

THE IMMEASURABLE FULLNESS OF GOD

Ephesians 3:19

- **Pray for Tony and Amie**
- *People 10 years from now, Michael, Butch as Tom, Jerry as Brad,
But Kuya Met 30 years from now

Why the need to review? How soap opera works (...to be continued and then last week)

***Review :**

*14For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16That **(hina)** he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*

*17That **(hina)** Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that **(hina)** ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that **(hina)** ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

***Note :** Powerful Christian Living starts with a constant connection with God.

***Hudson Taylor :** when he was complimented on the impact of his mission
“It seemed to me that God looked over the whole world to find a man who was weak enough to do His work, and when He at last found me, He said, ‘He is weak enough—he’ll do.’ All God’s giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on His being with them.”

1. ***Inner Strength from the Holy Spirit**

*16That **(hina)** he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*

Connect : That if we have the inner strength to just trust in God (whether in resisting temptation or in reacting to our troubles in life) we will know the ...

2. ***Infinite Love of Christ**

*17That **(hina)** Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that **(hina)** ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;*

How?

a. **Christ will dwell (katoikeo) in our hearts**

*17That **(hina)** Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;*

Review : katoikeo – to make it one’s home

Explain again : Christ is in us but does he feel at home?

**John 14:23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.*

b.) Once He is at home we will be able to understand His infinite love.

that (hina**) ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;*

***Review 2:**

¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Etymology again : To grasp : “katalambano” used for fishermen and hunters

Explain : fishermen when they fish, hunters when they hunt...GOT IT! (I understand it)

Review 3 :

We now understand how

- **Wide** – “platos” – to the corners of the earth
Application – *John 3:16 “For God so loved the world...”* which means it includes “me.”
- **Long** – “mekos” length

Ephesians 1:⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

- **High** – “hypsos” - we get the word “hyper” - super abounding – sobra-sobra
Ephesians 1:³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

- **Deep** – “bathos” deep, extreme poverty (how did Jesus show that?)

Ephesians 2:¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ...

Explain : He reached into our deadness and gave us life.

**Philippians 2: ⁶Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
⁷but made himself nothing,*

Why?

**2 Corinthians 8: ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

Explanation of rich –

- It's not about having an abundance of money.

***Quote :** Happiness is not based on money and the best proof of that is our family.
- Christina Onassis – daughter of billionaire Aristotle Onassis

- It's about having all the resources to live a full life. (Explain further

**John 10:10...I have come to give you life, life to the full.*

***Read** Ephesians 3: 14-21

*¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom his whole family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹**and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.***

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

Pray

v.18... **to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, , ¹⁹**AND to know** this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

Don't forget : “and” “te” – and also

Illustrate : Tagalog joke : In the Philippines, we call this “bigote” “atsaka” “balbas”

What is Paul saying?

We have to grasp (katalambano, understand) the love of Christ AND know the love of Christ so that (hina) we will be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Observe :** *¹⁹**and to know this love that surpasses knowledge

Paul is like saying : To know something that is beyond knowing.

Question : What is Paul saying here?

Explain : Describe the color red.

***Dictionary :** *(red) primary color at one extreme end of the visible spectrum, an effect of light with a wavelength between 610 and 780 nm.*

Now describe this to a blind person who have never seen red before...it's beyond knowledge

So how would a blind person know the color red. HE HAS TO SEE IT...IN SHORT, HE HAS TO EXPERIENCE IT HIMSELF.

In short, in order for us *to know this love the surpasses knowledge.*

***I. WE HAVE TO EXPERIENCE HIS LOVE.**

¹⁹and to know this love...

Explain : Now you really want that blind person to see the color red and you have all the resources in the world, and you will say that he can have a corneal transplant. But in order to have to that transplant, somebody must die first... And the blind person must accept that eye...

This is what exactly what happened when God showed His love for us by giving His only Son for us.

Romans 5:3 "For God demonstrated His own love for us through this, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." And we just have to receive that...

***Note :** The Christian life is a life of surrender.

Illustration : You know those words, "Let Go and Let God", they say the origin was that a college student in the nineteenth century wrote in large letter on each one of the postcards : the letters L-E-T-G-O-D and placed it in a spot where can just see it. One evening a draft below through the window and blew the letter "D" away. As he saw only the words L-E-T-G-O...he seemed to realize that it was a message from God, the secret of the Christian life. It is only by letting go can you experience the love of God that surpasses knowledge.

***II. WE HAVE TO EXPRESS OUR LOVE FOR HIM.**

¹⁹and to know this love

Etymology : to know - "ginosko" - Jewish idiom for the sexual encounter between husband and wife

Explain : The intimacy between husband and wife is a wonderful illustration of both surrender and expression of love at the same time. I'm expressing my love for you by surrendering my body to you.

NOW the question is :

*How do we experience the love of God? By surrendering to Him.

*How do we express our love for God? By surrendering to Him.

Explain : In courtship, the man would say, "I promise to make you happy", how can the woman experience that? By saying yes. How does she express her love for him? By saying yes.

***Lyrics :**

I'm trading my sorrows,
I'm trading my pains,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.

I'm trading my sickness
I'm trading my shame,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord,

We say yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord.

I'm pressed but not crushed persecuted not abandoned
Struck down but not destroyed
I'm blessed beyond the curse for his promise will endure
And his joy's gonna be my strength

Though the sorrow may last for the night
His joy comes with the morning

Wise Wife : When you are experiencing trials in life, don't give up, you have to allow God to show His faithfulness to you.

Illustrate : When my wife first got cancer, she had undergone six chemos already and we prayed that it will not come back...But after six months, it came back and it was much worse than the first time she had it...she could have said, "I don't want to go to chemo again" and just give up when God is saying, "Hindi pa ako tapos e...give up ka na." True enough after six chemos, she still has to undergo operation just to open her up just to make sure everything's clear and then another two chemos. And of course, her latest result last May was that she's totally free of the cancer.

III. WE WILL KNOW THE EXCEEDING LOVE OF GOD FOR US.

¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge

What is this love again that God wants us to know? Love that surpasses knowledge

What kind of love?

***a.) A love with no conditions**

¹⁹*and to know this love that surpasses knowledge*

Etymology : Agape –

Last week, I showed you the basic difference –

Agape – (voluntary) I love you because I chose to love you

Phileo – (involuntary) I love you because I have to love you

Phileo love : A letter coming from a girl (Marie) who broke up an engagement with a guy (Jimmy) and she wanted to go back again to Jimmy

Dearest Jimmy, No words could ever express the great unhappiness I've felt since breaking our engagement. Please say you'll take me back. No one could ever take your place in my heart, so please forgive me. I love you, I love you, I love you! Yours forever, Marie.

P.S., By the way, congratulations on winning the 6/49 jackpot.

***Quote (Agape love) :** There is nothing you can do to make God love you more!
There is nothing you can do to make God love you less! His love is Unconditional, Impartial, Everlasting, Infinite, Perfect! - Richard Halverson

***b.) A love with no restrictions**

¹⁹*and to know this love that **surpasses** knowledge*

Etymology : surpasses – passeth – “hyperballo” – exceeds

Root word : “hyper” - beyond, over

“ballo” - to throw something without caring where it falls

In short, it doesn't matter who you are just as long as you are willing to receive the love of God...IT'S YOURS!!!

Etymology : knowledge – “gnosis” general knowledge

In short, this is a kind of love that you can't explain.

Isn't that the love of God for us when He gave His Son? We were the ones who rebelled against Him, we were the ones who rejected Him, we were the ones who sinned against Him and yet still He gave us something we don't deserve – His love as shown through His Son who died on the cross in exchange for us.

This is the kind of love that doesn't care who you are but only cares if you will receive that love.

Summary :

Earlier, we can only know this love of Christ by surrendering to him.

**Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life.*

Etymology – Hebrew for follow “radaph” means to pursue, like a dog chasing a man

What is pursuing us? Our Lord's goodness and mercy.

So how do we get it? Stop and surrender to Him.

Illustration : Let me tell you a secret of mine :

What do you do with your hands when you surrender?

When I was starting attending Christian services, I didn't want to raise my hands while singing songs of praise. I thought of Christians as crazy, weird people who raise their hands. But when I gave my life to the Lord, one of the first things I did was raise my hands which signifies my heart, “I surrender to you Lord.” “Pagod na ako Lord, I surrender my life to you.” And ever since, I have been experiencing the love of Christ not only in my life but in my family's life. Now when I raise my hands, it's not only a symbol of surrender, it's a sign of receiving, (just like an antenna), oh Lord, I'm receiving your love and I'm sending my love back to you.

*And only through this can we be **be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.**

And Lord willing, that's what we're going to learn from God's word next week.
Let's pray...