

Seeking The Fullness Of God - Zanga Schutte, May 26, 2024

Ephesians 3:16-21 NIV ¹⁶ *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, **to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,** ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the **fullness of God.** ²⁰ 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, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

Notes: **God's love is total.** It reaches every corner of our experience. **God's love is wide**—it covers the extent of our own experience, and it reaches out to the whole world. **God's love is long**—it extends throughout our lives and into eternity. **God's love is high**—it rises to the heights of our celebration and elation. **God's love is deep**—it reaches to the depths of discouragement, despair, and even death. **When you feel shut out or isolated,** remember that you can never be lost to **God's love.**

To be filled with the fullness of God is to be conscious of and yielded to God's:

1. Presence, 2. Strength, 3. Care for others, 4. Spiritual Authority, 5. Moral Excellence 6. Character (holiness, righteousness, love).

1. God's Presence Isaiah 41:10 NIV *So **do not fear,** for I am with you; **do not be dismayed,** for I am your God. I will **strengthen** you and **help** you; I will **uphold** you with my righteous right hand.*

Exodus 33:14 NIV *The Lord replied, "**My Presence will go with you,** and I will give you **rest.**"*

2. God's Strength Psalms 73:26 NIV *My flesh and my heart may fail, but **God is the strength of my heart** and my portion forever.*

Psalms 28:7 NIV *The Lord is **my strength** and **my shield;** my **heart trusts in him,** and **he helps me.** My heart leaps for joy, and with **my song I praise him.***

3. God's Care For Others 1 Peter 5:6-7 NIV ⁶ **Humble yourselves,** therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time ⁷ **Cast all your anxiety** on him because **he cares for you.**
Isaiah 46:4 NIV *Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will **sustain you.** I have made you and **I will carry you;** I will **sustain you and I will rescue you.***

4. Spiritual Authority John 16:13 NIV *But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, **he will guide you into all the truth.** He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and **he will tell you what is yet to come.***

Luke 10:19 NIV *I have given you **authority** to trample on snakes and scorpions and to **overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.***

Ephesians 6:12-14a NIV ¹² *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but **against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.** ¹³ Therefore put on the **full armor of God,** so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand your ground,** and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then . . .*

5. Moral Excellence 2 Peter 1:3 NIV *His divine power has given us **everything** we need for a godly life through our **knowledge** of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.*

2 Peter 1:5-7 NIV ⁵ *For this very reason, make every effort to **add to your faith goodness**; and to goodness, **knowledge**; ⁶ and to knowledge, **self-control**; and to self-control, **perseverance**; and to perseverance, **godliness**; ⁷ and to godliness, **mutual affection**; and to mutual affection, **love**.*

6. Godly Character Philippians 2:3-5 NIV ³ *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves* ⁴ *not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.* ⁵ *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

Notes:

Some Characteristics of Godly Character include:

- **Respect for God's word:** Living life with deep respect for and obedience to God's word
- **Trust in God:** Trusting God completely and surrendering to his will and leadership
- **Endurance:** The ability to withstand prolonged hardship or adversity
- **Free Will:** The freedom to decide without undue pressure whether to embrace or reject a particular course of action
- **Unselfishness:** Being happy to give time, money, food, or kindness to people
- **Self-sacrifice:** Being willing to sacrifice your own needs and comfort for the good of another