

Speaker 1 ([00:18](#)):

Hello.

Speaker 2 ([00:18](#)):

So everyone, it feels strange to not be able to see you in person today, but I trust that we are all together in spirit. As we know the theme of this year's conference is the book of Ephesians. As we think about the world today, and the many strange things that occur, there are many lessons that we can glean from this book. Perhaps many of you ladies today are experiencing various trials. Perhaps you are in ongoing difficult situations and experiencing stressors from a multitude of places. The point is that we all are going through something and every one of us faces challenges.

Speaker 2 ([01:10](#)):

As we journey through these things, it sometimes begins to feel as though our sense of identity takes a hit. We may begin to question who am I? It isn't always natural to bring up these topics with the people around us. And so we go through these things alone, even though these things are common to us here on earth, Paul spoke to the church in Ephesus and in God's word, it says that he prayed that God, according to the riches of his glory would give them power to be strengthened in their inner being. Our inner being in simple terms is all that is contained within our outer shell. That would include our soul that is made up of our mind, our thoughts, our emotions, our will, and desires. All of those things make up our soul. And that coupled with our spirit make up our inner being, that was the focal point of Paul's prayer. He prayed that they would experience power in their inner being. And so that would also include their sense of identity.

Speaker 2 ([02:52](#)):

Paul said that he prayed that God would give them power in their inner being so that Christ could live in their hearts through faith. As you know, as we navigate through trials, it can be easy to be overwhelmed with doubts, but Paul prayed that they would be able to keep their faith. You know, it's normal to question our faith as we look at a difficult situation that isn't changing, it may seem as though it may go on forever. And we begin to wonder where God is in the midst of it. Perhaps you've experienced a death in your family or the death of a close friend, perhaps you've experienced many deaths. And you're wondering where God is through all of this. Paul also prayed that the church in Ephesus would be rooted in God's love.

Speaker 2 ([04:07](#)):

The concept of being rooted is a farming principle in order for something to grow continually, it is imperative that it has strong, deep roots. Paul wanted the church in Ephesus to experience the deep roots of God's love. He wanted them to taste and see God's love it wasn't enough that they just experienced salvation. He wanted them to grow in intimacy with God. He wanted God's love to be their foundation, and that would allow them to be strong. Instead of faltering. Paul also understood that a strong foundation of God's love was the key to a healthy sense of identity.

Speaker 2 ([05:06](#)):

Paul prayed that they would have the strength to comprehend what is the breadth and length and height and depth of God's love. He prayed that they would be able to fully grasp this love. Paul continue to come back to the focal point of God's love. Paul understood that it wasn't enough to simply know

God's love. They needed to experience it. Paul didn't want them to just have a surface knowledge of God's love. He wanted the knowledge of God's love to permeate their entire beings. It is clear that Paul himself had experienced the depths of God's love and he wanted the church in Ephesus to experience that same intimacy. And that's also what I pray for you ladies today, when I was given this verse for my message today, I flipped through my Bible and notice that it was already highlighted. This means that I've already studied and analyzed this part of God's word in my life.

Speaker 2 ([06:44](#)):

Paul understood that our inner being is constantly in need of change and growth. And that's why he prayed that the spirit would give them strength. As we know, when we are born, we are born into sin. We are born as weak people who are separated from God. Sometimes as women, we don't experience true love growing up. Additionally, as deaf women, perhaps we experienced a limited ability to communicate with our parents that may have led us to have a limited knowledge of their love. And as we know our parents, aren't perfect and they aren't expected to be, but oftentimes our knowledge and awareness of God's love is influenced by our relationship with our parents. And if we had a difficult relationship with our parents, it may be easy to project those experiences onto our relationship with God.

Speaker 2 ([07:59](#)):

If we want God to truly live within us, it's important that we open up that we are raw with him. I want to share a story with you today about a woman. This woman is a hearing woman from Texas, and she's a pastor. She was invited to our hearing church a long time ago as a guest speaker, as she shared, I was deeply impacted by the words that she shared. It was truly profound. As I said, this woman is a pastor and she had a deep relationship with God. She wanted to serve him. And there was one day that God nudged this woman and asked her to go to a strip club.

Speaker 2 ([09:08](#)):

Yes, a strip club. This woman was taken aback. She thought there's no way that God could ask me to do this. This goes against what I know God to do, but God insisted that he wanted her to go. God had told her that he wanted her to go and wash the feet of a stripper who worked at that location. The pastor began to think, how is this going to work? Obviously you don't expect me to participate in those activities. And God said, no. I simply want you to go and wash her feet. The pastor was conflicted and she wrestled with what she had been told, but God remained firm in his instruction to go. The pastor agreed. And she began to pack her belongings and everything that she would need to wash the feet of the stripper, who would be there.

Speaker 2 ([10:17](#)):

When she arrived at the strip club, she met with a security guard. The pastor explained her intentions that she desired to enter the location, to wash the feet of someone who worked there. The security guard allowed her to freely enter. He did not interrogate her, but there was grace for the woman to simply go in. Of course it was awkward for this pastor because there were people who were unclothed. So she kept her eyes glued to the ground. And the Holy spirit led her to this stripper that she was supposed to meet there. She kept her eyes looking down and she told the lady that she desired to work, to wash her feet. The stripper explained that she'd been on her feet all night working. And that, that would be amazing. It would, you know, almost felt as though it would be like a spa treatment. The woman said, sure. And so the pastor continued of course, to look at her feet. As the other woman was

unclosed. Now she began to wash her feet. God began to reveal to the pastor various things about the strippers life.

Speaker 1 ([11:49](#)):

[inaudible]

Speaker 2 ([11:55](#)):

Pastor began to receive these stories about the strippers childhood and the things that she had been through. And she began to relay them back to the woman. The woman was in shock that the pastor could know these things about her. The stripper had truly had an, a terrible life experience growing up. And as she began to hear these stories, she wondered how this pastor can know because she hadn't told her she was in shock. As she experienced this, the pastor explained that the Lord was giving her messages about this woman as she was washing her feet. And she explained that God wanted her to know God's love. God wanted her to know that through all that she had been through, God had been with her. And keep in mind as the pastor is sharing these things, she's looking at the woman's feet. As she continued to share, the woman began to break down in tears. She began to understand how profound God's love is and how much he truly cares about her. As she cried, the pastor introduced her to Jesus and the woman accepted Jesus into her heart. The pastor instructed the woman that that night would be her last night working at the strip club, the woman left and she never returned. The woman went on to establish a flower business where she sold bouquets. And the Lord blessed that business venture.

Speaker 2 ([14:11](#)):

As the pastor thought about all that had went on and how the Lord had led her and protected her through that experience, she was amazed. It would happen that the Lord would again, call her to go to a strip club. And he told her that this time would be the final time. Once again, she packed her belongings and went to the location. She, once again was met with a security guard where she, again, experienced favor to be able to enter this experience was a little bit different.

Speaker 1 ([14:50](#)):

The pastor directly

Speaker 3 ([14:52](#)):

Asked the person that she was supposed to meet there. Do you know, Jesus, the female stripper was visibly disgruntled. And she asked, why are you asking me that she was angry and shared how she had searched for God? As she continued to go on the pastor recognized that she was full of bitterness and resentment. She felt as though she had been abandoned by the Lord,

Speaker 3 ([15:27](#)):

The pastor began to engage with the stripper and her message challenge, the anger that was within her as they continue to go on her heart softened. And the pastor told her tonight is your last night working here. The woman left. And I believe that she truly did experience the love of God and begin a relationship with him. And she did not return to that club. The manager of the club also received the Lord. The fruit of all of the pastors ministry is that across the street from the strip club, a church was

established. I don't know how many people experienced salvation at that club and then went to the church. But I do know that the church was the fruit of one woman's obedience.

Speaker 3 ([16:35](#)):

We know that the woman, pastor obeyed the Lord because she had received his power in her inner being. She was familiar with the presence of God, her thoughts, her feelings, and all of her desires were completely submitted to the Lord. The pastor knew God. She knew her identity as a daughter of the King. She was rooted in that she knew how deep and high and wide the love of God is. And that love had pur permeated. Her being the stripper was able to see the pastor and feel the love of Christ emanating from her, despite the fact that they weren't making eye contact, but that action of washing their feet impacted both of those strippers and the manager too, as he, what was going on, he realized that what happened truly impacted those troopers because they didn't return. Of course he wanted a part of that. And he wanted to know that love that had impacted them. The pastor had said yes to God. She said yes, to being filled with his love. She had said yes to continually learning about his love. Well, she has learned the day before wasn't enough. She was always growing in her awareness of God's presence.

Speaker 1 ([18:30](#)):

Sure.

Speaker 3 ([18:30](#)):

She knew her identity as a daughter of the King. And those strippers were able to see that she had something that they didn't have. Perhaps they felt shame and anger and bitterness.

Speaker 1 ([18:44](#)):

Yes.

Speaker 3 ([18:49](#)):

They felt abandoned and rejected. And so they continue to go on with their daily life. But when they had their feet washed by this pastor that caused them to encounter the love of God. And that is why Paul told the church in Ephesus that they needed to be filled with. God's love so that they could spread that to the world. Paul encouraged them to get out of their comfort zone. When we experienced the fullness of God's love, we will be compelled to leave our comfort zone to,

Speaker 1 ([19:30](#)):

We

Speaker 3 ([19:30](#)):

Will no longer be okay with just doing the same thing every day. We won't want to live a mundane life. We will be compelled to go into the world and share. Christ's love Asked her wasn't comfortable with where she was called to go. Of course not. She resisted too. But once again, love found a way. Love, compelled her to go. And this love demonstrated to the stripper, the love of Christ.

Speaker 1 ([20:12](#)):

Nice.

Speaker 3 ([20:17](#)):

You will encounter women that you think are perfect, but they're not. There are many women around us who resembled this full of holes.

Speaker 1 ([20:36](#)):

Perhaps,

Speaker 3 ([20:37](#)):

Perhaps they've been damaged by their past. Maybe they've experienced abuse, domestic violence or sexual exploitation. Perhaps they've experienced betrayal. The list goes on these things cause us to not be able to approach God with boldness. Paul told the church in Ephesus that they needed to be filled with God's power in their inner being so that they could experience. God's love if we approach God with all of these holes, what happens is that when he pours himself out, we are not able to retain that love within us. We continue to feel empty despite the fact that he is pouring out, his love to what we need is his strength. And that begins to mend the empty places in our lives and bring us healing.

Speaker 3 ([21:53](#)):

As we do this, we then have a foundation to receive the love of God and remain in his love. You know, healing can follow a more natural process for some people that looks like going to counseling and studying God's word and experiencing healing day by day, and other people experience a supernatural kind of healing. I believe that the strippers experienced a supernatural instantaneous healing, where they were just overwhelmed by the love of God, that those experiences gave them hope. As the pastor washed their feet, it showed God's love to them. And as she shared her messages and the specific revelation she had about all that, they had all that she had experienced.

Speaker 3 ([23:06](#)):

The stripper realized that someone truly loved her. Someone cared about her and that overwhelmed her. She knew that she couldn't keep living the way that she was because she was truly loved. And that's what I mean. When I say that she received hope Paul didn't want the church in Ephesus to live with empty places in their lives. He wanted them to be filled with God's power in their inner being so that they could beacons of hope for the world. It wasn't just about them. It was about the world knowing God too. So I want to ask you today, are we willing to put ourselves aside? Are we willing to say yes to God, to moving past the surface knowledge of him to truly experiencing the power of his presence and his love? There are so many things vying for our time and attention. Perhaps we work or we have children or we're involved in ministry. The list goes on. We're always going, but are we making time for God? Are we setting aside time to be in his presence?

Speaker 1 ([24:38](#)):

Okay.

Speaker 3 ([24:38](#)):

Experiencing God is not always an instantaneous thing. Sometimes we need to wait on him in prayer that causes hunger within us. That's what Paul prayed for the church in Ephesus, that they would be hungry for his love, hungry for his power, that they would desire a touch from him. And that would allow them to become beacons of hope to the world.

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Speaker 1 ([25:13](#)):

I would love to pray for you as we close,

Speaker 3 ([25:19](#)):

As you continue to meditate on what we've discussed tonight, I pray that that would inspire fresh hunger in you. Perhaps you're worn out physically.

Speaker 1 ([25:32](#)):

God says to us, okay,

Speaker 3 ([25:34](#)):

All who are weary and heavy laden come to me and I will give you all we need to do is enter his presence. And we will find that his strength will begin to fill us to overflowing. The most natural thing to happen then is that his love will overflow into the world.