

God, the Strengthened by the Spirit

The result of God's glory being gifted to the believer is a strengthening of the believer's person – their inner man – so that they are not only directed to a stewardship of love, but also empowered and enabled by the Holy Spirit to be active in the body.

*Why doesn't God just make us stronger in Adam?*

Christ, the Indweller (v. 17a)

The result of God's glorious generosity being poured out into our spirits through His Spirit is that Christ indwells us through faith at the point of salvation. This is sadly where people get the misattribution of, "asking Jesus into your heart." God's blessing is poured out at the point we believe, and Christ then dwells in our hearts.

*Which parts of the Godhead are involved in the individual believer?*

We see here that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all involved in the growth and edification of the body. Individuals are changed and their relationship with Him impacts their relationship with one another.

Love in the Body

The reason we're looking at this passage within the greater series is because Paul gives us some special insights into love in the body within these verses. They're rich verses that ask us to evaluate our understanding of our growth, His growth in us, and our growth with one another.

*What kind of love is this that Paul is referring to?*

God's Love, The Foundation (vs. 17b)

Paul then takes us to the point of being rooted and grounded in Love. Love, which gets its definition in God, is, in part, what we're placed into when we believe. God is love (1 John 4:8b), and therefore because He is love and He is infinite we're faced with trying to comprehend a love that is reflective of that infinite nature.

God's Love Can Be Comprehended

Paul's prayer that we may be able to know could be translated, "strengthened to know." The idea of being strengthened or being enabled is subjunctive. It's possible for us to know God's love. We're rooted in it no matter what, but we could choose not to abide and fall short of this potential outcome. The principle of comprehension here is that we don't just know it technically, but that we take hold of it and make it our own. So we find that Paul is praying for the body to take hold of God's love and manifest it as body love.

*What happens to the body if we don't comprehend God's love?*