
The Fullness of God's Love (The Power To Fill Every Empty Place)

Rooted & Grounded In Love

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Sermon: Rooted & Grounded In Love: The Fullness of God's Love (The Power To Fill Every Empty Place)

Lesson Text

Ephesians 3:17–19 (KJV)¹⁷ That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; ¹⁹ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Introduction

Let's now continue our spiritual journey of the Apostle Paul's prayer that we be rooted and grounded in love!

So far, we've discovered that we must first develop our roots in order to sustain our fruit. Then we learned that we must be grounded to withstand the thunder and lightning storms of life.

Last week we discovered that God's love is beyond measure because he reaches us, remains with us, rescues us, and raises us.

But Paul isn't finished praying yet. He doesn't simply pray that we understand God's love. He doesn't simply pray that we appreciate God's love. He prays that we might be filled with the fulness of God's love!

How many of you have ever felt an emptiness in your life? Perhaps you've felt a spiritual emptiness, relationship emptiness, or emotional emptiness. Or maybe there is an emptiness concerning your purpose, destiny, or calling.

Most people spend their lives trying to fill these empty places inside them. Some try to fill that emptiness with success, money, relationships, accomplishments, possessions, entertainment, or pleasure. Yet no matter how much they accumulate, something still feels incomplete because there is an emptiness that only God can fill.

But the fullness of God is not about getting a little more of God's love, but that every empty place in our lives becomes filled and occupied by God's love.

Many believers have accepted Christ, but they're still living spiritually half-full. Saved but still empty. Forgiven but still frustrated. Redeemed but still depleted.

The good news is that God's love doesn't simply comfort us—it fills us. His desire is not merely to visit our lives occasionally but to completely occupy every area of our hearts until there is no room left for fear, insecurity, bitterness, shame, or unbelief.

Today we'll discover that God's love is not simply meant to surround us...It is meant to fill every empty place within us.

Series and Sermon: Rooted & Grounded In Love: The Fullness of God's Love (The Power To Fill Every Empty Place)

(Overcoming Emptiness, Overpowering Emptiness, Overflowing Emptiness)

I. The Presence of God's Fullness (*Overcoming Emptiness*)

Ephesians 3: ¹⁹ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

The first thing we must do is overcome our emptiness with the presence of God's love.

Many believers treat God like an occasional visitor. We invite Him on Sunday morning. We acknowledge Him during emergencies. We seek Him when life falls apart.

But God never intended to be a weekend guest. He desires to dwell within us continually.

Ephesians 3: ¹⁷ That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

The word *dwell* here means to settle down and make Himself at home. God isn't looking for a hotel room. He's looking for permanent residence.

When God's presence fills us, fear loses its grip, anxiety loses its voice, bitterness loses its hold, sin loses its attraction.

Wherever God fully occupies us, darkness must leave.

John 1: ⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Darkness has two problems with light—it cannot understand it, and it cannot overcome it.

When the Light of Christ enters a room, darkness has no choice but to leave. Darkness never defeats light; light always defeats darkness."

John 14: ²³ Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**

His peace begins replacing our anxiety. His joy begins replacing our discouragement. His love begins replacing our bitterness. His truth begins replacing our confusion. And darkness can no longer remain.

When Israel was going through the wilderness, God declared to Moses, Exodus 33:14 (KJV)¹⁴ And he said, My presence shall go *with thee*, and I will give thee rest.

When God fills our heart with the presence of his love, there is no room left for the empty things that once controlled our life.

II. The Power of God's Fullness (*Overpowering Emptiness*)

Ephesians 3: ¹⁹ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

The next thing we must do is overpower our emptiness with the power of God's love.

Most people, including believers, tend to rely on their own strength to deal with emptiness.

We have been raised or taught to be rugged individualists, pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps, I don't need a woman or a man, I can take care of myself, I can do bad all by myself.

Zechariah 4: ⁶ Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

"Not by might..." – The Hebrew word for might refers to human resources: military strength, armies, or collective help. "If I only had more money, more volunteers, more help, ...!"

"Nor by power..." – This word speaks of individual strength, ability, talent, skill, or personal effort. – "If I was stronger, more talented, more capable, more educated ...!"

God isn't saying human effort has no value, he's saying that human effort alone can never accomplish what God's supernatural power can accomplish.

"But by my Spirit..." – Some things your money can't do, your influence can't do, your charisma can do, your experience can't do. Only the Holy Spirit can do them.

We can imitate holiness, but we cannot sustain our emptiness without God's power.

We can manufacture discipline, but you cannot transform our emptiness with God's power.

A glove can be used to pick up a pot of hot water, but by itself it can do nothing. But once your hand fills the empty glove, it suddenly has strength. But the power isn't in the glove, the power is in what fills the glove.

Luke 10: ¹⁹ Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Acts 1: ⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

God's love gives us the power to fill our emptiness. It filled Moses, it filled Joshua, It filled Solomon's Temple, it filled the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.

It fills our fear with courage, it fills our ...

God never asks empty people to fulfill his will, he fills our emptiness with his power to fulfill it.

III. The Purpose of God's Fullness (*Overflowing Emptiness*)

Ephesians 3: ¹⁹ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

In order to deal with emptiness,

- First we need the Presence of God's love to overcome emptiness.

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- Next we need the Power of God's love to overpower emptiness.
- Finally we need the Purpose of God's love to overflow emptiness.

God never fills anything just so it can remain full. He fills it with the purpose of overflow!

John 7: ³⁸ **He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**

The river doesn't stop with you. it flows through you. The reason we call "The Dead Sea" a dead sea is because water doesn't flow through it; it has no outlet. Therefore, everything in it eventually dies.

Many believers become spiritually stagnant because they receive but never release.

But the purpose for God filling us is so that his Love would flow through us to bless others.

Galatians 5: ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

He fills us with love to overflow hate. He fills us with joy to overflow depression. He fills us with people to overflow trouble. He fills us with longsuffering to overflow impatience. He fills us with gentleness to overflow cruelty. He fills us with goodness to overflow evil. He fills us with faithfulness to overflow disloyalty. He fills us with meekness to overflow arrogance. He fills us with temperance to overflow troubled mind.

Psalms 23: ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Ephesians 5: ¹⁸ And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

We must not just be occasionally filled, we must be continually filled. Filled everyday, filled every season, filled every circumstance, and filled for every situation.

God fills us inwardly so we can influence others outwardly.

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Fullness of God's Love (The Power To Fill Every Empty Place))

Lesson Text

- Ephesians 3:17–19

Sermon Outline

- I. The Presence of God's Fullness (Overcoming Emptiness)*
- II. The Power of God's Fullness (Overpowering Emptiness)*
- III. The Purpose of God's Fullness (Overflowing Emptiness)*

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting To Know “Me”

1. If your life were a garden, what would people say you're really good at growing... flowers, vegetables, friendships, opportunities, laughter, or something else?
2. Do you consider yourself more of a “put down roots” person who loves familiarity, or someone who enjoys new places and new adventures? Why?

II. Into The Bible

1. Read 1 John 1:7. According to this verse: a) What does “living in the light” mean? And, b) What does the light produce in our relationships with one another?
2. According to Psalm 23:5, the Great Shepherd fills our cups to overflowing. Discuss what is in the cup and what is the purpose of it running over?

III. Life Application

1. In what ways can you let God fill you so that fear and panic will leave?
2. Is there any specific area in your life where you are trying to fix things yourself because you do not trust God's timing? How can you surrender control in that area?