

Sequim Community Church
“**God’s Surprising Plan for Growth**”
Ephesians 3:16-20
Rev. Rick Dietzman, July 27th 2008

Introduction

1. Empowered– through the Holy Spirit

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.

Ephesians 3:16

He provides power for living.

You will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

He provides guidance.

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. John 16:13

He affirms us.

His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children. Romans 8:16

2. Trust– Jesus at home in our hearts

Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Ephesians 3:17

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

- Trust in God as my provider
- Trust in opening myself to God’s people
- Trust in letting him use my life for Him
- Trust in letting Him into my hurts and fears

3. Understanding– rooted in God the Father’s love

Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. Ephesians 3:18

In a healthy plant or tree, the catalyst (or enzyme) causes growth, and in the same way the gospel of the kingdom acts as that catalyst in our lives:

The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through (ezumoothee) the dough. Matthew 13:33

And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. Ephesians 3:18

A sociological study in 2002 came to the following conclusion: “We are hardwired for other people, for moral meaning, and for openness to the transcendent.”

See www.americanvalues.org/html/hardwired.html

- The human brain is organized to ask ultimate questions and seek ultimate answers.
- People need to be a part of communities that model connectedness – being committed to one another over time, and seeking to live a good and productive life.

4. Experience– being made complete along with others

May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Ephesians 3:19

The Church is not optional – we need others to help us.

Conclusion