDNT 3.594—LN 53.61 κάμπτω τὸ γόνυ (*kamptō to gony*), worship, formally, bend or bow on the knee (Ro 11:4; 14:11; Eph 3:14; Php 2:10+)¹

1 Kings 8:54 (ESV)

⁵⁴ Now as Solomon finished offering all this prayer and plea to the Lord, he arose from before the altar of the Lord, where he had knelt with hands outstretched toward heaven.

Luke 22:41 (ESV)

⁴¹ And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed,

Acts 7:60 (ESV)

⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 9:40 (ESV)

⁴⁰ But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.

¹ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

Study of Ephesians – Ephesians 3:14-21
Bellevue Church of Christ – Spring & Summer 2013

Acts 20:36 (ESV)

³⁶ And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Acts 21:5 (ESV)

⁵ When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach, we prayed

Romans 14:11 (ESV)

¹¹ for it is written,
“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

Philippians 2:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

Standing

1 Kings 8:22 (ESV)

²² Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven,

Matthew 6:5 (ESV)

⁵ “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

Luke 18:11–13 (ESV)

¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

Seated

1 Chronicles 17:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, “Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?”

Fell on Face

Matthew 26:39 (ESV)

³⁹ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

Study of Ephesians – Ephesians 3:14-21
Bellevue Church of Christ – Spring & Summer 2013

Luke 5:12 (ESV)

¹² While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.”

Father

Ephesians 2:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

4252 πατήρ (*patēr*), πατρός (*patros*), ὁ (*ho*): n.masc.; ≡ DBLHebr 3; Str 3962—**1.** LN 10.14 **father**, male parent (Lk 2:48; Heb 12:9); **2.** LN 10.18 **parents**, both mother and father (Heb 11:23); **3.** LN 10.20 **ancestor**, forefather (Ac 3:13); **4.** LN 12.12 **Father** (title for God), (Jn 10:15; Lk 23:34 v.r.); **5.** LN 87.48 **father** (title for a high ranking person), (Mt 23:9); **6.** LN 11.26 **elder** (Ac 7:2; 22:1); **7.** LN 58.64 **archetype**, figurative extension to the first entry (Ro 4:11, 12, 16, 17); **8.** LN 36.8 **leader**, spiritual father in the faith (Jn 8:44; 1Co 4:15); **9.** LN 52.7 **bury** (Ac 13:36+), see 4707; **10.** LN 35.46 **take care of parents until death** (Mt 8:21; Lk 9:59+), see 2507²

Every Family

4255 πατριά (*patria*), ἄς (*as*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ DBLHebr 3; Str 3965; TDNT 5.1015—**1.** LN 10.24 **lineage**, family line (Lk 2:4; Eph 3:15+); **2.** LN 11.56 **nation**, people (Ac 3:25+)³

*The whole family of angels in heaven, saints in Paradise, and believers on earth is named (of the Father), being "the children of God," a more honorable title than children of Abraham, and depending on him as the Father of the family.*⁴

That / Petition

2671 ἵνα (*hina*): cj. (normally with the subjunctive mood following); ≡ Str 2443 & 3363; TDNT 3.323—**1.** LN 89.59 **in order to**; a marker of purpose (Mk 4:21); **2.** LN 89.49 **as a result**, that, so that; a marker of result (Jn 9:2); **3.** LN 90.22 **that**; a marker of the content of a discourse, purpose implied (Mt 14:36; Mk 6:12; Eph 5:33); **4.** LN 91.15 **namely**; a marker to explain something (Jn 15:13)⁵

Riches

Romans 9:23 (ESV)

²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—

² Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

³ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁴ Wesley, John. *One Volume New Testament Commentary* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1972), in loco.

⁵ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

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Bellevue Church of Christ – Spring & Summer 2013

Ephesians 2:4–7 (ESV)

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Power

Isaiah 40:27–31 (ESV)

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.
³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Inner Being

2 Corinthians 4:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

Colossians 3:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Strengthened / Christ May Dwell

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Study of Ephesians – Ephesians 3:14-21
Bellevue Church of Christ – Spring & Summer 2013

Romans 8:13 (ESV)

¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Biological and Architectural Metaphors

Matthew 7:15–20 (ESV)

¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

Matthew 7:24–27 (ESV)

²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

1 Corinthians 3:9 (ESV)

⁹ For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.

Colossians 2:7 (ESV)

⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

God’s Love

Romans 5:6–11 (ESV)

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Maturity

Ephesians 4:13 (ESV)

¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Study of Ephesians – Ephesians 3:14-21
Bellevue Church of Christ – Spring & Summer 2013

Jewish Prayers / Blessing

1 Chronicles 16:35–36 (ESV)

³⁵ Say also:

“Save us, O God of our salvation,
and gather and deliver us from among the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name
and glory in your praise.

³⁶ Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting!”

Then all the people said, “Amen!” and praised the LORD.

Romans 16:25–27 (ESV)

²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

God Deserves Our Praise

Ephesians 1:6 (ESV)

⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:12 (ESV)

¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.