Growing in the Greatness of God

Goldstone Church – 22-Mar-26 10:30am Ephesians 3:14-21

Introduction

The book of Ephesians has been described as, "*the Queen of the Epistles*". It clearly sets out the principal truths about Christianity, as well as giving practical advice about how to live as a Christian. It is a letter that was written by Apostle Paul to the church in Ephesus, in modern-day Turkey. What Paul says is a message for us individually, but for the church today.

The text at the centre of the letter (Ephesians 3:14-21) is phrased as a prayer. The words underline Pauls' driving concern and compassion for the churches in Ephesus.

> There are two prayers in the book of Ephesians.
> A prayer for Revelation (Ephesians 1:15-23), and a prayer for Vitality (Ephesians 3:14-21).

1. BE FEARFUL before the Sovereignty of God (Ephesians 3:14-15)

"*When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth.*" (Ephesians 3:14-15 NLT).

The phrase translated "*fall to my knees*" means to bow down with great reverence, respect, and spiritual fear. Paul is saying that, as we come to Almighty God, we need to come to Him humbly.

In Bible times, religious people usually stood to pray. It wasn't wrong, but that posture would often impact how the person would pray. Today, kneeling for prayer, or bowing our heads is usually seen in churches.

But whether we physically bend our knees, or bow our head, is not the real issue. The important thing is that we bow our hearts, and we bow our wills to God. Paul is calling us to come humbly before God.

When the doors of Goldstone Church close, it is not an ending, it is a sending.
Let us remember to always go out humbly and fearfully before Almighty God.

2. BE FILLED with the power of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 3:16-19)

"*I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.*" (Ephesians 3:16 NLT).

What we fill ourselves with will affect how we live our lives. It is the same spiritually.

Paul is speaking about strengthening ourselves through God's Spirit. He is focusing on having Jesus live in our hearts and lives. It's not just knowing about Jesus but having the fullness of God fill and impact every part of our personality.

Christianity is not about being religious, it's about relationship. It's about a personal, daily, moment-by-moment relationship, with a relational God. Christianity is not a ritual, or a list of practices, but an ongoing life-journey, interacting with a living God. As part of this relationship, the power of God's Holy Spirit fills our lives to overflowing. It is an ever-growing, deepening relationship, with an ever-loving God.

When the doors of Goldstone Church close, it is not an ending, it is a sending.
Let us remember that we are going out in the power of God who we worship fearfully.

3. BE FOCUSED on the greatness of God (Ephesians 3:20-21)

"*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*" (Ephesians 3:20-21 ESV).

In this doxology, Paul is pointing us to the greatness of God, saying, focus of this.

God is able to do above and beyond anything we ask – or even imagine. This is who God is. This is the greatness that we are called to focus upon.

When the doors of Goldstone Church close, it is not an ending, it is a sending.
Let us focus on the greatness of God, live in the power of God, the One who we worship fearfully.

CONCLUSION

Because God loves each one of us unconditionally, He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. Even though we don't deserve His love and compassion, Jesus paid the penalty that our sins deserve. He died on the cross for each one of us. In an outrageous expression of sacrificial love, through Jesus' death, our sins are forgiven, we are made right with God, and we have eternal life. All we need to do is, through faith, believe in what Jesus has done for us, and we receive the gift of new life.

Having received this gift of eternal life that comes from Jesus, let us go forward.

- Let us **Be Fearful** and humble before the majesty and sovereignty of Almighty God.
- Let our lives **Be Filled** to overflowing with the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Let us **Be Focused** on the greatness of God – the One who can do abundantly more than we can ask or imagine.

"*To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy –to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.*" (Jude 1:24-25 NIV).

AMEN