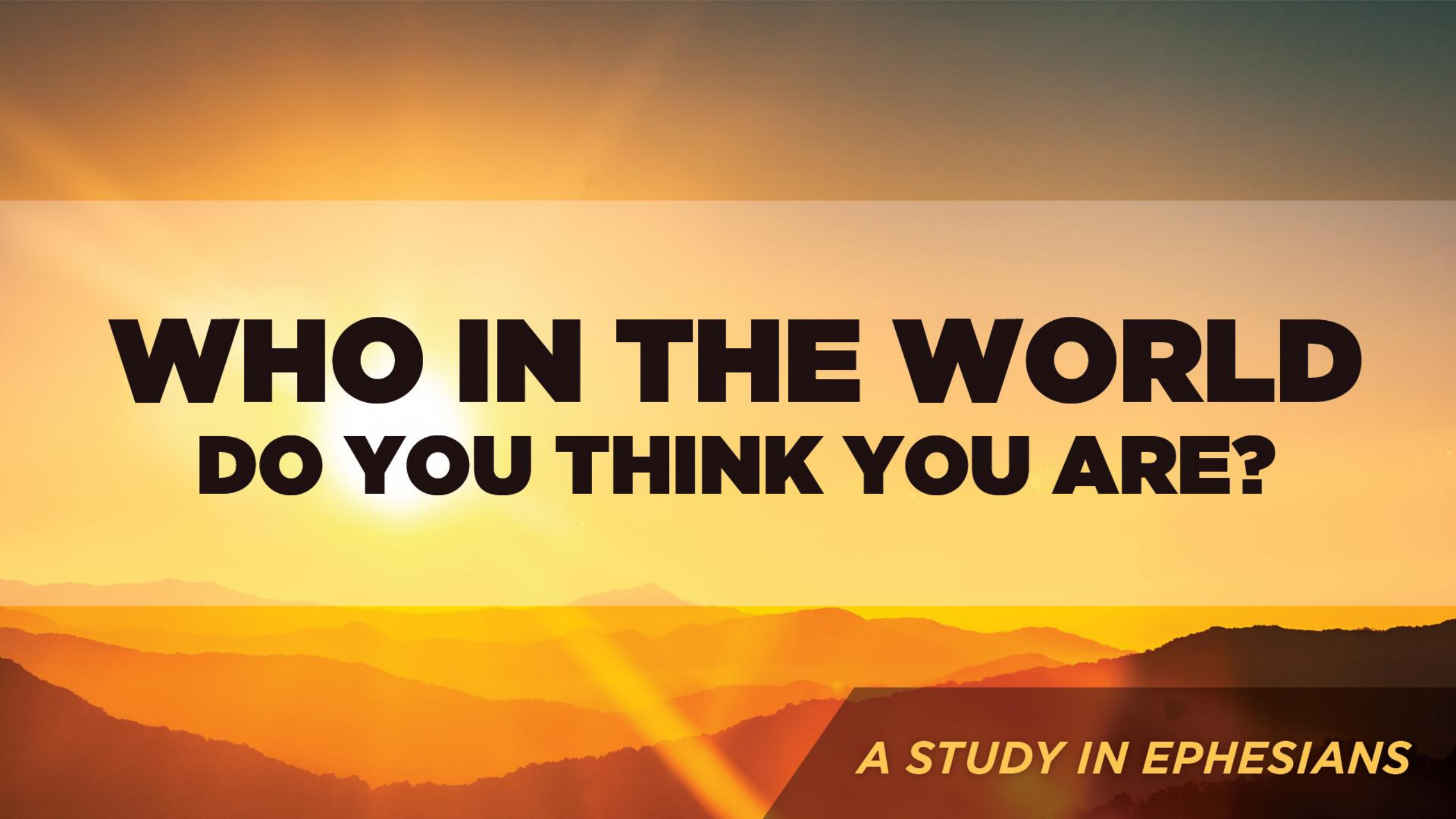




# **WHO IN THE WORLD DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?**

***A STUDY IN EPHESIANS***

# **A Power-full Prayer**

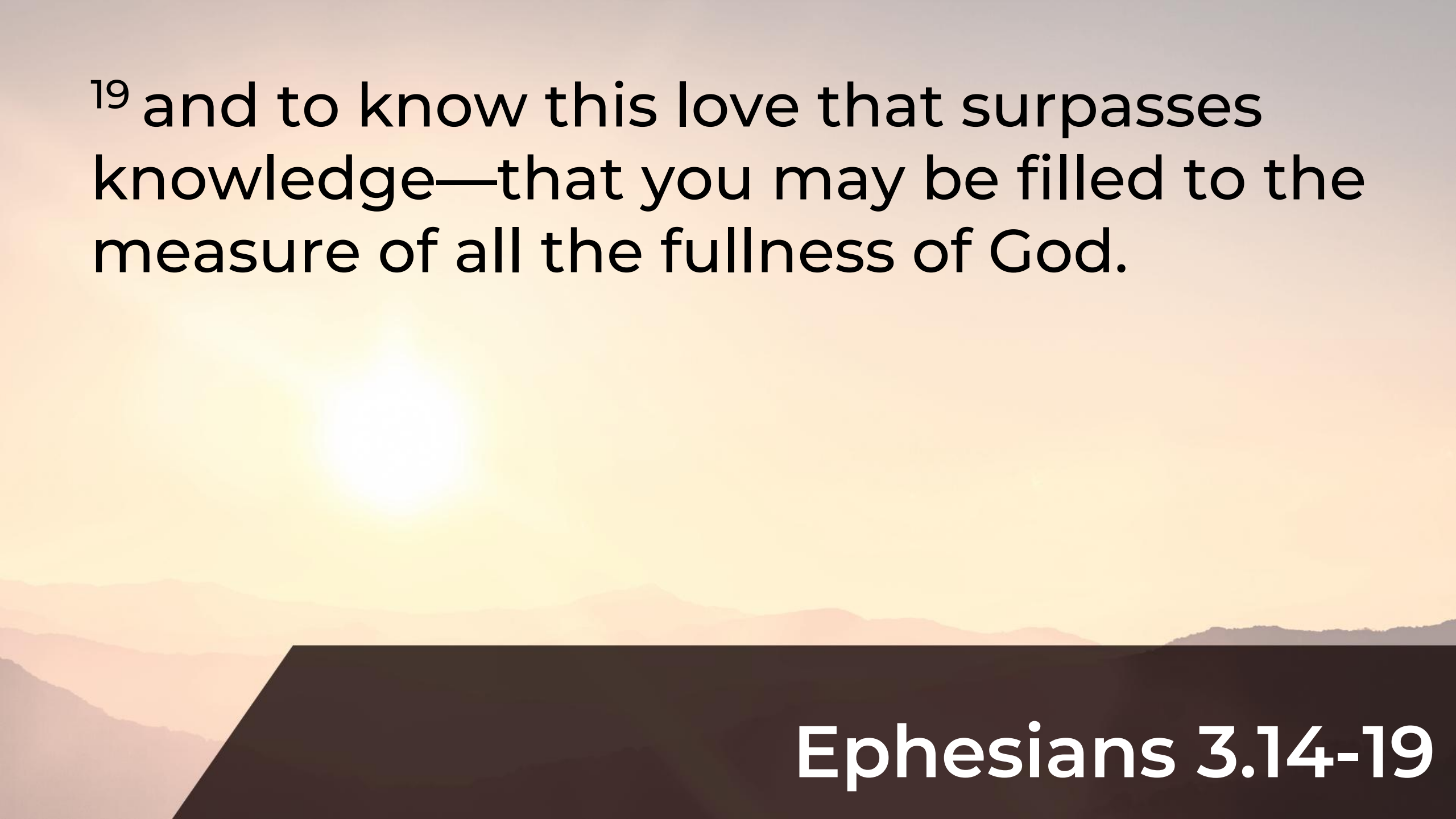
**Ephesians 3:14-19**

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom [every] family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

**Ephesians 3.14-19**

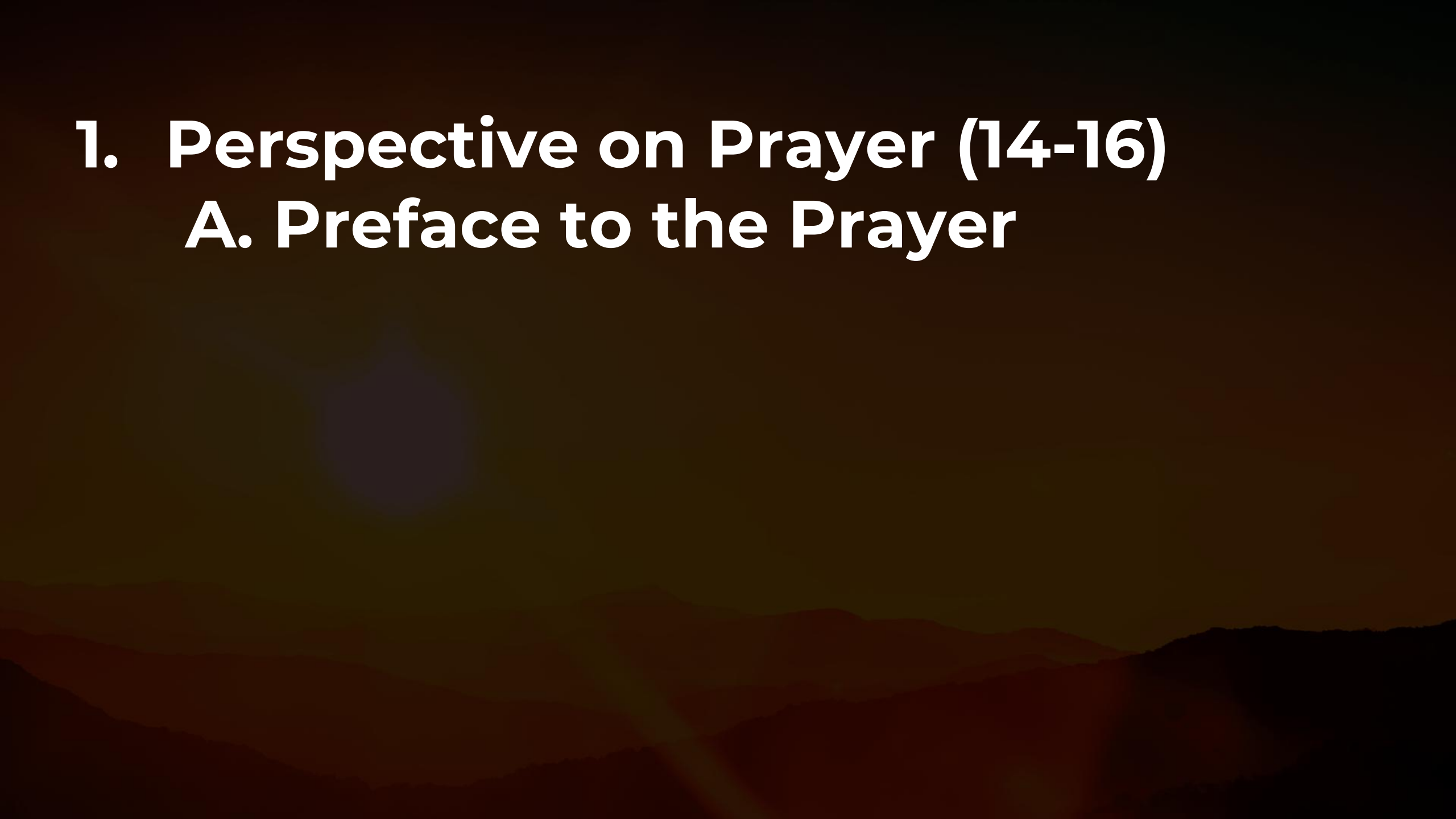
<sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

**Ephesians 3.14-19**



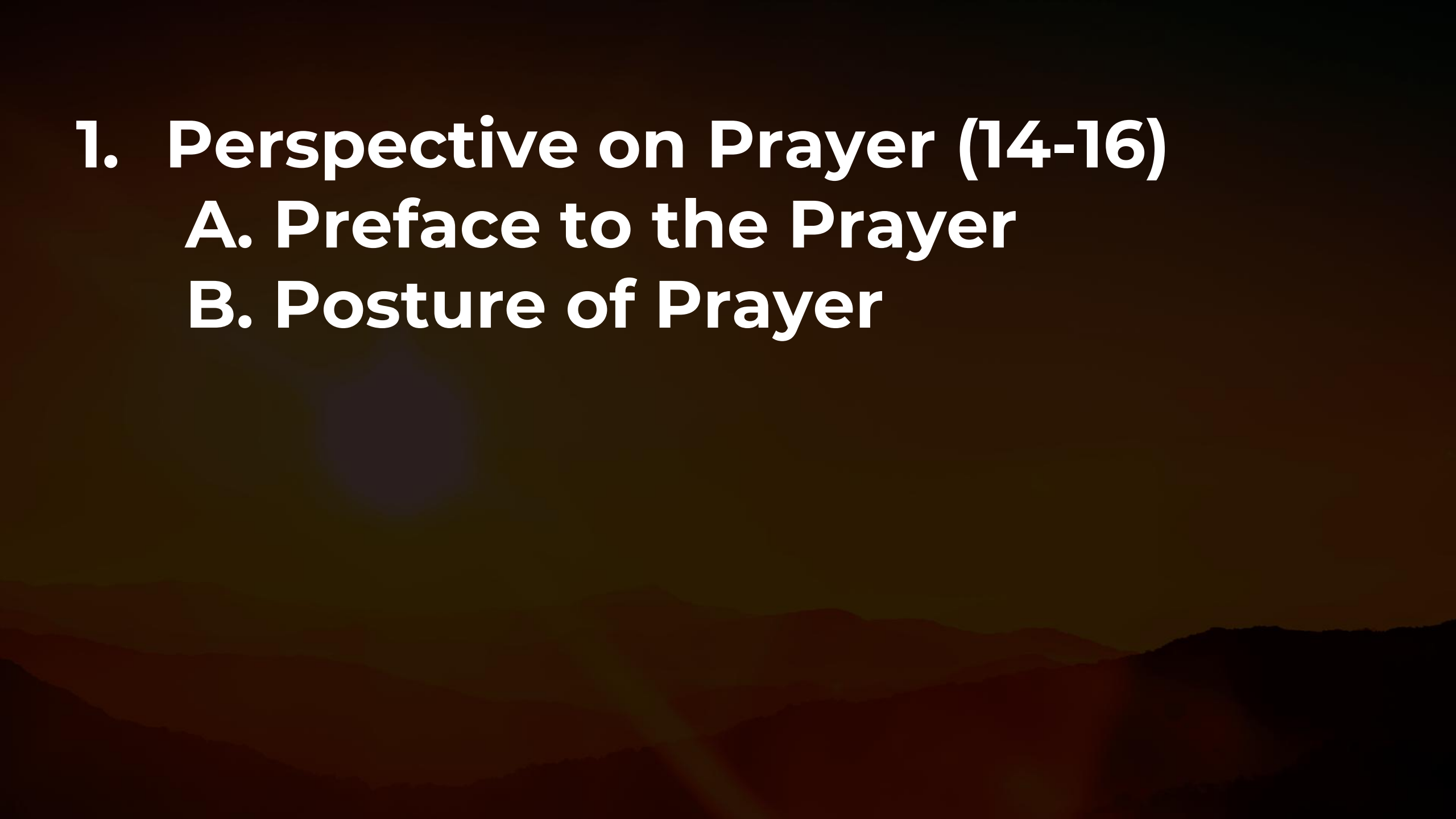
<sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

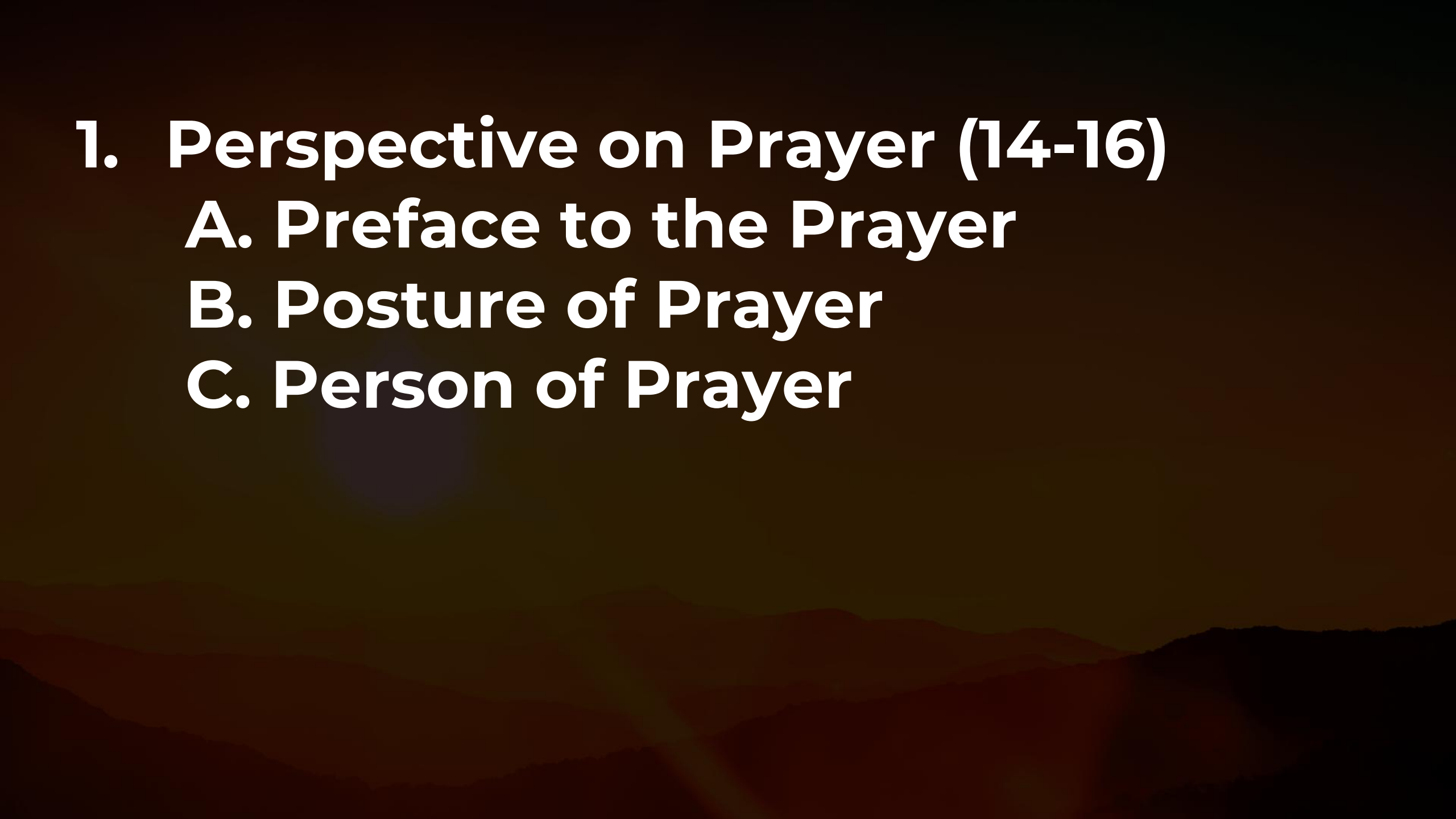
**Ephesians 3.14-19**

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric landscape. It features rolling hills and mountains in shades of deep brown and black. In the upper left portion of the sky, there is a bright, glowing orb, possibly a moon or a sun, which casts a soft, ethereal light across the scene. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

# **1. Perspective on Prayer (14-16)**

## **A. Preface to the Prayer**

- 
- 1. Perspective on Prayer (14-16)**
    - A. Preface to the Prayer**
    - B. Posture of Prayer**

- 
- 1. Perspective on Prayer (14-16)**
    - A. Preface to the Prayer**
    - B. Posture of Prayer**
    - C. Person of Prayer**

<sup>18</sup> For through [Christ] we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

**Ephesians 2:18**



**“opportunity of admittance”**

<sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

**Ephesians 3:12**

<sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father...

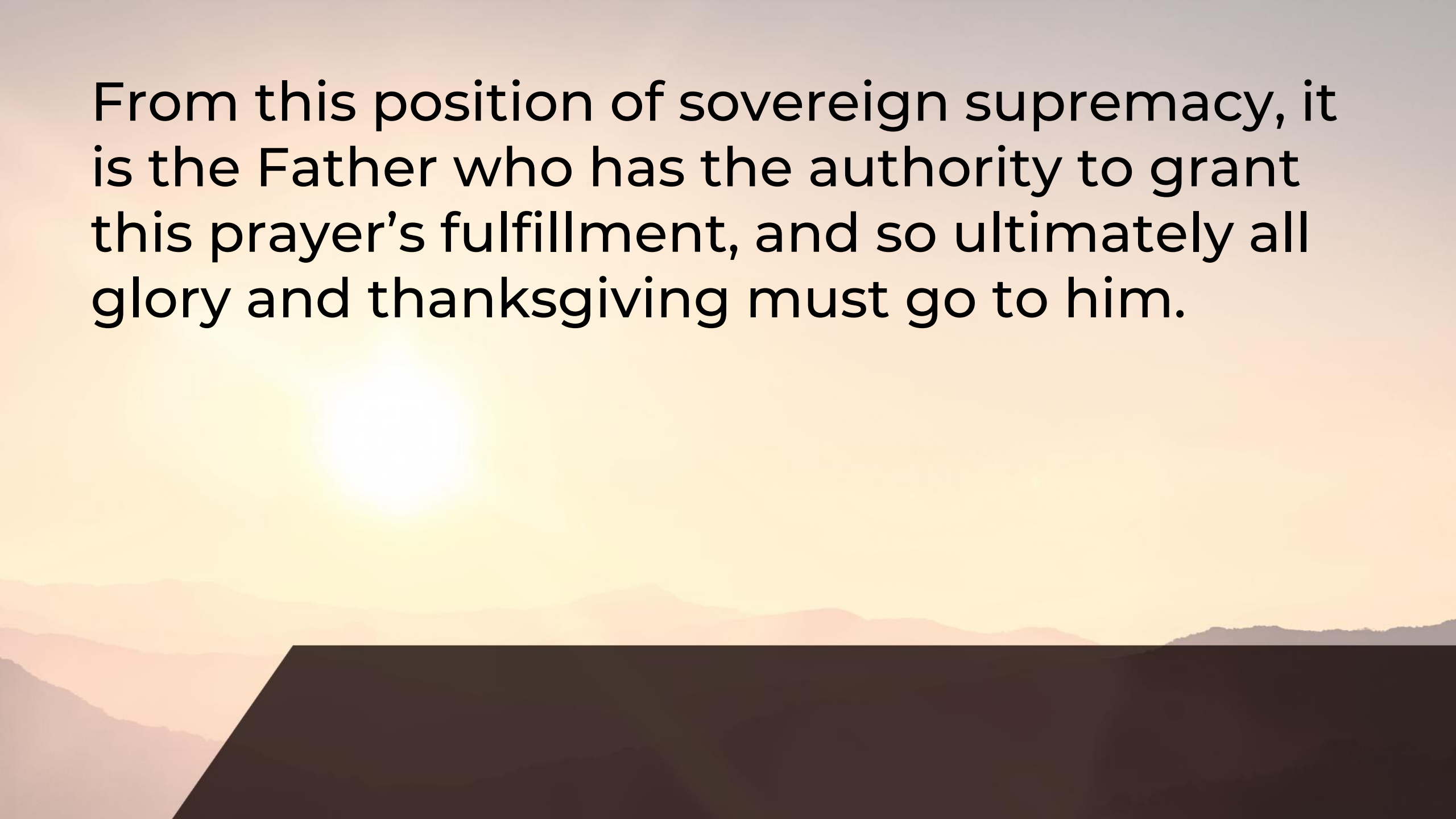
**Ephesians 1:17**

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the  
Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom his whole family in  
heaven and on earth derives its name.  
<sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he  
may strengthen you with power through  
his Spirit in your inner being,

**Ephesians 3:14-16**

Yet notice one more detail. Paul begins his prayer bowing his knees neither to the Son nor to the Spirit but to the Father, “from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.” The Father, then, is the sovereign Ruler over heaven and earth, controlling even the very names that every creature is given.

From this position of sovereign supremacy, it is the Father who has the authority to grant this prayer's fulfillment, and so ultimately all glory and thanksgiving must go to him.

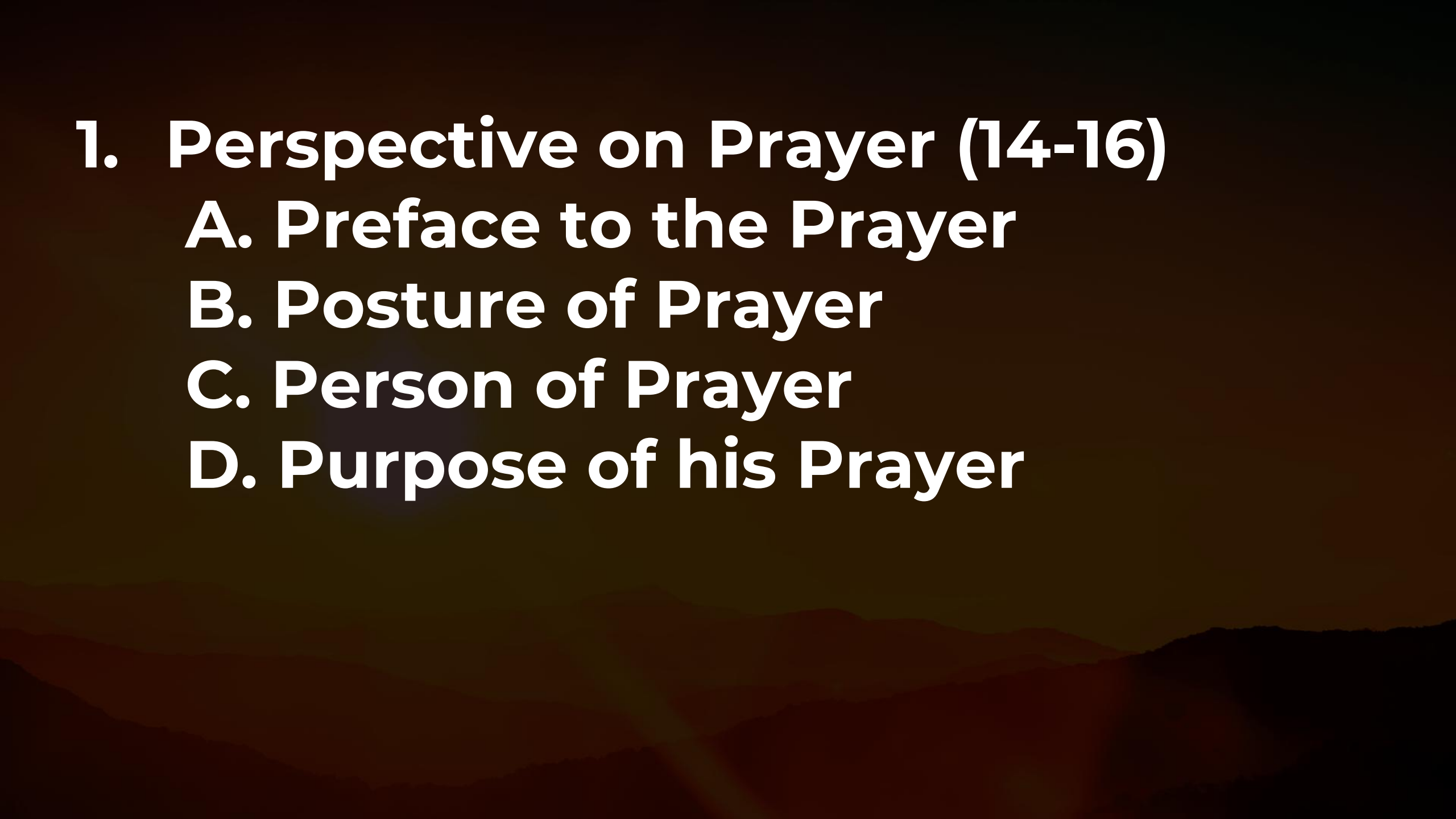


<sup>16</sup> I pray that out of the riches of his  
glory...

**Ephesians 3:16**

<sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace,  
which he has *freely given* us in the One  
he loves. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption  
through his blood, the forgiveness of  
sins, in accordance with *the riches* of  
God's grace <sup>8</sup> that he *lavished on us...*

Ephesians 1:6-8

- 
- 1. Perspective on Prayer (14-16)**
    - A. Preface to the Prayer**
    - B. Posture of Prayer**
    - C. Person of Prayer**
    - D. Purpose of his Prayer**

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

**Ephesians 1:15-19**

<sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

**Ephesians 1:15-19**

<sup>18</sup> I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,  
<sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength...

**Ephesians 1:15-19**

<sup>9</sup> And this I pray: that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

**Philippians 1:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. <sup>10</sup> that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing,

**Colossians 1:9-11**

being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God,<sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father...

**Colossians 1:9-11**

<sup>12</sup> May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

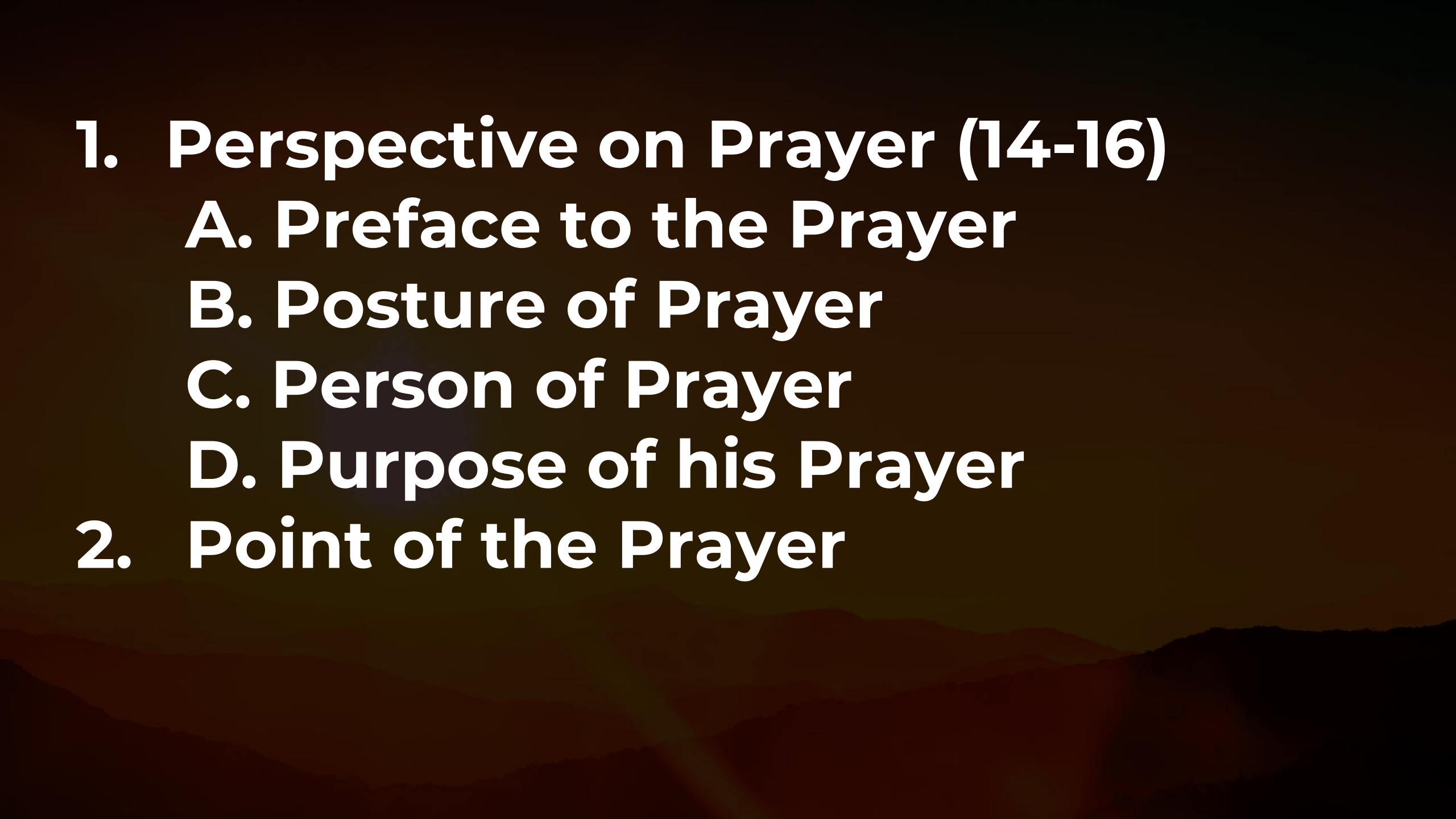
1 Thessalonians 3:12

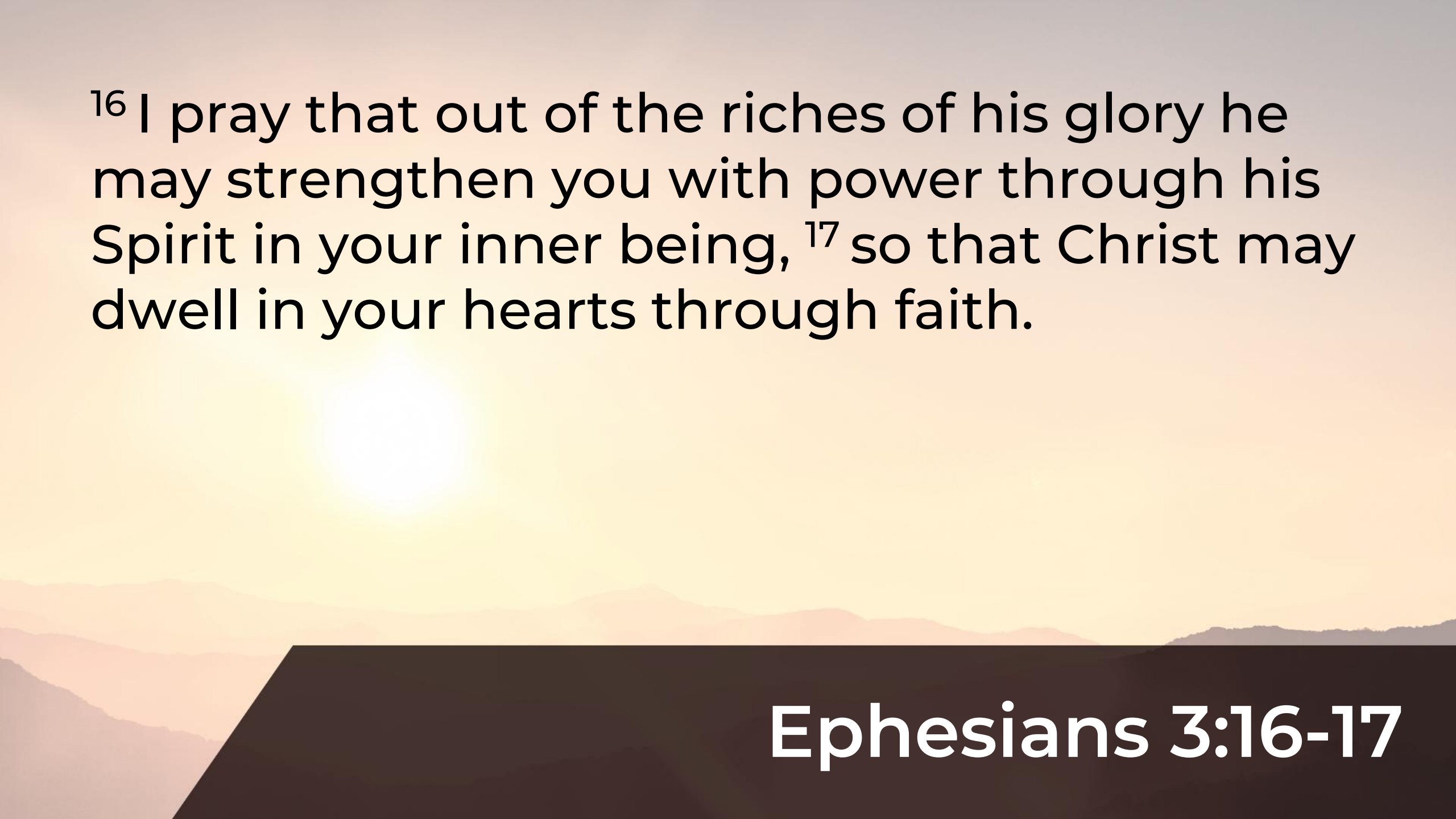
<sup>11</sup> With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.

**2 Thessalonians 1:11-12**

<sup>12</sup> We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**2 Thessalonians 1:11-12**

- 
- 1. Perspective on Prayer (14-16)**
    - A. Preface to the Prayer**
    - B. Posture of Prayer**
    - C. Person of Prayer**
    - D. Purpose of his Prayer**
  - 2. Point of the Prayer**



<sup>16</sup> I pray that out of the riches of his glory he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

**Ephesians 3:16-17**

**Product: Christ may dwell  
in your hearts**

## **What it does NOT mean:**

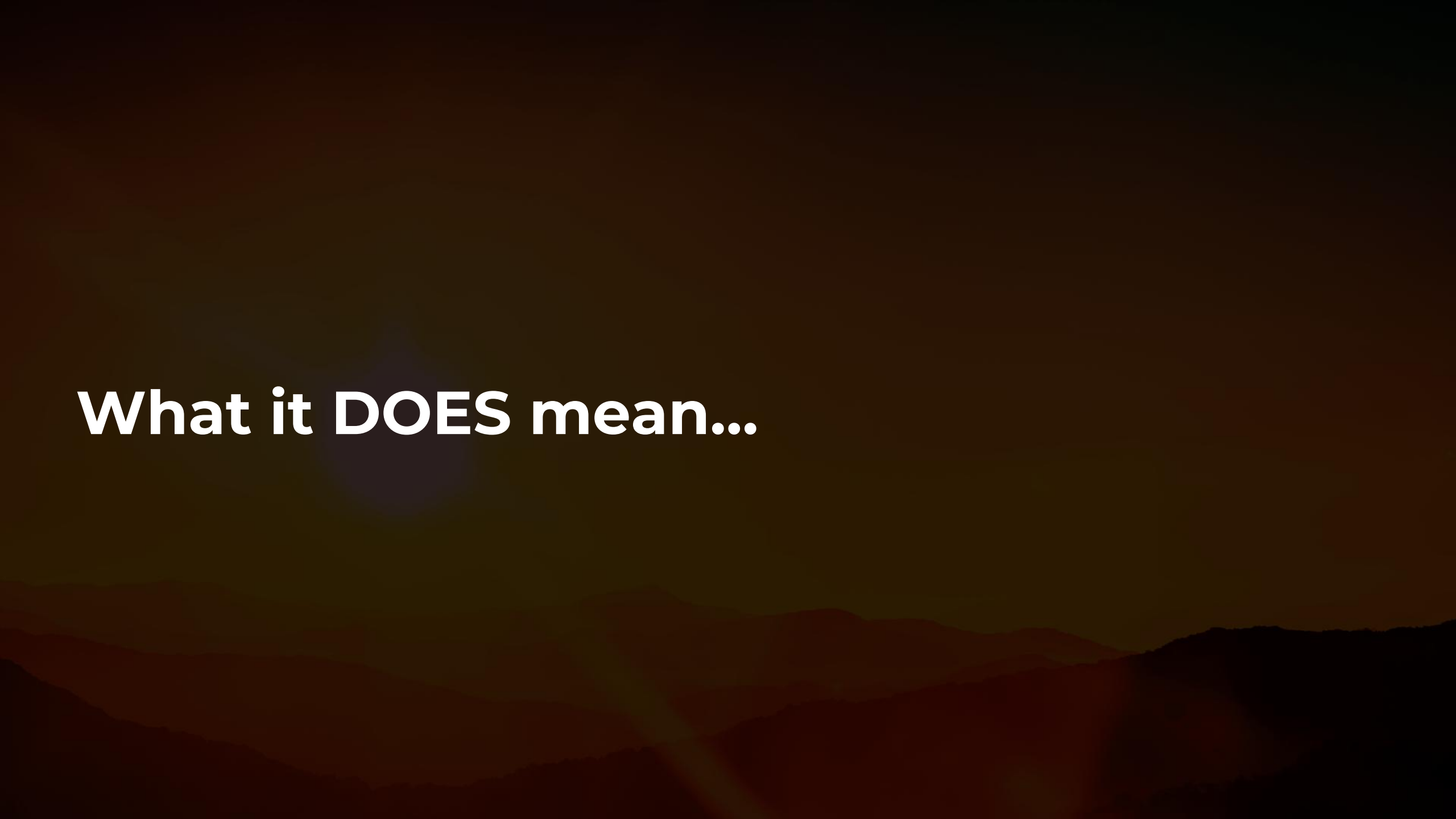
- **That there are believers in whom Christ is not living**
- **That we have to pray for the Spirit to come in**

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

**Romans 8:9**

<sup>16</sup> Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

1 Corinthians 3:16

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric landscape. It features silhouetted mountain ranges in the foreground and middle ground, set against a sky with a gradient of dark brown and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

**What it DOES mean...**

## **What it DOES mean...**

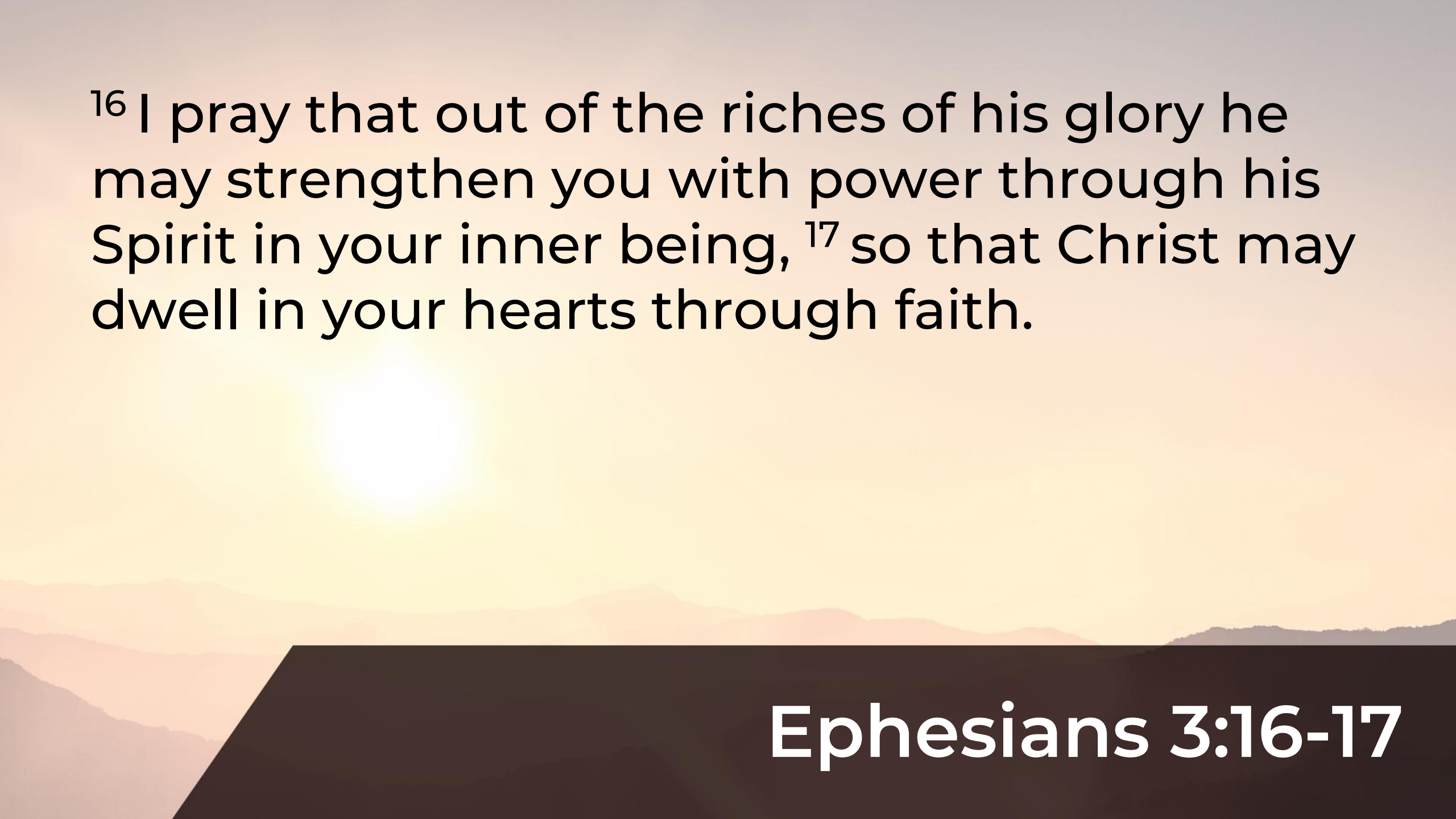
- **His “effective presence”**
- **A “residing, a habitation...” (Bock)**

## **What it DOES mean...**

- **that Christ may “be at home in,” that is, at the very center of or deeply rooted in believers’ lives. Christ must become the controlling factor in attitudes and conduct. The “heart” (cf. 1:18 for a study of “heart”) is the core of a person... (Hoehner)**

<sup>15</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." <sup>17</sup> But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

**1 Corinthians 6:15-17**



<sup>16</sup> I pray that out of the riches of his glory he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

**Ephesians 3:16-17**

...And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,<sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,<sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—*that you may be filled to all the fullness of God.*

Ephesians 3:17-19

## **Plea 2 (Eph 3:17-19)**

**power to comprehend (grasp  
intellectually) the love of Christ  
(and to know this love)**

**Product: that you  
may be filled to all the  
fullness of God**

29 For those God foreknew he also predestined *to be conformed to the likeness of his Son*, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Romans 8:29

“So, naturally, we proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about him, so that, if possible, we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ. This is what I am working at all the time, with all the strength that God gives me.”

**Colossians 1:28-29**

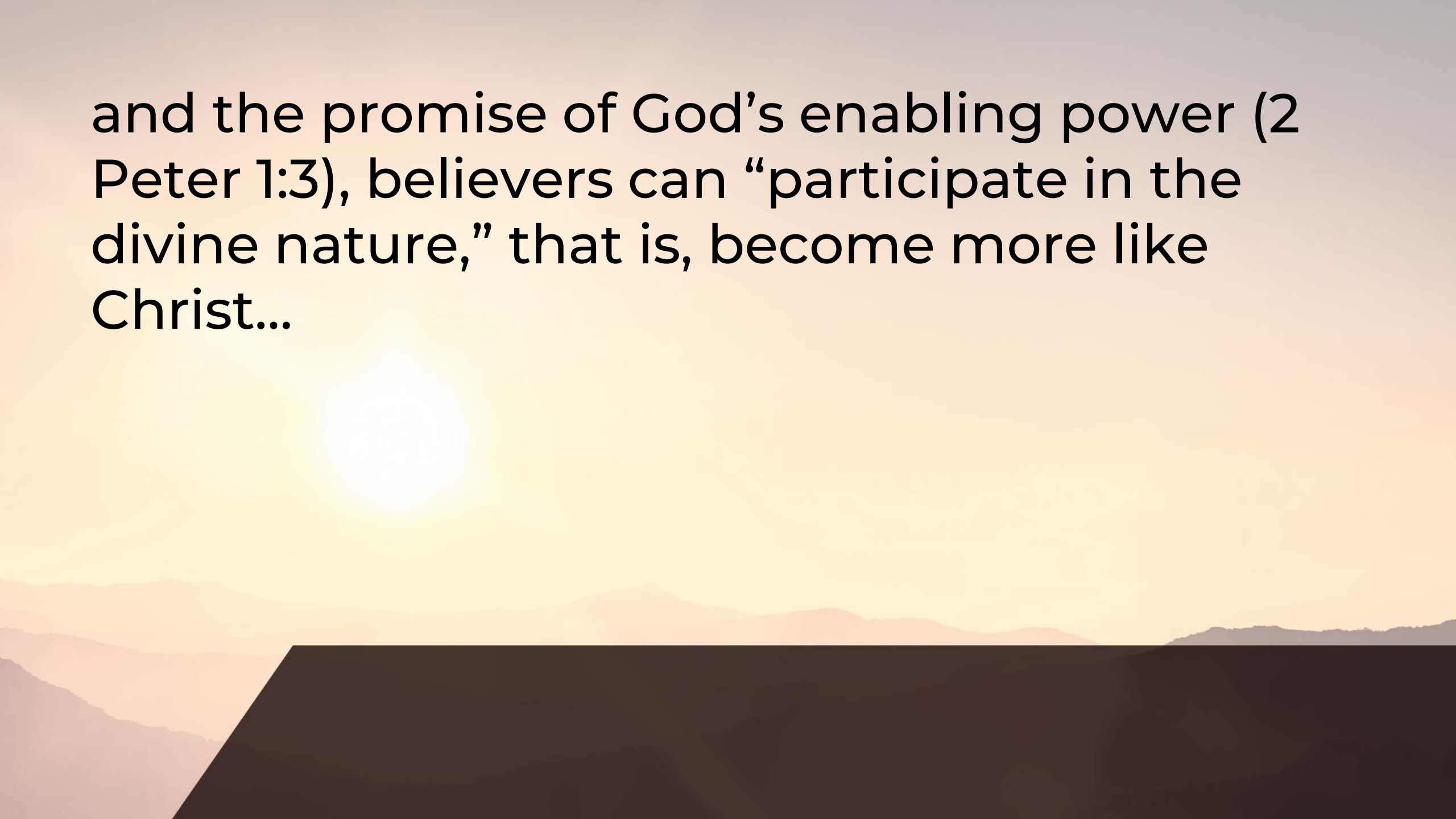
<sup>3</sup> His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup> Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

**2 Peter 1:3-4**

Because they are “partakers” (KJV) of God’s nature, Christians can share in His moral victory over sin in this life and share in His glorious victory over death in eternal life. Because of the promise of the new birth (1 Peter 1:3), the promise of God’s protecting power (1 Peter 1:5),

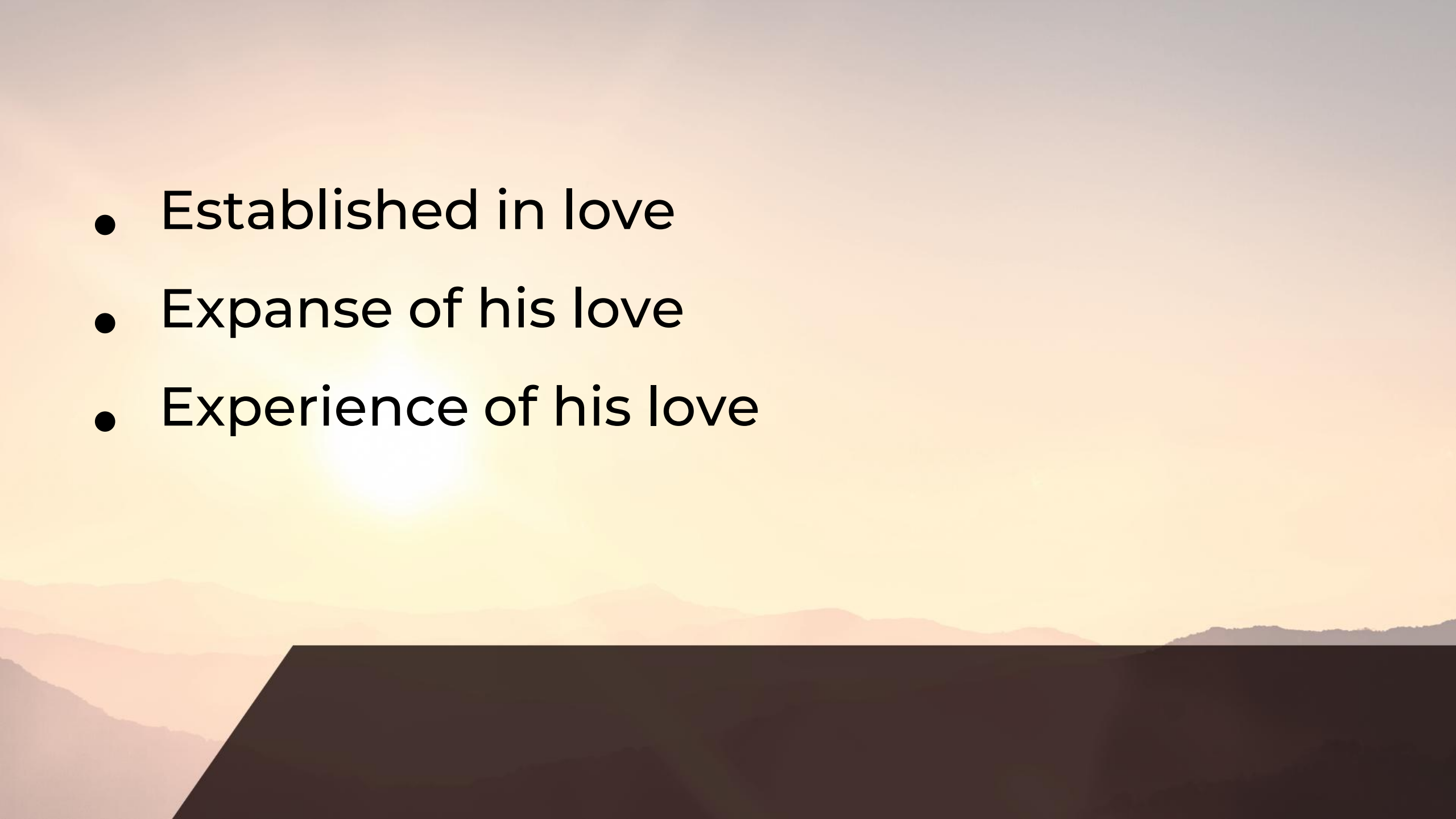
**Kenneth Gangel**

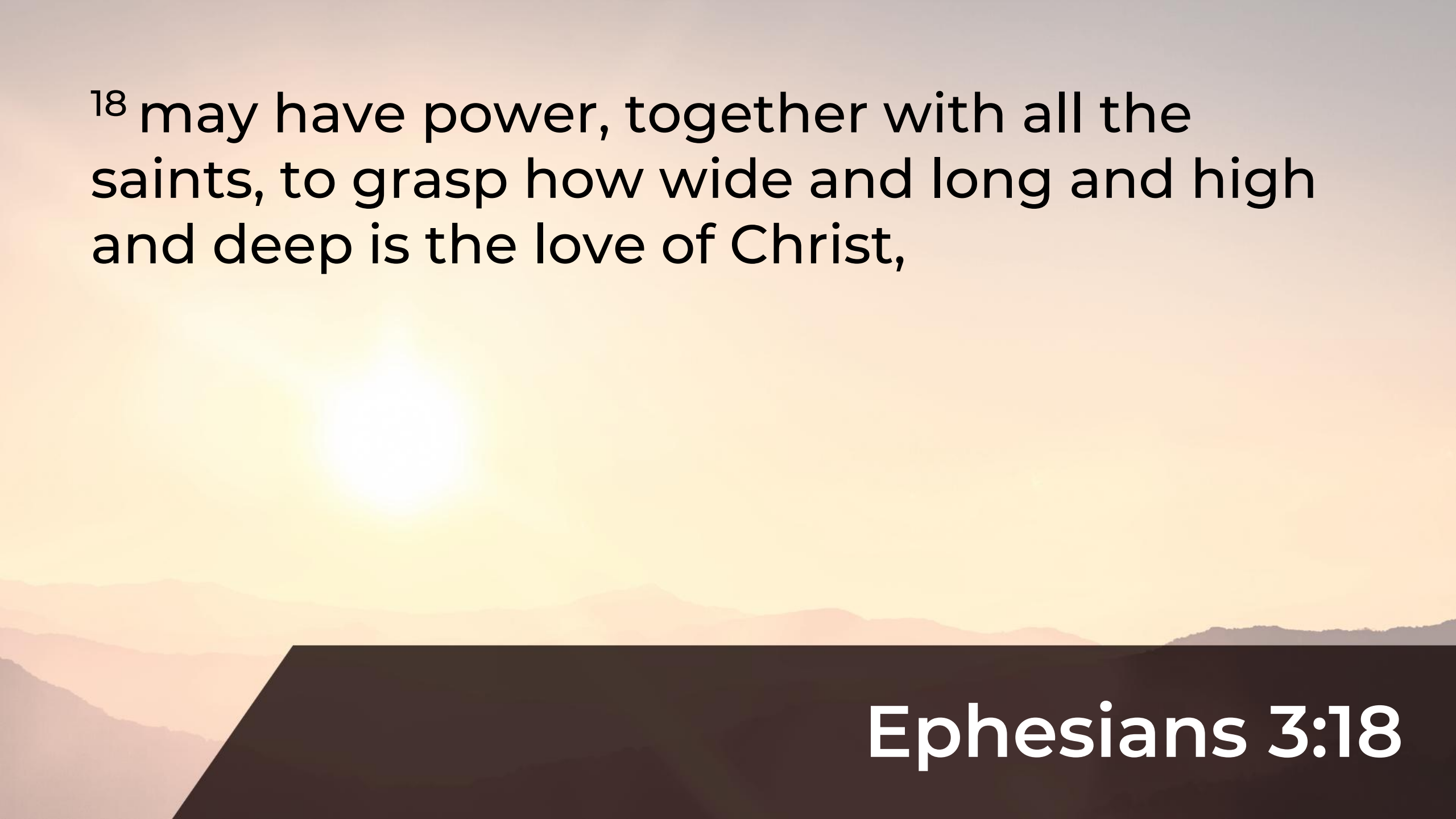
and the promise of God's enabling power (2 Peter 1:3), believers can “participate in the divine nature,” that is, become more like Christ...



<sup>17</sup> ... I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

**Ephesians 3:17-19**

- 
- Established in love
  - Expanse of his love
  - Experience of his love



<sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

**Ephesians 3:18**

<sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

**Ephesians 3:19**

<sup>18</sup> [that you] may have power,

*together with all the saints,*

to grasp ...

Ephesians 3:18

Growth in the individual believer cannot occur in isolation but must be accomplished in context with other believers. Furthermore, true growth cannot occur by association with only certain believers, ones preferred because they are of the same socioeconomic, intellectual, or professional status. Paul prays that it might be accomplished in association with *all* the saints.



(Hoehner)

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom [every] family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

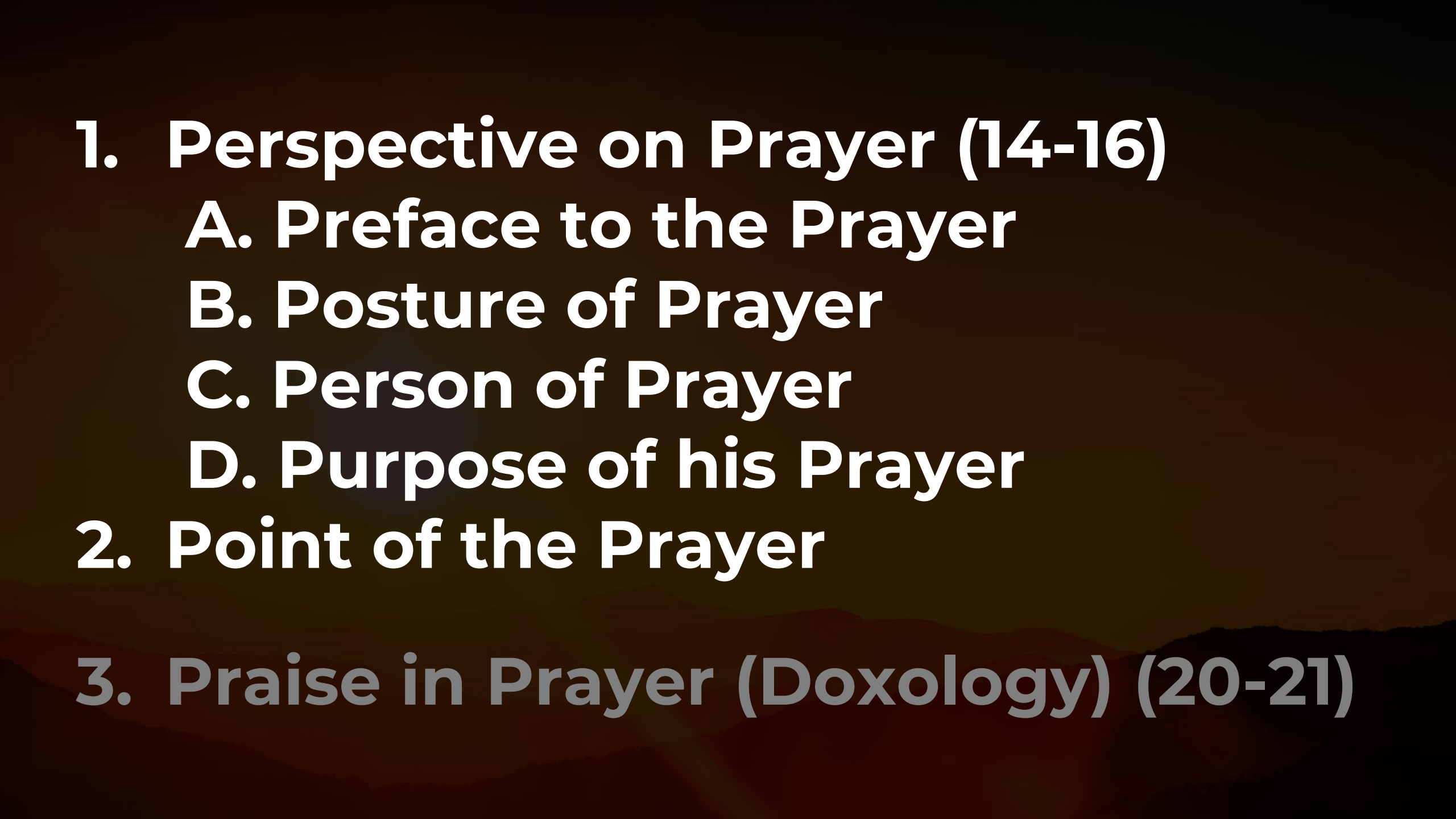
**Ephesians 3.14-19**

<sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

**Ephesians 3.14-19**

<sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

**Ephesians 3.14-19**

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    - D. Purpose of his Prayer**
  - 2. Point of the Prayer**
  - 3. Praise in Prayer (Doxology) (20-21)**

<sup>20</sup> 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, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

**Ephesians 3:20-21**