

Overflowing Love

(9 20 09)

Intro

- **Heard about the JW & Mormons**
 - Often see them at our door or riding their bikes around the neighborhood
 - Sharing b/c they believe it's part of their salvation
- **Deep down inside, we want so much to share, but**
 - Maybe we don't know how (e.g. not trained. They are.)
 - Maybe we don't have time
 - Too many issues in life
 - Concern that we are not mature enough
 - Believe that is a job for the pastor or Bible college grad

For whatever reason, we just have not done so.
Yet deep down inside, we want to share the love of Christ.
- **I believe that the reason is not any of the above.**
- **The answer is found hidden in Paul's prayer in Eph 3.**

Inner Being

- **Ephesians 3:16**

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may **strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being**, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

- **Strengthen inner being vs. physical being**

- **What is inner being?**

- **Body, soul, and spirit**

- **Weak inner being vs. physical being**

- **Physical – we can see & can not control well (ex. Skiing)**

- **What does weak inner being look like?**

- **For me: many down days**

- **Easily hurt, angered, or self-rejection**

- **Not being able to control our mind & thoughts**

- **Strengthen means opposite of above**

In Christ

- **Ephesians 3:16**

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, **so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.**

- **What does that mean?**

- **John 15:5 clarifies this**

- **“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit”**

- **If we are in Him, we will be in us... we will grow strong (fruit)**

- **Swimming**

- **24 Hour Fitness**

- **Can't help but talk about it (e.g. Rockets/Texans)**

- **Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.**

Being Rooted

- **Ephesians 3:17-18**

And I pray that you, **being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ**, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-

- **Only when we are rooted in love, can we grasp love**

- When rooted in addictions understand addicts
- Rebellious teens in classroom

- **Problem: Many of us have roots in hurt/pain/shame**

- Can't really grasp love of God, even worse love of man
- Ex. Friend Don at retreat
- Good news is that Jesus is in business of
 - Setting captives free
 - Releasing the oppressed
 - Love (John 15:13)

Like a Palm

- **That is why Paul prayed that we be rooted & established in love.**

Psalm 1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.

- **Illustration of a palm tree (rooted in love)**
 - **So deep rooted, can withstand major storms of life**
 - **Leaves are made for wind to pass right thru**
 - **May bend but won't break**
 - **Palm fruit are much sweeter**
 - **Gives life to many shipwrecked**

Love that Surpasses Knowledge

- **Ephesians 3:17-18**

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, **and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-**

- **Only after being rooted & established**

- **Know Love that is not just in our head**

- **Gone the mile from the head to the heart**
- **Difference btw “knowing (of) Iris” & “knowing Iris”**

- **Many of us know (of) God**

- **Until 12 weeks ago (best)**
 - **Long to be in His presence & love**
 - **Hours like minutes**
 - **Work this week .. Longing to be in His presence**
 - **JSC P&W**

Filled

- **Ephesians 3:19**
.. and to know this love that surpasses knowledge- **that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.**
- **Misunderstand this verse**
- **Think that “filled” means stop at the top**
 - How can this be? Fullness of God?
- **Ps 23:5 – My cup overflows**
- **2Cor 8:2 – Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy..**
- **Rom 15:13 – May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope..**
- **Ps 119:171 – May my lips overflow with praise...**
- **Can't help but share**

Summary

- **Was going to train you on how to share the love of Christ with others (like the JW's)**
- **Friday night, the Lord said secret found in Eph 3:16-19**
 - **Rooted and established in his love**
 - **Being so much in His presence that hurts/pain disappear**
 - **His presence will be so overwhelming**
 - **Christ will dwell in our hearts**
 - **Inner being strengthened**
 - **Then we will not just grasp/understand but KNOW this love**
 - **It will just overflow**
 - **It can't be contained**
- **People will want it**
 - **Don't you?**

Edification Time

- What spoke to you in this message
- Pray for one another.

