



## EPHESIANS 3:14-21 WEEK 3

ENGAGE YOUR SOUL (YOUR MIND, WILL AND EMOTIONS)

IN THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES THIS WEEK

Paul prayed this rich prayer over believers as an overflow of the Gospel found in Eph. 1-3. All month we'll work out our souls in this prayer, praying it over ourselves and those we love. Our focus for Week 3 will be verse 17a... His Presence.

### 1. Warm up... Copy & Display

READ Ephesians 3:14-21.

COPY Ephesians 3:14-21 onto an index card etc. so that you can display it in a place where you will see it often this week.

### 2. Praying the Prayer Every Day...

- Every day read Ephesians 3:14-21 out loud as a prayer over your life, inserting "I" "me" "my" etc. where appropriate.
- Every day read Ephesians 3:14-21 out loud as a prayer over someone else. Insert their name where appropriate.

*\*Pray for a new person each day, or pray for the same person each day. As a blessing, let him/her know you are praying. And, as you are now becoming more familiar with the themes in this prayer, stop at each theme and pray into it specifically for yourself and others.*

### 3. Home

In the NASB version, Ephesians 3:17a says *"so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith."* Another translation words it this way, *"and I pray that Christ may be more and more at home in your hearts."* The idea of dwelling and being at home is something we can all relate to. There are so many tangible and emotional benefits of being *"at home."* But have you ever thought about Christ feeling at home in you? Workout your soul in this thought by journaling about the following:

- Make a list of at least 10 tangible and emotional benefits of feeling *"at home."*
- Now apply your list to your inner man and the presence of Christ within you? Go through each one and ponder if Christ would feel and experience those things in you.
- Ask the Holy Spirit what you can do to make your life a place where Christ would feel *"at home."*

### 4. Through faith

If you have ever desired to move into a new dwelling place, you know you have to consider many things to basically answer the question, *"How am I going to make this space my home?"* In that regard, verse 17a reveals to us how we experience Christ's presence in our hearts. It happens through faith! The reality is, we may not always feel God's presence or even be able to see that He is with us. But the Bible clearly communicates that God desires to be near. And through faith we can experience His presence. The Bible also says that faith is built in our lives by the Word of God. So, look up the following verses in God's Word and strengthen your faith in His desire to be with you. Journal your thoughts about each one.

I John 4:16    Psalm 16:11    Revelation 21:3    Psalm 23:4    Exodus 33:14    Isaiah 57:15  
Psalm 139:7    Matthew 28:20    John 14:16

### 5. Benefits

Have you ever had someone really special stay in your home? As you prepared for them to be there, you were probably excited for all their presence would bring. When we consider the presence of God in our lives against the backdrop of Ephesians 3:20-21, we really can't even imagine all of the abundant benefits that come with His presence, but let's try.

- Ponder the benefits of Christ being dwelling within you.
- Make a list of at least 10 benefits that His presence brings.
- Write these benefits on the Coloring Sheet in the box marked "His Presence" and also color in the word *"abundantly"* as you consider these things.

6. Use the Scripture Prayer Image to pray into verse 17a and the presence of Christ within you. As you pray, you may want to play this song, "My Heart, Your Home" in the background. It's an old one, but so good!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=7hOSPxxylxk>