

Paul's Prayers 3 – Philippi

● *And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Phil 1:9-11*

This I Pray:

- *that* (*hina*) your love may abound still more and more
- *in* (*en*) knowledge and all discernment,
- *that* (*eis*) you may approve things that are excellent
- *that* (*hina*) you may be sincere and without offense
- *till* (*eis*) the day of Christ,
- *being* filled with the fruits of righteousness
- *which* are by (*eis*) Jesus Christ,
- *to* (*eis*) the glory and praise of God. Phil 1:9-11
- *hina* for the purpose that, to the intent that, to the end
- *en* in the midst of ; the instrument or means to do
- *eis* entrance into; the conditional state into which one enters, the end to which one reaches

Your Love May Abound

- This love is the “*new commandment*” that had never been given before because it could not even be explained.
- A *new commandment* I give to you, that you *love one another; as I have loved you*, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35
- Prior to this:
- “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
- From a subjective to objective standard.

*according as, even as,
to the measure of*



*according as, even as,
to the measure of*



Love – New Word for a New Command

- “*agape*,... **a purely bibl. and eccl. word**... in signification it follows the verb *agapao*;...” (Thayer, p. 4-5; 26)
- “*agapao* and the corresponding noun *agape* present "**the characteristic word of Christianity**, and since **the Spirit of revelation has used it to express ideas previously unknown**, inquiry into its use, whether in **Greek literature or in the Septuagint**, throws but little light upon its **distinctive meaning in the NT**...” (Vines #25)

Love – A New Command & New Word

- *agape* ... Its **etymology is uncertain**, and its **meaning weak and variable**. Often it means no more than “to be satisfied with something...”
- “But whereas *eros* consistently engages the thinking of poets and philosophers from Homer to Plotinus, ***agapan* hardly ever emerges** as a subject of radical deliberation.
- It is indeed striking that the substantive ***agape* is almost completely lacking in pre-biblical Greek.... a love that does not desire but gives.** ...” (Kittel TDWNT; 25)

Your Love May Abound

- The Divine Definition of *agape* – love
- *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. 1Cor. 13:4-8*
- *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Cor 13:13*

In* Knowledge & Discernment

- **en* in the midst of ; the instrument or means to do
- Love is incomprehensible – it is not intuitive we can't figure it out ourselves.
- The definition, examples and applications are only in Scripture. This love can't grow without the knowledge the Spirit gives.
- Since knowledge and discernment are the instrument and means by which this *agape* love can grow we have to submit to God and trust in the Lord with all our heart.
- If we don't yet have the knowledge ... don't yet have the *agape* – love.

Knowledge & Discernment

- “*epi-gnosis*,...precise and correct knowledge; used in the NT of the knowledge of things ethical and divine...” (Thayer, p. 237).
- “*ais-thesis*... perception, not only by the senses but also by the intellect; cognition,...Phil 1:9, of moral discernment, the understanding of ethical matters ” (Thayer, p. 17).
- to love as Christ can't rely on our own intellect or emotional makeup.

Being Rooted and Grounded in Love

rhizo-o to cause to strike root; strengthen with roots.

The roots of the tree gives it both stability and sustenance.



Our Only Means of Being Rooted

- *“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ...As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. John 15:1-6”*

Grounded in Love

Themelioo... to lay the foundation, to found (Thayer p. 287; 2311)

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, 1Cor 15:58

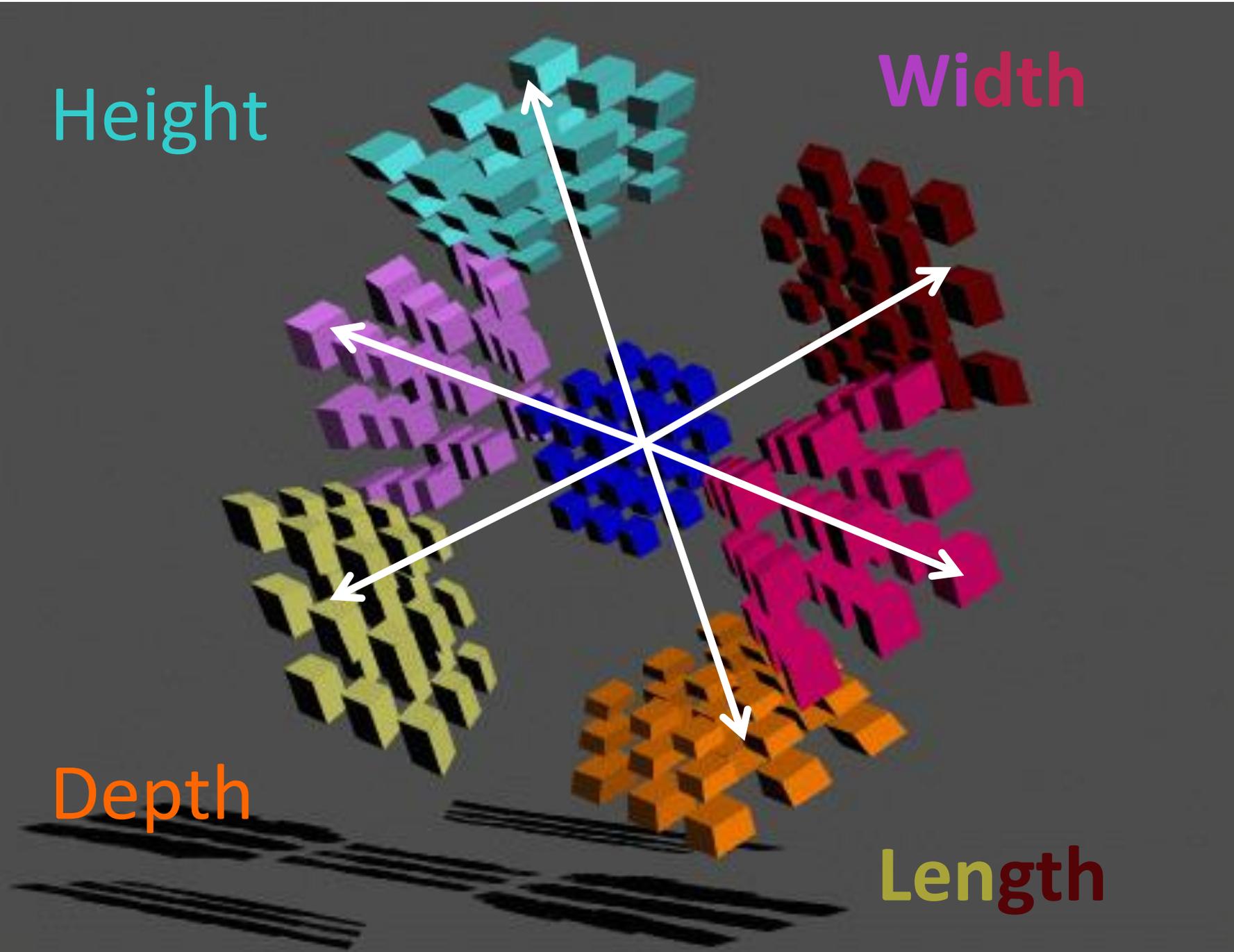
- *1 to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,*
- *2 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith*
- *3 that you, being rooted and grounded in love,*
- *4 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge;*

Height

Width

Depth

Length



To Become Full

- We have to empty ourselves.
- *phileo love is based on our own pleasure.*
- What we bring is not what God wants, only what He has revealed through the Scriptures. Paul revealed it's depths in this book: Phil 2:3-9
- *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*

