

HELLO. THIS IS THE THOUGHT FOR TODAY - THURSDAY 30th JULY, 2020. -

Based on Ephesians ch 3 v 14-21) N.L.T.

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Video is on YouTube at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJULHpl0sak&list=PL0ssA46ANearDvw3QX2JXIZM_6v03VhyD

In Paul's letter to the early Christian Church in Ephesus,
Paul prays this prayer:-

“When I think of the wisdom and scope of God’s plan, 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 give you mighty inner strength through his Holy Spirit. And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God’s marvellous love.
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 really is.
May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God.
Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.
May he be given glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever through endless ages. “

What an amazing prayer.

Like many of you, Alan and I have enjoyed spending more time in the garden over these past weeks, catching up on jobs to do and, when the weather has been warm and sunny, sitting and relaxing.
There is not much shade to be found in our garden and so we invested in a new garden umbrella with a very heavy base for it to stand in.
Sadly, this purchase has not lived up to expectations and we have found it to be very “wobbly” on windy days, making it rather dangerous.
After much thought, Alan very cleverly created a way to stabilise this, making it much more safe and secure in it’s base, and we are much happier with the outcome.
No more wobbles – now firmly anchored down.

This all got me thinking about life as it is at the moment. How many “wobbles” do we experience as, day by day, we seek to adapt to such a new way of living, and as we look to an uncertain future?
Circumstances around us can so often seem very threatening and, in so many ways, can easily throw us off our guard.
We can soon lose our focus on our faith in God - a God who is faithful and reliable, *all of the time* and in every situation in which we find ourselves.

In the Bible passage we are sharing today, Paul prayed that his friends might be deeply anchored in and strengthened by God’s love, through His Holy Spirit.
Those friends of his in Ephesus lived in a hostile environment too, and life for those early Christians was threatening and dangerous and yet Paul, who himself is writing to them from prison, is able to pray with such utter *conviction and trust*, knowing and believing personally in the God to whom he is praying.
He wrote his letter to them to remind them to place their faith in the only solid foundation for healthy living – God in Jesus Christ.

I find this such a powerful prayer.

It reminds me of all the *potential* we have in our relationship with God.

As we begin to discover just how much God loves us, we will become confident that *anything* is possible with Him.

We so often limit God when we pray.

Our expectations of him are governed by our own human expectations. We make him too small.

But, to quote a line from a children's song, "Our God is a great big God"

We need to constantly remind ourselves of this.

Paul, however, sees no such limitations and he wants his Christian friends in Ephesus to see and experience all this potential for themselves.

He asks God that they would understand the width and length and depth and height of God's love for them, and that they would be rooted and grounded in that boundless love.

We all know that healthy plants need to push their roots down deep into the soil, in order to remain fixed and stable to withstand the harshness of their surroundings.

We allow the roots of our faith and trust to become deeply embedded in Jesus by keeping alive a living relationship with him, daily staying close to him and his teaching and his way for us.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if each of us could pray this prayer *each day*, for ourselves and for our church families, believing that God is able to do super-abundantly far more, over and above, all that we dare to ask or ever imagine!

I wonder what a difference we will see when we do!

Let us pray:-

Amazingly wonderful God, give us the faith to trust you in every circumstance of our lives, knowing that by your mighty power at work within us, you are able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.

Widen our vision of your greatness and may we experience for ourselves the vastness of your love for us.

To the glory of your Name. In Jesus we pray Amen.

We share in the song "Faithful God". YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PjSO5Ih10M>

Faithful one, so unchanging
Ageless one, You're my rock of peace
Lord of all I depend on You
I call out to You
Again and again
I call out to You
Again and again

You are my rock in times of trouble
You lift me up when I fall down
All through the storm, Your love is
The anchor, My hope is in You alone

Brian-doerksen
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God bless you. Have a wonderful day.