

Sermon Overview CEFC
February 19, 2023

Title: God's Provision for Desperate Times

Passage: Ephesians 3:14-21

Introduction

Question: How does God want us to FACE the DESPERATE TIMES we live in?

Main Point: When we find ourselves FACING DESPERATE TIMES, God does NOT want us the GET DESPERATE, He DESIRES to take us DEEPER

Receiving God's Provision Desperate Times

Request #1: We should PRAY that God would give us a DEEPER EXPERIENCE of His POWER

Request #2: We should PRAY that God would give us a DEEPER EXPERIENCE of His LOVE

Request #3: We should PRAY that God would give us a DEEPER EXPERIENCE of His PRESENCE

CONCLUSION

God has given us a POWERFUL PROMISE

Sermon Based Small Group Questions

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Main Point: When we find ourselves facing desperate times, God does not want us to get desperate, He desires to take us deeper

- 1 Do you think the adage, "Desperate times call for desperate measures", is good advice? Why or why not?
- 2 Paul models our best first response to desperate times... he prays. He kneels when he prays to acknowledge God's absolute sovereignty over everything and everyone. Why is it important for us to lean into God's sovereignty in desperate times and what are some practical ways we can do that?
- 3 Paul's first request is that we will have a deeper experience of God's power so that we can grow in Christ-likeness (Ephesians 3:16-17). God has provided the spiritual disciplines to help us. Which disciplines have you found the most helpful? Is there one you need to practice more faithfully?
- 4 Paul's second request is that we will have a deeper experience of God's love and that this will most likely occur if we are in community with other Christ-followers. We are called to love each other, love our spouses, love our neighbors, love our parents and children, and love our enemies. Which is the greatest challenge for you and what can you do this week to grow in this? What is it about love that will root us in desperate times?
- 5 Paul's final request is that we will have a deeper experience of Christ's presence. 2 Peter 1:3-8 paints a vivid picture of what it might look like to experience that fullness as a Christ-follower and a family of believers. Which of the things we are asked make "every effort" to grow in will you work on this week?
- 6 How will your prayer life grow this week knowing that we should be praying for these three things for ourselves and others?