



Sermon Growth Guide

May 18, 2025

He is Able - Ephesians 3:14-21

Key Verse: Ephesians 3:16

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being."

Big Idea: He is Able

Foundations

Ephesus was a jewel among the cities of Asia. It was one of the largest and most famous cities in the ancient world. The Temple of Diana (Artemis in Greek), one of seven wonders of the ancient world, was located in Ephesus as was a small group of Jewish disciples who followed Jesus.

In Acts 19, the story of Paul's time in Ephesus is described in delightful details. It's a must read. Paul begins his time by teaching in the synagogue until Jewish dissidents, opposed to the teaching of Christ, cause him to move to a lecture hall where he continues to teach for two more years. According to Luke, Paul's teachings spread "so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia hear the word of the Lord." Masses of people turned away from the worship of idols and followed Jesus. So much so that the silver-smiths who made the idols of the goddess of Diana caused a riot. That's another story to read also in Acts.

Paul leaves Ephesus and travels a bit more but before heading to Jerusalem, where he risks imprisonment and hardship, he meets again with the elders of the church in Ephesus to encourage and share his love with them. It is believed that the letter Paul wrote, he wrote from prison.

This is the backdrop of the prayer Paul prays for the people of Ephesus. Paul experienced the power and the love of God. He understood the grace that makes the impossible possible, the unmeasurable and unimaginable seen. This prayer that he prays, he is praying throughout all generations. Paul prayed this prayer for us, for our church in CO Springs in 2025. Be encouraged. Be bold.

Understanding God's Word

Read Ephesians 3:14-21 together. Read it in the NIV. Then read it in the Message. What is the power of the Spirit that Paul speaks? Did he experience it his life? Do you experience it in yours? What does it mean to be rooted and established in love? In the Message, Eugene Peterson separates the end of verse 21 into a doxology. What stands out to you about his four last lines?

Applying God's Word

We are learning to pray again. God is able, so very, very able. What deeply matters to you? Tim asks us if our prayer would be answered would it change the world. Would they?. What deeply matters to you? Paul prays that we might "grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus." Lean in. Lean in to the one who is able to do more than we imagine, more than can measure. Pray boldly believing in God's great love for you. Choose to pray one outrageous prayer and share it with your group.

Witnessing God's Word

Listen for God's leading as you pray. Think back over your life and remember God's faithfulness. If you haven't yet signed up for the 40 Days of Prayer, consider it. Definitely mark your calendar for Pentecost Sunday, June 8, when we will encircle our church in prayer.