WWT Board of Directors Opening Prayer

Praying for Spiritual Strength—Ephesians 3:14-21

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As WWT moves into its 31<sup>st</sup> year of its amazing journey, strength is needed to continue to grow and innovate. There are many forms of strength when it comes to businesses and leadership: market share, financial, technological, and relational strength just to name a few. For today's opening prayer, I will be reading a prayer that the Apostle Paul wrote focusing on a different type of strength, spiritual strength. Paul was a very influential leader who knew what great growth and expansion looked like, through the many churches he planted and leaders he developed. Paul also knew what it was like to be tested in every way, facing great difficulties.

Knowing what to do and perhaps doing it once, or occasionally when you feel like it, is one thing, but we need spiritual strength to do so consistently over the long haul. Paul prays for others to be strengthened by God's power in their "inner being." Often, we look for external skills and capabilities that we associate with strength. The Apostle reminds us that achieving God-size visions requires inner strength to stay the course. Paul is not encouraging them to just be stronger in themselves. Rather, he is encouraging them to rely on and be fueled by God's love and strength. When we are strengthened in our inner being, we have the character, love, courage, and faith needed for the journey.

Spiritual strength ultimately results in experiencing "perfect faith" as Priscilla described in her powerful testimony during the WWT prayer call last week. Dr. Charles Stanley's concept of perfect faith is more than believing that God can, or will, do something; it is knowing in your inner being that He has already done it!

As I read this prayer to open our meeting, I encourage you to return to this prayer often and realize that our Heavenly Father, can, will, and already has done more than we ask or imagine!

Please join me in prayer:

For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! AMEN Ephesians 3:14-21 (NIV)