

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

How Do You Approach God with Confidence?

Ephesians 3:12-19

¹ How do you approach God with confidence? Let's find out. ²

Our scripture today is from Ephesians, chapter 3, verses 12 through 19. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory. For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 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. ¹ ³

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, 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. ²

¹ Ephesians 3:12-17.

² Ephesians 3: 17-19.

How many of you have been asked by non-Christians to pray for them? Have you thought, "Why are they asking me"? It's because they instinctively know that, as a believer, you have access to God that they don't have. ⁴

Hebrews, chapter 4, verse 16 says, **Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence . . .** How can you approach God's throne with confidence? ⁵

Verse 12 ³ tells us we can have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. ⁶ So, what do you need to know to make it easier to approach God with confidence? First . . . ⁷

³ Ephesians 3:12 - In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

I. An Understanding of the Fatherhood of God - v14-15

An understanding of the fatherhood of God. ⁴ ⁸

**The Book of Ephesians shows us different aspects of
God's fatherhood. ⁹**

**In chapter 1, verses 2 and 3, ⁵ chapter 1, verse 17 ⁶ and
chapter 6, verse 23, ⁷ God is shown as the father of
Jesus.**

**When Ephesians was first read in Ephesus everyone
understood the idea of God being the father of a
human being. ¹⁰**

**In the pagan religious background of the Christians
from a non-Jewish heritage, some of the gods of the
Greek and Roman polytheistic religions had sexual**

⁴ v14-15 - For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

⁵ Ephesians 1:2-3 - Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁶ Ephesians 1:17 - I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation.

⁷ Ephesians 6:23 - Peace to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

intercourse with human women. The Greek god Zeus was called “the father of gods and men”. The meaning of the word for the Roman god Jupiter was “God the father”. ¹¹

But this was only in the sense of producing people as offspring. The offspring of these relationships were humans with god-like powers. But they were usually forgotten by the gods that sired them.

Incidentally, you can sire children but never be a father to them. I never knew my biological father. The person I considered dad was the person who raised me, cared for me, loved me and gave me a good example of how to live my life! ¹²

In John, chapter 14, verses 8 through 11, ⁸ Lord Jesus is pictured as the carbon copy of His Father! So, you

⁸ John 14:8-11 - Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father . . . Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? . . . it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

can know who Almighty God is by discovering what Lord Jesus was like! ¹³

In chapter 2, verse 18 ⁹ and chapter 3, verse 12, ¹⁰ God is shown as the Father we all have access to. ¹⁴

However, in the Old Testament God was unapproachable. Only one time each year, on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), could He be approached. At that time, only the high priest was allowed when he presented the blood offering for the sins of his people.

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In fact, the Bible says, if anyone saw God they would die. ¹¹ ¹⁶ However, because of your relationship with Lord Jesus, you now have unrestricted access to God through prayer! ¹⁷

⁹ Ephesians 2:18 - For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁰ Ephesians 3:12 - In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

¹¹ Exodus 33:20-23 - But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

Now, verses 14 and 15, **For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name**. God becomes the pattern for all true fatherhood! ¹⁸ In fact, literally, in the original language, this verse says **For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom whose fatherhood all heavenly and earthly fatherhood is a copy**. Isn't that fabulous! ¹⁹ You ought to be able to approach your Heavenly Father with the same confidence you approach your earthly dad! ²⁰

Approaching God's throne with confidence is enhanced as you pattern your relationship to your children after His relationship with you! ²¹

The second thing you need to know to make it easier to approach God with confidence is . . .

II. An Understanding of the Strengthening of Christ - v16-17

An understanding of the strengthening of Christ. ¹² ₂₂

In verse 16, it says, 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. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love . . . Psalm, chapter 28, verse 7, also says, The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. What kind of strength is it? ₂₃

The word “power” ¹³ in the original language, means “explosive”. It’s where we get our English word “dynamite”. ₂₄ When you use dynamite you rearrange the scenery! God’s Holy Spirit can provide you with the power to rearrange things in your life! ₂₅

¹² v16-17 - 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. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love

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¹³ δύναμις.

In verse 16, what's this **inner being**? It's the center of your reason, conscience and will! ²⁶

Your **reason** is a change in your loyalty. It's shown in your faith. ²⁷

Your **conscience** is a change in your desire. It's shown in your repentance. ²⁸

Your **will** is a change in your actions, your direction in life. It's demonstrated in the ceremony of Christian baptism. ²⁹

So, in verse 17 ¹⁴ approaching God's throne with confidence is enhanced as you allow the Lord to dwell in your heart more fully! ³⁰

The final thing you need to know to make it easier to approach God with confidence is . . .

¹⁴ v17 - . . . so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

III. An Understanding of the Love of Christ - v18-19

An understanding of the love of Christ. ³¹

What are the dimensions of God's love? Verse 18 states . . . may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ . . . ³²

This is also emphasized in Romans, chapter 8, verses 38 and 39, For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³³

Look at **love's broadness. It includes everyone! The Jews thought it only included them. ³⁴**

Look at **love's length. God became a man and lived a perfect life as an example for you. ³⁵**

Look at **love's depth**. Lord Jesus went to the cross and died there to redeem you. ³⁶

Look at **love's height**. Lord Jesus now makes intercession for you in heaven. ³⁷

Where is that love to be demonstrated today? ³⁸

In verse 19 ¹⁵ the word **know**, ¹⁶ in the original language, means to “know by experience”. The other word translated “know” in the New Testament, means to know by observation. This is more of the hands-on knowledge; the experience kind. You experience this love when you surrender your life to the Lord and He forgives you of all your sins! ³⁹

Then, in verse 18 ¹⁷ we can find where this type of love can be found; **together with all the saints!** The church, with all its problems, inconsistencies and diversions,

¹⁵ v19 - . . . and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

¹⁶ γινώσκω.

¹⁷ v18 - . . . may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ . . .

is still the place you will find God's love expressed in this old world! 40

Approaching God's throne with confidence is enhanced as you pass on the love of Christ to others!

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So, how do you approach God with confidence? Know and be a godly father. Allow Lord Jesus to dwell in your heart more fully. Pass on the love of Christ to others.

Then, pray with confidence!

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