

A Prayer for Wisdom

Ephesians 3:14-19 (NIV) ¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 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 saints, 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.

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV) 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.

- **Day One**

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.

Pray. Reflect on, and ask God to show you, how Christ dwelling in your heart strengthens your inner being.

- **Day Two**

¹⁷ And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge.

Pray. Reflect on, and ask God to help you see, the ways He is loving you that you fail to observe.

- **Day Three**

[I pray] ¹⁹ that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Pray. Reflect on, and ask God to show you, areas of your life that still need to be “filled” with the fullness of God.

Manifold Wisdom

Immeasurably More #3 • Ephesians 3

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV) 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.

Ephesians 3:10-11 (NIV) ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. The Creator: God

God who created all things

The manifold wisdom

πολυποίκιλος | polypoikilos | much variegated, variety of colors

πολύς | polys | many, much, large
polygamy, polygon, California Polytechnic University

ποικίλος | poikilos | variegated, various sorts

σοφία | sophia | knowledge of diverse matters

Ephesians 1:5-6 (NIV) ⁵ he predestined us... ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace

Ephesians 1:11-12 (NIV) ¹¹ In him we were also chosen... ¹² for the praise of his glory

2. The Script: The Unfolding Drama

The manifold wisdom of God

Ephesians 3:9 (NIV) ⁹ ... this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God... Ephesians 1:8-9

Made known to Paul (3:3) | Made known to men (3:5)
 Made known to rulers and authorities in heavenly realms (3:10)

THE UNFOLDING DRAMA OF REDEMPTION

Prologue	Act 1	Interlude	Act 2	Epilogue
The Redeeming Purpose				
Revelation	Progression			Consummation
Genesis 1:1 to Genesis 11:9	Genesis 11:10 to Malachi 4:6	Malachi to Matthew	Matthew to Jude	The Revelation

William Graham Scroggie, *The Unfolding Drama of Redemption*
 (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1970), p 36

3. The Cast: The Church

Through the church

Ephesians 3:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known...

Ephesians 3:6 (NIV) ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

4. The Audience: The Angels

...to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms

Ephesians 3:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms...

... who has blessed us in the heavenly realms (1:3)
 ... seated us with him in the heavenly realms (2:6)

Angelic observers:

1Peter 1:10-12 (NIV) ¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets... searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹² ... Even angels long to look into these things.

1Corinthians 4:9 (NIV) ⁹ For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle [θέατρον, theatron] to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men. 1Corinthians 11:10

Job 1:8 (NIV) ⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

Angelic participants:

Hebrews 1:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

Ephesians 2:1-2 (NIV) ¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Ephesians 6:11-12 (NIV) ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 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.

Angelic celebration:

Luke 15:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ "In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."