Praying Big Prayers

FCC Life Group Discussion Notes
Part 2. In the "Bold Prayer" Series of Matthew Rogers
Matthew Rogers Preaching
11-08-26

Opening Prayer

- Ask God to open our hearts to pray in ways that match His greatness rather than our own limited view of what is possible.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would show each of us where we need His supernatural strength and presence in our daily lives.

Ice Breaker

What is one "big" thing you have ever asked for (from a person, not necessarily God) that you still remember because it felt almost too bold or unlikely at the time?

Key Scripture

Ephesians 3:20 (NIV) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*
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,

Sermon Summary

The sermon challenges us to examine whether our prayers are mostly limited to things we can already imagine or accomplish ourselves. Drawing from Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3, it encourages praying big prayers—asking God for what only He can do, for more of His presence and love than we have ever experienced, and for His glory to be revealed through answers that exceed our expectations.

Discussion Point 1: Praying for What Only God Can Do

Scripture: Ephesians 3:16-17 (NIV) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*
I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

Point Summary: Paul does not first ask God to change the difficult circumstances around the Ephesian believers. Instead he asks God to strengthen them with supernatural power on the inside so that Christ would be increasingly at home in every part of their lives. The sermon illustrated this with real stories of people who prayed for a situation to change and discovered God changed them instead.

Discussion Questions:

1. Think about a current challenge in your life. How does the idea of praying first for God to strengthen you on the inside (rather than immediately remove the problem) sit with you?
2. In what area of your life might you be inviting Jesus in only partially? What would it look like this week to pray that He would be more fully at home there?

Discussion Point 2: Praying for More of God Than We Have Ever Experienced

Scripture: Ephesians 3:17b-19 (NIV) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*
And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 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, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Point Summary: Paul prays that believers would experience the love of Christ in ways that go beyond full human understanding and that they would be filled with the fullness of God. The sermon notes that we love, forgive, and live differently not primarily by trying harder, but by knowing more deeply how much we have been loved.

Discussion Questions:

1. When you think about the love of Christ, what aspect of it feels hardest to grasp right now?
2. How might your relationships or daily choices look different if you experienced more of God's presence and character than you currently do?

Discussion Point 3: Praying for God's Glory to Be Revealed Through Us

Scripture: Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*
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, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Point Summary: Paul's prayer ends with the confidence that God is able to do far more than we ask or imagine, and that the ultimate purpose is His glory. The sermon emphasizes that big prayers are not about getting God to fulfill our agenda, but about asking Him to accomplish His purposes in ways that only He can take credit for—whether in a family member's heart, a broken relationship, or our community.

Discussion Questions:

1. If God answered a particular prayer you have been carrying, how would it bring glory to Him rather than simply making your life easier?
2. What is one area (a person, a situation, or our church) where you could begin praying for something that would clearly require God to act?

Wrap-Up

Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3 shows us what it looks like to pray big: asking God for inner strength that only He can give, for a deeper experience of Christ's love, and for outcomes that display His glory. When we pray this way, our prayers begin to reflect the greatness of the God we say we believe in.

Challenge

This week, write one bold prayer on a tag for the Bold Prayer wall (or in a private notebook if you are not at the church building). Ask God for something so beyond your ability that if He answers, there will be no doubt He did it. Then hang the tag or place the paper somewhere you will see it as a reminder to keep trusting Him with it.

Closing Prayer

- Thank God that He is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine.
- Pray for courage to keep bringing Him the big requests we have written down this week.
- Ask that our lives and our church would increasingly reflect His glory as we learn to pray boldly.

Handout

Praying Big Prayers – Personal Reflection

Name (optional): _____

1. What percentage of your prayers last week were for things so big that only God could do them?
   ☐ Almost none ☐ A few ☐ Some ☐ Many
2. One area where I tend to pray only for what feels "possible":

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3. Rewrite that prayer as a bigger prayer (for what only God can do inside me or for His glory):

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4. A person or situation I will pray for this week in a way that would bring God glory if He answers:

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5. One step I will take to keep this prayer before God (e.g., hang a tag on the Bold Prayer wall, set a daily reminder, share it with a group member):

Sources used:

- Sermon transcript provided: "Praying Big Prayers," First Christian Church (FCC), Warsaw, IN (Bold Prayer series; includes references to the Bold Prayer wall and "God Is Able" initiative).
- Scripture quotations taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version (NIV), as quoted and referenced in the sermon (Ephesians 3:14-21).