

Morning sermon series – Life in the Spirit

"EXPECTant" (Ephesians 3v14-21)

What is God's intention for the body of Christ, in the here and now? Is a deep work of the Spirit in all of us God's intention for the local church? See 3v10.

These Christians already have the Spirit (1v3, 13-14). Paul wants them to expand what they grasp and experience spiritually. He prays for maturity and fullness.

ASK...

1) To Receive the Spirit's Power ... (2v22, 3v14-17)

Paul goes on a digression (from 3v2-13), so the reason for the prayer/ prayer report in 3v14-21 is actually at the end of chapter 2: You are the Temple of the living God (2v22)! You are the body of Christ himself.

Paul prays, in the midst of spiritual battle (6v12), for the power from God that is needed for Christ to take up full residence and to fill our lives with his personal presence and goodness (v16-17).

2) To Know Christ's Love ... (3v17-19)

We must be rooted in Jesus' love, which is the foundation of everything we are (v17). There is no life outside of this. He loves you with the passion of a bridegroom, without reservation; his love means that he walked towards the pain for you; and he's loving you into life. It's a love so big it's in 4-D (v18)! You can't exhaust it. It's big enough to meet any spiritual problem. It's big enough to flood your life in the midst of suffering. Paul prays for the power (v18) for this to be a felt reality.

3) So that We Overflow with Him and His Glory (3v19-21)

Paul reminds us that God has the power to fill the local church with his glory and with himself (v19), and that he wants to do this (3v10, v21). 'To him be glory in the [local] church...in this and all generations...' (v21).

ASK...that you and we all at Abbey may be filled to overflowing with his glory, with his outgoing presence, with his Spirit...with his love, his joy, his gentleness, his goodness, his patience...with Christ himself !