

---

**SERMON NOTES April 10, 2022**

---

**Today's notes also available at [CCPL.life/Connect](http://CCPL.life/Connect)**

---

**Ephesians 3:14-21  
Refocusing Our Prayer  
Pastor Mike**

I. Praying that we would \_\_\_\_\_ what we \_\_\_\_\_

a. Moving from \_\_\_\_\_ to really \_\_\_\_\_

b. We all \_\_\_\_\_ believe what we know

c. Growing in belief through \_\_\_\_\_

We need to \_\_\_\_\_ that God would give us \_\_\_\_\_

II. Changing our \_\_\_\_\_ to discover God's power

a. The importance of praise in \_\_\_\_\_

Key question; What is our \_\_\_\_\_

Do we see \_\_\_\_\_ through our \_\_\_\_\_, or our \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_

b. The importance of praise in \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ the primary focus of our prayers

ii. Changing focus from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

III. Finding God's \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. Chapters 1 through 3 of Ephesians gives us an incredible description of God's great love for us, and the overwhelming blessings we've been given as the result of our new identity as God's adopted children. But Paul's prayer in 3:14-21 implies that most, if not all of us struggle to really believe these things that God word teaches as true.
  - a. Do you struggle to believe the blessings and promises described in Ephesians 1-3? What are the aspects of your new identity, and the promises of God to you which you struggle the most to truly believe?
  - b. Why are these promises and truths so hard to believe? Why do you personally struggle to believe them?
2. In talking about the challenge we face in really believing what God says about how we are loved, Pastor Mike said the primary reason we struggle is that we are more certain in our failures and flaws than we are in God's power and promises. And one of the key reasons this is the case is that we are more focused on ourselves and our flaws then we are on God and his character.
  - a. Do you agree that a primary contributing factor to our struggle to believe God's teaching about our identity and worth is because we are more certain in our failures and flaws than we are in God's power and promises? Explain your answer.
  - b. Are our struggles to believe God's teaching always rooted in this? Why or why not?
  - c. How can we change this? How can we become more aware of and confident in God's power and promises, and less focused on our own failure and flaws?
3. Philippians 4:6 and other passages teach that when we pray for our needs, we should seek to surround our petition with praise and thanksgiving. When we don't, it is natural for our problems and concerns to be defining reality in our thinking, and even our prayers.
  - a. Have you found this to be the case in your own experience? Have there been times that you have prayed in a way that your problems were the primary focus, and you try to find God in your problems?
  - b. When you look back at your own experience, what can you learn about the importance of thanksgiving and praise when you come to God with your needs?
4. When we struggle to believe that we are loved by God, valuable to him, and when we doubt that the Bible's teaching that we are God's workmanship or masterpiece, "*created in Christ Jesus for good works,*" it's because we think our weakness and failures are more powerful than God's love and grace, and his power to use us.
  - a. Even when we pray to believe that God's love, can we be so focused on our problems, fears, failures, and flaws that our prayers keep us from seeing God? Explain your answer.
  - b. After praying that God would give us the strength to comprehend and believe how loved we are, Paul ends the prayer with a benediction of praise to God. Why is praise and thanksgiving an important part of learning to comprehend and believe in God's love for us?