

Sermon Series: **Prayer Reformation** (This series is inspired by a message preached by Dr. D.A. Carson at Moody Pastors' Conference, Chicago, IL)

# Father, Empower Us

Ephesians 3:17-19

## “Grow Up!”

Are we all grown up? Does our personal maturity match our ages? Have we nurtured our minds and emotions? Have we cultivated our personalities? And are we socially grown up so that we can relate well with others? They are good questions: “How mature are we?” Perhaps the answer to that question depends somewhat on how spiritually mature we are.

To probe a little further: How old are you in Christ? Are you a one-year-old adult Christian in that you have been saved for a year? If you are, do you act like a one-year-old adult Christian? In other words, has some significant spiritual growth taken place in that year? Whatever your spiritual age, do you \_\_\_\_\_ your spiritual age?

If you are not spiritually acting your spiritual age, why not? Perhaps the greatest reason is because in some degree we have isolated ourselves from God's immeasurable \_\_\_\_\_. We want God and His love in our lives, but perhaps on our own terms. *Understand that God's love for us and our spiritual maturity interrelate one with the other.*

## The second request:

The prayer for power.

The purpose for power:

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ the love of Christ (18).

To really get it in your head and in your heart **how wide** and **how long** and **how high** and **how deep** is the love of Christ for you.

## 2. To \_\_\_\_\_ **the love of Christ (19a).**

To experientially and intimately know within the amazing love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.

## 3. To \_\_\_\_\_ **in the love of Christ (19b).**

“...that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.” That is a Pauline expression (i.e., an expression of Paul) for thorough \_\_\_\_\_ maturity. He’s praying that we will grow up fully. Paul used this expression often or something like it. A great example of this is found in 4:13.

Paul is saying back in 3:19, “If you do not have the power of God to grow in your appreciation of the width and length and height and depth of the love of God in Christ Jesus, if you do not grow in knowing this love that surpasses knowledge, then you are going to be perpetually \_\_\_\_\_.”

One of the necessary ingredients to spiritual maturity in Christ is basking in the lavish grace and goodness and love of Almighty God! And it’s sequential; it’s chronological: you need power to fully comprehend and appreciate this kind of unearthly love, and you need power to fully know in your head and in your heart that which surpasses worldly knowledge, \_\_\_\_\_ **you will grow to full maturity in your disciplined faith.**

### **The Passion of the Christ**

We will never be thoroughly spiritually mature, unless and until God, in answer to this incessant prayer, “gives us the power to begin to much better grasp how loved we are in Christ Jesus.” Until that “comprehension” becomes so overwhelming that we then begin “to know what surpasses knowledge.”

**The purpose for praying for supernatural power: to comprehend the love of God in Christ, and to know the love of Christ, so that we will \_\_\_\_\_ mature in that lavish love! Then you will be all grown up “to all the fullness of God”:**

**You will be all grown up in your \_\_\_\_\_.**

You will be fully renewed in your inner man, fully grown up in your personality.

**You will be all grown up in your \_\_\_\_\_.**

You will have understanding, insight, awareness and sensitivity from a totally heavenly perspective.

**You will be all grown up in your \_\_\_\_\_.**

They will no longer be earthly, temporal, fleshly and self-centered; but rather Jesus Christ will be given preeminence (first place).

**You will be all grown up in your \_\_\_\_\_.**

My life verse: 2 Corinthians 5:9 >> "For it is my ambition, whether at home (in heaven) or absent (on earth), to be pleasing to God."

**You will be all grown up in your \_\_\_\_\_.**

Because you understand how loved you are by God, you will passionately love God and others in return.

**You will be all grown up in your \_\_\_\_\_ ministry.**

You will then be able to say with Paul, "I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus" (Acts 20:24).

**You will be all grown up in your \_\_\_\_\_.**

You won't be on again, off again; you won't be on a spiritual rollercoaster ride. But rather there will be long obedience in the same direction. Your life will be marked by dependable, consistent, loyal love that flows from spiritual fullness within. You will have the God-given ability to be strong and steady in Christ no matter what, "immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."

It is a great prayer because to comprehend and know and grow in the love of Christ takes an enormous amount of power! So if you want to experience the purpose of this power, pray this prayer.

**“Rejoice that your names are written in heaven”  
(Luke 10:20).**