

First United Methodist Church
Center, Texas

Ephesians 3:14-17a

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. NIV

Devotional by JD Walt edited for space by Karen Jones

.... This may be... the, most powerful prayer in all of the Bible. If ever we wanted to be in agreement with a prayer, this is it. It's amazing to consider that we have a prayer right out of the prayerbook of a first century Apostle of Jesus Christ. In this prayer Paul practically diagrams how our relationship with God works.

For this reason, I kneel. . . First of all, note Paul's posture. "I kneel." When is the last time you knelt for prayer...? Kneeling takes prayer to a whole new level.... Kneeling gets our prayers out of our heads, brings our posture into alignment with ultimate reality, communicates humility, conveys respect and otherwise signals a visible movement of faith in an unseen reality.

before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. It strikes me that for Paul, the Gospel is for everyone or it is for no-one. God is the Father of all or of none. Every family is every family. The Father is not "Paul's truth," in the way that someone else's god could be their truth too. The scope of the Gospel is the whole world, Jews and Gentiles, even in heaven and on earth—every family.

I pray that out of his glorious riches. Now we come to the prayer. He appeals to the vast reserves of the Heavenly realms. Paul is praying for a transfer of Divine wealth from an account in Heaven to an account on Earth. With a few swipes and clicks on my phone, I can transfer money from one account to another. Paul prays for the movement of Divine currency from God's to people. Here's how it moves.

He may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, . . .Note the three prepositional phrases: "with power, through his Spirit, in your inner being." Our tendency as broken human beings is just the opposite. It's more like "with resolve, through our spirit in our outer persona. Left to ourselves, we always gravitate toward image management. We care most about our outer appearance. The true and real-life God created us for is all about our inner being. Our tendency is to ask God to use his power to impact our external world and affairs. This prayer articulates a different way and to a different end, which is the following:

so that Christ may dwell in your hearts If I examine my own prayers I find they tend to ask God to be the great actor and intervener in the world. I spend a lot of energy asking God to do things and change things and otherwise save the day. Paul's interest seems to be different. It's more about God working in and through his people. God wills to indwell the inmost being of people, filling us with his Spirit, and forming within us the very image of Jesus Christ.

through faith. I think this may be the most misunderstood and misappropriated element of the prayer. I once heard someone define faith as believing in something you know is not true. Faith does not mean hoping something is true. Faith is not mere assent to the truth of something. Faith is *movemental* activity. It is visible reliance on an unseen reality.

The best and most compelling example of faith is Jesus himself. Through the life of Jesus, as revealed in the Gospels, God shows us what he intends to do for us and in us and through us. Faith is the Holy Spirit infused realm of human activity by which the awakening movement of Divine grace moves in the world. It is the touch-point and interface between Heaven and Earth.

THE PRAYER

Abba Father, we thank you for your son, Jesus, who not only walks on water but calls us out of our boats; who not only heals but would make us healers in his name; who not only multiplies fishes and loaves but would multiply the gift of our lives. I want to move in a new level of faith. Show me what this means? What in me must decrease so faith in you might increase. We pray in Jesus name, amen.

Karen

Celebrating a special occasion?
Honoring a loved one?



Please call the church office to reserve a date for flowers.

March 11th Attendance

Sunday School	38
8:30 am Worship	37
11:00 am Worship	42
Total Worship	79



Wednesday through April 4 (except March 14th)
Confirmation Class
3:40 p.m.-4:50 pm

Church Camp
July 8-13

Please check the MYF Facebook page for updates.

Sarah Bohannon
Director of Youth Ministries



Psalm 119:105-112 "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow Your righteous laws. I have suffered much; preserve my life, Lord, according to Your Word. Accept, Lord, the willing praise of my mouth and teach me your laws."

God of Mercy, we feel our hearts overflowing with Your tenderness. We sense Your loving touch deep within our souls. We ask for Your help in our weaknesses that we might be faithful to Your Word and we are so grateful that Your mercy for our failings is as strong as Your unbounded love for us. In Jesus name, AMEN

You may send your prayer requests and praises to Terri Lacher at btlacher@sbcglobal.net or at (936) 598-3484 or (936)332-2717



March 24th, the church will offer
a AED/CPR course.

The class will meet in the fellowship hall at
9:00 a.m. Please sign up beforehand with either
Kelli, Karen or Sarah.

The cost is \$25 per person.

Make checks payable to Mary Head.

LENTEN OFFERING

Lenten Offering letters and envelopes have been
mailed. Please turn your envelope into the church
office or place in the offering plate.



March 25th

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Combined Service

*Covered Dish Lunch to follow

1:00 pm Eggstravaganza



Please bring plastic eggs and candy for our
Easter Eggstravaganza

and volunteer to help with games!

This event will take place on

Sunday, March 25th

1:00-3:00 PM



Maundy
Thursday

Thursday, March 29th

6:00 pm

In the Sanctuary



Sunday, April 1st-two services only

6:30 am Easter Sunrise Service

10:00 am Combined Worship Service



LAKEVIEW
METHODIST
CONFERENCE CENTER

The Church will pay for HALF of your youth's camp
fees. In order to receive this, you must have your
youth registered before the end of March. If you need
additional support for your child to attend camp, the
district has scholarship money available. See me!

Sign up on

<https://lakeviewsummercampregistration.campbrainreg.istratio...>

Let me know when you have signed your youth up.

Sarah Bohannon

Memoials

Dr. Bill Ginn

Tommye Hall McDonald

Billie Sue Payne

Bishop Samford

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Walker

Monette Matthews Grafke

Billie Sue Payne

