

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. 16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. 18 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen (NRSV).

Ephesians is compressed doctrine and practical advice. The Scripture starts with words “for this reason” which means the information we are given is based on information that has already been given. You are blessed. You have received the gospel of salvation. You are dead to the old life of sin and now have a new life in Christ. We are saved by the grace of God and are all united in the reconciled body of the church. We are all citizens with saints and members of God’s household that are adopted directly into the family of God. We have never been free of sin but God’s grace covers that. Love is the focus of God – sin separates us from God and love brings us back. It is for this reason that Paul considers himself as a prisoner for Christ. It is for the sake of us Gentiles. The commission that is given to Paul is for the people.

The mystery of Christ is made known to humankind and revealed by the Holy Spirit through the apostles and the prophets. The Gentiles are fellow heirs and members of the same body. We all share the same promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. He is a servant of the gospel. We get our motivation to live a life of devotion through God's gift of grace and the wisdom of God is made known through the church to the rulers and authorities. This is the purpose of our Lord. We have access to God through our bold and confident faith. His prayer is for the church's maturity to teach the gospel so that the wisdom of God is known to the rulers and authorities. The Scripture is not prayer itself; it is about the prayer. I pray that you, the church, your inner being is strengthened. That is a goal for the church; to have a stronger inner being, spirit, soul, heart, and devotion. This is done by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I pray that Christ is in your heart. You are rooted and grounded in love and love is the most preached theme of Bible. I pray that you have wisdom and the power to comprehend the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge. It is so you may be filled with all the fullness of God. The ultimate goal of the individual is the fullness of God. The prayer is that God, through the Spirit, strengthens your inner being. Christ is present through faith and love is a firm foundation so that believers obtain true knowledge and reach the ultimate goal.

Surpassing knowledge of Lord = lesson in itself

Lesson for – intellectual – demands proof

Surpassing knowledge = beyond your level of comprehension

Lord – beyond knowledge

Beyond – human realm of understanding  
Means – requires faith – not proof  
Humans have = limited understanding  
Mysteries = things beyond human comprehension  
God – reveals the mysteries to man  
Through man – prophets & Jesus  
Goal – humanity – get in line with will of God  
Love & unity – not anger & vengeance  
Christians are to love & unite together  
Not – judge & blame  
Goal – you have the power of knowing  
That the love of Christ – surpasses knowledge  
It's like this  
There is the realm – human knowledge  
There is the realm – beyond human knowledge  
This is the mystery – unknown to humans  
But this realm is known to God  
This = surpassing knowledge  
So – the realm beyond human knowledge  
Is a realm known to = God – Jesus – angels – Holy Spirit  
Understanding the realm beyond human knowledge  
Requires faith & work of Holy Spirit  
This is what trips up – many intellectual atheists  
Trust in = own knowledge  
Fail to trust = what they cannot know  
The realm beyond human knowledge  
Surpassing knowledge – the mystery  
The objective of text = devotional fortitude  
Firm up your conviction – commitment – motivation  
God's work – done through human hands  
For human discipleship  
Designed to continue – mission of Christ  
God – experienced as Father  
Specific – Christian characteristic  
Set up by Jesus – us to see = love of God  
We are = family of God, united, loved

Understand = surpassing knowledge  
Know – love of  
Simple – cut through – verbiage  
Holy Spirit strengthens – inner being  
Inner being – reflection – attitude toward divine  
Christ – live within you  
All grounded in love  
Scripture saying  
To know – love of Christ – takes = surpassing knowledge  
Understand – full dimension

Have to be – people of love  
Have to have = the love of Christ  
The love of Christ – exceeds human comprehension  
Beyond our scope of knowledge  
When – you are filled with Holy Spirit  
You are filled with love  
No anger – hatred – judging – vengeance – jealousy  
Dozen other – negative emotions – guide us daily  
All – replaced with spirit of love

It is the whole realm  
The whole realm – based on love  
God is about love  
Jesus is about love  
The heavenly realm is about love  
It is all about = love  
Never about – any of the things that divide us  
Never about – anything divisive  
Family – church – work & school – politics  
Always has been about – love of God  
Evidence – love of Christ – takes – surpassing knowledge  
Look at the world  
Majority of world population – claims Christianity  
Most of world – missing the love – peace – unity  
Being filled with love of Christ  
Takes – accepting the call  
Surrender your life to Christ  
Then – live life of devotion  
Never duty – full of love & joy  
Live a life of peace – joy – love – unity