

What God Has For Believers

(From an old pamphlet that was published within the Apostolic Christian Church, Nazarean)

“For this cause, I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of 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 by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end, Amen.” **Ephesians 3:14-21**

Does it seem strange to you, brethren, that the Apostle Paul should thus kneel down and pray? “For this cause I bow my knees.” And he prayed so that God might give to the brethren of the church of Ephesus a series of things which we now want to consider together.

This ought to draw our attention: The Ephesians, being children of God, being saved, having the promise of everlasting life, Paul still recognizes that they needed a deeper experience.

It is a great danger when the believer thinks that by virtue of being born again his functions have ended. The new birth indicates the beginning of our activities. We begin to grow, to develop and mature. All this comes into the Christian life. There also exists this concept: that arriving at baptism we have reached the climax of our spiritual experiences. Being baptized is the beginning of Christian experience. For that reason there are today infants in Christ as there were at Corinth. “For whereas there is envying and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal and walk as men?” Many of us have been born, but have not developed. Christianity looks like a multitude of dwarfs who have not grown and are satisfied in their status. Therefore, there is no progress; therefore, there is no success; therefore, there is no power in the lives of the children of God, and there is a series of consequences, because we think there is nothing else to attain. We feel the warmth of Christ, and feeling that warmth we begin to be satisfied, and there we stay. The fact that we feel warmth does not mean that we are fervent or ‘on fire’. It is true that we are not cold, but neither does it mean that we are full of fire. This is the great danger; being lukewarm – and for such there is little hope.

To the believer, this happens: he finds Christ, and that leaves him satisfied. Has that happened to you? The fact that you have had one experience with the Lord has left you happy and satisfied. I don’t doubt that you have had that experience, but what here we must consider is the measure of that experience. The brethren at Ephesus had the same experience. But, let us listen to the text: verse 16 says, “That he would grant you, according to riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.” “According to the riches of his glory,” which means that there is an ABUNDANCE in the hands of God; that we have not exhausted his treasury.

He has much more in store for us. Therefore, Paul writes that He may give unto you according to the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power in the inner man. They were saved, but there was insufficient power in their lives. There was some power, but there was not that magnitude of power that God could give them. Verse 18: “That ye may be able to comprehend.” They were not yet fully able to comprehend. They were able, but not sufficiently. “That ye may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth and height; and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God.” How? Were they not filled with all the fullness? No! Therefore, Paul prayed as he did. We have received something from God, but, have we everything that God wants to give us? Do we know the breadth, the length, the height, and the depth?

Beloved Brethren, do you know that these mountains (Rocky Mountains) belong to the Andes? You will say, “Yes, these belong to the range or chain of the Andes.” And who can doubt that you have seen the Andes? I am not going

to try to convince you that you have not, because you have seen them. Now, I raise these questions to you: Have you seen it in all its length? Have you seen it in all its breadth? Have you seen it in all its height? In Argentina, this same mountain range has a peak that is 22,835 feet high. Now have you seen it in all its height? Have you seen it in all its depth? Have you seen all the mineral wealth that is inside that mountain range? And you say, "I have seen the Andes."

So many of us say, "I know Christ." But, we do not know Him in all His fullness. "That you may be able to fully comprehend with all the saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God."

Beloved Brethren, let us not be satisfied with that which we have received. We have received crumbs. We are so satisfied and grateful, that we are neither expecting nor seeking anything else from God. God has much more for us! The Lord wants to do much more with our lives!

I want to read now in Ephesians 1:17-19: "That God may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him." But He is speaking to the brothers who have already known Christ. They have known Him in one aspect. But the Bible speaks of the manifold wisdom of God. We have seen one aspect. We have known His grace, but we have not known all. We have seen a building from one side, and for having seen this side, are satisfied. We should also see it from the north side, the east and west, that we might have the complete perspective of that building. "That he may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation." Verses 18-19: "That...the eyes of your understanding be enlightened, that ye may know"; (not that we be ignorant, but that we may know) "what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of his glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power." Do you know this exceeding greatness of His power? Therefore says The Word: "God hath given us apostles, prophets, pastors, evangelists, teachers, for the perfecting of the saints." Perfecting of the saints? Sure! We are saints, but we have not arrived at the stature that God wants us to have. We must develop in that holiness, grow in holiness, not grow in order to become saints, because we already are, but to perfect holiness, that we come to the unity of the faith and know Christ in His full stature. "According to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ..." Christ is our eldest brother according to the Bible. He's the first begotten among many brethren. Let there not be such a big difference between brothers, but let us also grow to His stature. We must cease being wavering children, taken anyplace by all manner of doctrines. We must grow in the knowledge of God, in intimate experience with God. Then our lives will have another meaning. Everything will have another meaning!

This article appeared in the "Truth for our Time" column in the "Christian Friendship Messenger", and is prepared by the Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarean) Communications Committee. Comments or Questions can be directed to: ACCNcommunications@gmail.com