

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2025**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES—
EPHESIANS**

Message Eight

**Being Strengthened into the Inner Man
That Christ May Make His Home in Our Hearts**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 3:16-19

Eph. 3:16-19—That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, ¹⁷That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are ¹⁹And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

I. “He [the Father] would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man”—Eph. 3:16:

A. The outer man consists of the body as its organ with the soul as its life and person—2 Cor. 4:16.

2 Cor. 4:16—Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner *man* is being renewed day by day.

B. The inner man consists of the regenerated spirit as its life and person with the renewed soul as its organ.

C. The life of the soul must be denied (Matt. 16:24-25), but the faculties of the soul—the mind, will, and emotion—must be renewed and uplifted by being subdued (2 Cor. 10:4-5) so that they can be used by the spirit, the person of the inner man.

Matt. 16:24-25—Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.

2 Cor. 10:4-5—For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful before God for the overthrowing of strongholds, ⁵As we overthrow reasonings and every high thing rising up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought unto the obedience of Christ.

II. “That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith”—Eph. 3:17a:

A. In order to experience Christ in a subjective way, we need to be strengthened with power into the inner man—v. 16:

Eph. 3:16—That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

1. The inner man is our regenerated spirit with God's life as its life.
2. We need to be strengthened into the inner man with the power that raised Christ from the dead, that seated Him in the heavenlies, that subjected all things under His feet, and that gave Him to be Head over all things to the church—1:19-22.

Eph. 1:19-22—And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength, ²⁰Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies, ²¹Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come; ²²And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,

3. The more we are strengthened into the inner man, the more the parts of our inner being are brought back into the spirit, into our inner man.
- B. To experience Christ we need faith and love (1 Tim. 1:14); faith enables us to apprehend Christ, and love enables us to enjoy Him.

1 Tim. 1:14—And the grace of our Lord superabounded with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

- C. Paul prayed that we would be strengthened into the inner man with the result that Christ could make His home in our hearts and thereby occupy, possess, permeate, and saturate our whole inner being with Himself—Eph. 3:17a:

Eph. 3:17—That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

1. Since our heart is the totality of our inward parts, the center of our inward being, and our representative with regard to our inclination, affection, delight, and desire, when Christ makes His home in our hearts, He controls our entire inward being and supplies and strengthens every inward part with Himself—v. 17.

Eph. 3:17—That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

2. The more Christ spreads within us, the more He settles down in us and makes His home in us, occupying every part of our inner being, possessing all these parts and saturating them with Himself.
3. In order for the revelation in Ephesians 2 concerning the new man to be practical in our daily life, we need to let Christ make His home in our hearts.
4. For Christ to make His home in our hearts means that He is transmitted into us in a full way—1:22-23.

Eph. 1:22-23—And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, ²³Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

- D. When Christ spreads into our hearts, He becomes our person—3:17a:

Eph. 3:17—That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

1. We need to take Christ not only as life in our spirit but also as the person in our heart.
2. The only way for Christ to be our person is for Him to make His home in our hearts.
3. If we take Christ as our person, allowing Him to spread into our hearts, the person living in our hearts will not be the self but Christ—Gal. 2:20.

Gal. 2:20—I am crucified with Christ; and *it is* no longer I *who* live, but *it is* Christ *who* lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the *faith* of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

- E. The Christ who is making His home in our hearts is an unlimited, immeasurable Christ—Eph. 3:18b:

Eph. 3:18—May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are

1. As Christ makes His home in our hearts, we apprehend with all the saints the breadth, the length, the height, and the depth; these are the dimensions of the universe, the dimensions of the immeasurable Christ.
2. Although Christ is immeasurable, He is nevertheless making His home in our hearts.
3. Christ is the universal cube, and our experience of Him in the Body must be “cubical,” three-dimensional.

- F. When Christ makes His home in our hearts, we will be filled unto all the fullness of God—v. 19:

Eph. 3:19—And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

1. The fullness of God is the Body of Christ as the expression of the Triune God to the uttermost, the ultimate consummation of the corporate expression of the Triune God.
2. The Body of Christ is the unlimited expression of the unlimited Christ.
3. If we let Christ make His home in our hearts, we will be filled with the Triune God to such an extent that we will become His full expression.

- G. The genuine church life is the issue of the unlimited and immeasurable Christ personally making His home in our hearts—v. 18a:

Eph. 3:18—May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are

1. The content of the church is the Christ whom we take as our person, the Christ who is wrought into our being.
2. If we would have the reality of the Body of Christ, we must allow Christ to make His home in our hearts.
3. In order for Christ’s word in Matthew 16:18 concerning the building up of the church to be fulfilled, the church must enter into a state in which many saints allow Christ to make His home in their hearts, possessing, occupying, and saturating their entire inner being.

Matt. 16:18—And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

4. The more Christ occupies our inner being, the more we will be able to be built up with others in the Body—Eph. 2:21-22; 4:16.

Eph. 2:21-22—In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

Eph. 4:16—Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

- H. Our heart is composed of all the parts of the soul—mind, emotion, and will—plus our conscience, the main part of our spirit—Rom. 10:1, 9-10:

Rom. 10:1—Brothers, the good pleasure of my heart and my petition to God for them is for *their* salvation.

Rom. 10:9-10—That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰For with the heart there is believing unto righteousness, and with the mouth there is confession unto salvation.

1. These parts are the inward parts of our being.
2. Through regeneration Christ came into our spirit—2 Tim. 4:22.
2 Tim. 4:22—The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

3. After this, we should allow Him to spread into every part of our heart.

- I. Christ is making His home in our hearts through faith—Eph. 3:17a:

Eph. 3:17—That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

1. Faith is the substantiation of things not seen—Heb. 11:1.
Heb. 11:1—Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
2. Christ's indwelling is mysterious and abstract.
3. We apprehend it not by our physical sense but by the sense of faith.