"Filled to Fulfill" November 11, 2018

Ephesians 3:14-21

<u>CORE</u>: The pressures around you will not deplete you or defeat you—but God will fill you in order to fulfill His call upon your life! (NOTE: In transforming the world around us—what FILLS US will FLOW FROM US! (Our <u>internal world</u> impacts our <u>external world</u>!)

1. HE DRAWS US CLOSER.

- Jesus "dwells in our hearts through faith." (v. 17)
- The more we "abide in Him"—He increasingly "abides in us" (John 15)
- There are LEVELS of INTIMACY:
 - God has a limitless capacity for closeness with all of us (i.e., "closer than a brother, very present help, His name is near")
 - **o** We can be as close to Him as WE want to be!!!
 - "I admit that I haven't yet acquired the absolute fullness that I'm pursuing, but I run with passion into his abundance so that I may reach the purpose that Jesus Christ has called me to fulfill and wants me to discover." (Philippians 3:12 TPT)
 - NOTE: "Baptized in Spirit" in Acts 2—then repeatedly, increasingly "filled with the HS" throughout the Book of Acts

2. HE ESTABLISHES US IN HIS LOVE.

- Sound doctrine is vital—but it must lead us to drawing sustenance from ("rooted") and finding our stability in ("grounded") His love for us!
- "Together"- the revelation of His love is fully experienced in community
- "Comprehend"- to make it your own—a part of who you are
- **The DOORWAY TO DEEPER is REPENTANCE** ("To change" from blame to taking responsibility for our lives via the choices we make)
 - o "Conversion"- is "the change of partners" (i.e., a new cooperation)
 - o *Romans 8:5 & Galatians 5:16*
 - The New Covenant is about more than having great church meetings—it's about a <u>radical change of heart!</u>
 - o Jesus becomes "your <u>life</u>" (Colossians 3:4)
 - What is "life" to you → you care deepest about!

3. HE FILLS US WITH HIMSELF.

- Ephesians 3:17-18—Our love for Jesus compels us to know Him more
- The result: we become "filled up to all the fullness of God"

- This does NOT mean:
 - We <u>know everything</u> there is to know about God (i.e., we don't become "God Google")
 - o **That** <u>all</u> of God is in us (i.e., deer drinking the lake is filled with "lake water"—but the entire lake isn't in the deer)
- This DOES mean:
 - His PRESENCE impacts our PERSPECTIVES (We see more clearly at greater depths of insight)
 - INCREASING INTIMACY→INCREASES OUR CAPACITY TO LOVE

4. HE WORKS HIS POWER THROUGH US.

Ephesians 3:20-21 TPT- ²⁰ Never doubt God's mighty power to work in you and accomplish all this. He will achieve infinitely more than your greatest request, your most unbelievable dream, and exceed your wildest imagination! He will outdo them all, for his miraculous power constantly energizes you.

²¹ Now we offer up to God all the glorious praise that rises from every church in every generation through Jesus Christ—and all that will yet be manifest through time and eternity. Amen!

- Most believe God can do anything—they struggle to believe He can work through us...
 - Yet, His ultimate desire is to reveal to the world "the power that works within us!"
- One of the scriptures frequently taken out of context:
 - Jeremiah 17:9- "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure." Is an OT picture of our hearts before the NT; powerless to change!!!
 - Jeremiah 31:33- Prophesies the New Covenant to result in: New hearts, sensitized hearts, with His Law (Kingdom realities) written upon them & beating inside them!!!

THIS IS WHO WE ARE!!!
HE IS TRANSFORMING THE WORLD "INSIDE US"→ TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD AROUND US!!!