

## Plugged into Power- Ephesians 3:13-19

Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3 starts off in vs 13 with "*Therefore, I ask you not to lose heart...*" (the NIV says "not to be discouraged")

There is a lot today to lose heart over. It might be a financial situation, a relationship, a health concern, loss of a job, or even the daily news. Paul must have heard many similar accounts from God's people, which led to his heartfelt prayer in the following verses of Ephesians 3 vs. 14-19. He says, "*For this reason I kneel before the Father. I pray that according to his glorious riches he may strengthen you with **power** through His Spirit in your **inner** being....And I pray that you...may have **power**...to grasp how wide and long and deep is the love of Christ...so that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*"

Paul is praying for power. Power to no longer allow your circumstances to own you ...the power to deal with a discouraging situation. He is saying that the answer is not on the outside. It's not found in changing the situation. Paul is saying the power to not give into losing heart or discouragement is based on the Spirit's work **within** you.

Have you ever picked up your cellphone only to notice there is no power left in it? It powers down and now you can't access your contacts or even dial 911. Nothing can happen because there is an absence of power. When this happens do you scream at your phone...do you push on the screen even harder... or plead with it... or give it a good shake? Still nothing changes. Nothing will make it come on---except simply plugging it in!...so that the internal battery would be re-charged.

Many of us are losing heart in our physical, tangible lives ...making ourselves more frustrated by trying to change external situations when there has been no adjustment on the internal connection. Then we wonder why there is no power and nothing seems to be happening.

So how is your connection to power...God's power? Are you truly receiving all the power God intends for you...through worship, Bible study, and prayer? How might your life be different if you plugged into experiencing God's full measure of power...that is waiting for you. We are told many times here at Hope to "connect people to Jesus" ...but let's consider how unfruitful that would be if we ourselves are not connected?

Just like your phone, waiting to serve you... God is waiting for you to connect to the Source that provides more power and promises than you could ever even imagine. This is what "Kingdom Prayer" is all about...connecting Heaven to Earth....to experience the fullness of God. "Building Hope for the Future "simply has to begin with building the members of Hope within.

We pray today that we all devote ourselves to worship, Bible study, and prayer and plug into **God's power**...immeasurably more than you can ask or imagine.