

Who Am I Part 11

EPHESIANS 3:10-19

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“His intent wasaccomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Eph. 3:10-11 (NIV)

4 spheres of influence for God's servants...

1. Grace given to **ME!** - **the personal**. If God's message doesn't impact me first I have no right sharing it.
2. to preach to the **Gentiles**. - You've got to have a **practical sphere** of influence, somebody that you're serving. You can say, “I want to serve Christ. I want to serve the world. I want everybody to know.” That's not practical. It's got to be “my office” or “my kids” or “the PTA at my school” or “the blind” or “You Can Hold Them”.
3. to make plain to **everyone**- **Universal**. There's another trap you can fall into. You can make it practical. You can say, for instance, “I believe God wants me to serve the poor, but if you're not careful pretty soon you'll think, “If everybody's not doing the same thing I'm doing there's something wrong with them.”
4. to make known to **heavenlies** – **powerful**. The powerful sphere, the sphere where you realize, both the good angels and the bad angels are seeing how God is loving us and how He's at work in our lives. The Bible tells us that we are privileged to know things that angels long to look into.

the manifold wisdom of God should be made known. Joseph had that many-colored tunic; God's many colored wisdom. It's like a stained glass window. God has chosen the church to be the light that's behind that stained glass window that reveals the beauty, the picture of His grace and wisdom to the world.

- **The “workplace” of God's servants is: The Church!** *“His intent was that now through the church...”*
- **God's servants approach Him with...** Eph. 3:12 (NIV) Freedom & Confidence
- **Servants place priority upon those whom they serve.**

“I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.” Eph. 3:13

My sufferings = your glory

“I pray that YOU will not lose heart.” Paul's greatest concern was not his struggles... but how those whom he was serving would respond to his troubles.

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.” Eph. 3:14-15 (NIV)

3 simple ways to empower your prayer

1. Pray with a **REASON**

The reason is found in the previous verse: Paul says, *“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father.”* *“I pray that you may not lose heart because of my sufferings for Christ.”* So what he's really praying for here is a stronger heart in our everyday lives, our everyday faith.

2. Pray with an **ATTITUDE**

Two attitudes are shown in kneeling: Humility and intensity.

Ephesians is filled with truths about our spiritual “posture.” Between SITTING with Christ in the heavenlies in chapters 1-3 and WALKING in Christ in Chapters 3-6 lies...**KNEELING**

3. Pray with a **FOCUS**

Focus on the Father Matt. 6:9 “our Father”

Family here actually is “fatherhood”: We can all trace our genealogy back to God.

HOW TO DEVELOP A CONFIDENT FAITH

Question... Where does power come from in our lives?

How do you develop confident Christianity?

Eph 3:16-17 *"I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His spirit in your inner being."* See the process. "Out of His [His] glorious riches." It's God's riches. *"through His Spirit [His Holy Spirit] strengthen you with power [where?] "in your inner being."*

1. Power comes from the INSIDE OUT ?

Look at the process that God uses to release His power in our lives:

- Out of His glorious riches
- Through His Spirit
- In your inner being

The "inner being" can see (Ps. 119:18), hear

(Matt. 13:9) and taste (Ps. 34:8); the inner being also must be exercised (1 Tim. 4:7-8), kept clean (Ps. 51:7) and fed (Matt. 4:4).

Paul's writing to Christians who already had the Holy Spirit and Jesus in their lives and yet he says, *"I pray that you'll recognize God's riches and through His Spirit develop this new kind of confidence in your inner being so that Christ can dwell in your hearts."*

- the word "dwell" that he uses is not talking about the first time that Jesus comes into your life. Greek words: the word for "down" and the word for "home".
- It's Jesus Christ being welcome in your life, feeling comfortable being a part of your life.

Eph. 3:17b-19 (NIV) *"I pray that you being rooted and established in love may have power together with all of the saints to **grasp** how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."*

2. Power comes from grasping how much GOD LOVES ME !

Getting a grip on God's love in your life:

- You are ALREADY rooted and established in love?

The more you understand how much God loves you, the more confident you're going to be in your life and in your faith.

Ephesians 3:21 *"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen."*

3. Power comes from giving GLORY to God.

- Glory in ME !
- Glory in the CHURCH !
- Glory in JESUS CHRIST !
- Glory throughout ALL generations!
- But Glory TO and TO GOD ALONE !