Intro: 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The Two key verses in Ephesians are 2:8, 9 and 5:1.

• If you ever need to pray for the church, use these seven requests that have been inspired by the Holy Spirit Himself to pray for. This is the second part of the list:

I. Pray that God will open our eyes of understanding – 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

a. Open our eyes to understand Christian life better

• We have been fed a bill of lies on how Christians should believe, and the church has done nothing to correct those lies. We don’t hate homosexuals, we are not child rapists, and yes, we do sin. As Christians we need to better understand how the world see us.

°27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” John 20:27-29

b. Open our eyes to understand the fruit of the Spirit

• The power of the fruit of the Spirit is so amazing for the Christian. I have a separate study of lessons on this if you would like a copy, see the church office. It took a piece of fruit to bring damnation to mankind and it will take the fruit of the Spirit to help us overcome that horrible sin.

° 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

c. Open our eyes to understand the word of God

• It is the spiritual blindness of a Christian that does them the most damage. We no longer see sin as a problem. We criticize the other Christians for living a more righteous life than ourselves. We undermine the church of God and glorify sin pig-pen pits – Sin city is just one example. We laugh at righteousness and give into debauchery too easily. Let’s pray that God will open our eyes to His understanding more.

° 18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’ Acts 26:18

II. Pray that we may know deeper the love of Christ – 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

a. This type of love surpasses all knowledge

• The very first fruit of the Spirit is love “agape”. Our prayer for the church should include asking Christ for a deeper knowledge of his love for us and the world. We may not always understand it, but we should at least have a basic knowledge of God’s love.

° 16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. 2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17

b. This type of love is a total commitment

• When I read this, I see the apostle Paul urging the Ephesian church to stay committed, and strong in the Lord. These are words of commitment not despair.

° 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. Matthew 24:13

c. This is the purest kind of love you can give

• Loving those who hate you. Loving those who have caused you pain, is a type of love that surpasses all knowledge. Having a loving commitment with the Lord for a lifetime is having a deep love of Him. And a love that is genuine and true is something only God’s children can explain. It truly is joy unspeakable and full of glory.

° 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. Romans 5:8, 9

III. Pray that the fullness of God be revealed – 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

a. The fullness of the Triune God

• To say that the Trinity does not exist, has not read the bible well enough to know that Christ Himself established the Trinity doctrine when he was here on earth. He spoke of the Father, He spoke of Himself, and He spoke of the Holy Spirit. You can’t get much plainer than that. Christ did not replace the Trinity, but He in his body had the fullness of the Triune God.

° 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity (Godhead) dwells bodily, Colossians 2:9

b. The fullness of His Church

• There is one doctrine we fail to mention as being a part of the Christian foundation and that is the Church. You are not member of Christ’s Church until you are born again. That is the only requirement for membership.

° 31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied. Acts 9:31

c. The fullness of Christ’s return

• There are so many different things we can put in here, that would be biblically sound. But I believe you get the point.

° 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Philippians 2:2

IV. Pray for God to encourage our church – 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

a. God’s ability to do anything is limitless

• The question is not for some Christian “God is not able” they have settled that but what we ask now “Why is not God doing . . .”? And the answer to this He is sovereign in all His ways, he knows exactly what He is doing. The question to us is, why are we not trusting Him?

° 10 They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Revelation 6:10

b. He uses his power

• Today’s church has lost its power, and we don’t demonstrated the glory of the Lord like we used to.

There were in times past preachers that can preach the power down and God’s presence would fill the church for hours. Now we are lucky to get anyone into the church. We have replaced the church with Facebook, twitter, and Instagram. We are lucky to get a powerful message anymore. But we sure know how use the text message on our phone.

° 1 As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. 2 Chronicles 7:1

c. His glory should began in His Church

• The first time God’s presence was revealed to Isaiah was in the temple and the bible says that God’s presence was high and lifted up. When was the last time God’s presence was high and lifted up in your church. Is God’s glory filling your church, is His presence ever before you daily, can you say that the Lord is high and lifted up before all your responsibilities.

° 1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Isaiah 6:1