



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

February 1, 2015

### **Dream Big. Pray Big**

*For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. —Ephesians 3:14-19*

Sometimes, we want the impossible. Maybe it's the brashness of youth. Maybe it's a life-long dream. It could be a goal or a calling, or our response to a challenge. But something in us longs for something more than what seems possible. And typically we end up dismissing the desire as a pipe dream.

But it's dreams like these that bring people to unexpected heights, upset the status quo, alter the course of lives and events, change the world. We as Christians live in a close relationship with the God for whom all things are possible. And Paul's great prayer in Ephesians 3 is not wishful idealism. God intends that we know His love. It has always been His purpose to reveal Himself to us, His people, and fill us with His love until we overflow.

Let Him do just that. Take time to reflect—to let Him reveal to you—how He has loved you. Look into His Word and look into your life and see all He has done for you and in you. In love, God ...

- Spoke the universe into existence and crafted it to perfection
- Shaped the mud of the earth into human form and breathed into it His life
- Gave us a choice to love and obey Him—or not
- Came looking for Adam and Eve when they hid from Him after their sin
- Provided animal skins to cover their naked bodies and their shame
- Removed the guilty pair from the garden so they would not live forever in sin
- Washed the entire world of its sin but spared one family out of grace
- Blessed Abraham with a family and chose his descendants as His own people
- Endured their rebellion for well over a thousand years
- Left the beauty and perfection of heaven to become human—like us
- Felt hunger and thirst, tiredness and fatigue, and knew every pang of sin and rejection
- Went through all the humiliations of growing up human—dependence, diapering, being fed, obeying when corrected, puberty and adolescence, going to school, learning a trade, being apprenticed to a carpenter, serving customers, paying taxes
- Brought help and healing to the needy
- Confronted the sneers of the self righteous and arrogant
- Said "Yes" to His Father's will and "No" to His own at the cost of His life
- Allowed Himself to be tried and found guilty by wicked men
- Received whippings, scourging, thorns piercing deep into His skull, slaps and mockings, having His beard pulled out and His body pierced
- Felt sharp nails press deep into His hands, then driven into and through them
- Forgave those who tortured and killed Him
- Knew rejection by His God and Father at His most vulnerable moment
- Died in our place and received the just penalty for our sin
- Provided eternal salvation to everyone who would come

