

Paul delights in descriptive superlatives of our infinite God!

Phil 4:7 ...the peace of God, which *transcends all understanding*...

Eph 3:8 ...the *unsearchable* riches of Christ...

Rom 11:33 ...how *unsearchable* his judgments...

Eph 3:19 ... to know this love that *surpasses knowledge*...

Eph 3:20 ... Him who is able to do *immeasurably more than all we imagine*...

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole 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 saints, *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.

Paul's great desire for us is that we would receive the strengthening power of God by His Spirit in our hearts so that we would be enabled to make progress in exploring and discovering the vastness of God's love and power which is beyond total comprehension.

To illustrate, consider the ocean. As a family we spent a few days at the ocean last September. Our grandson had a bucket and a wading pool and enjoyed "the ocean" immensely. If we took a bucket of ocean water, we could measure it, examine it, analyze it, taste it, feel it, smell it, and examine it in a laboratory in a multitude of ways over the coming months and years. If we exhausted all our capacities and opportunities, and made completely accurate analyses and filled bookshelves with our discoveries, we would not have even begun to "know" the ocean! A million lifetimes would never suffice to "know" the ocean, and yet the ocean is finite. The ocean has limits, but not the love or power or wisdom of God! The infinite God and His infinite love are beyond knowing in their fullness. But God is committed to giving us strength by His Spirit in our souls so that we may press on in making new discoveries of His love and power throughout our lives and throughout eternity.

Our knowledge of the love and power of God in Christ is, if biblically accurate, and imparted by the Spirit, real and true. But we have not begun to know it in its fullness. It is not that we do not know the love of Christ *at all*. It is not that we do not know the power of Christ *at all*. *It is that we do not know it all!* Nor can we ever complete the discoveries and close the books on such soul delighting discoveries, even through the everlasting ages of an endless eternity. We hear the roar of the waves of this mighty ocean of Christ's power and love, we smell its freshness, we see to the horizon in every direction its vast and swelling might... but there is more, so much more, beyond, below, around, beneath, within, that you have yet to know. John was struck with such a vision as he wrote... 1 John 3:1 "See how great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" What kind of love is this? Indeed! Eternity will not provide the time and effort needed to make the answer complete.

A friend of mine lived in Nepal. He told of a time he walked for three weeks, finally reaching the base camp of Mt. Everest. The base camp (17,500 ft.) was nearly a mile higher than Pike's Peak! And that's before you begin to climb the mountain!

When once we reach the base camp of the New Jerusalem, and begin to climb what we may assume is the peak of God's love and power, we will reach that summit only to discover that we have not yet reached base camp of the massif that looms ahead. So on and on we will press to discover this mountain of our God's love, only to discover that with each ascent, another height awaits, making the last seem as but a small hill in comparison. Press on, my friend.... There is more...so much more to be discovered, and no end shall ever be found.

Language fails when describing such immense, limitless, powerful love. The best a Spirit directed apostle could do, the best an English translator could do, was to select a tiny word to encompass a measureless ocean of divine love, to describe an infinite mountain of divine love... "God so loved." A two letter word in which we find infinity!

Now, what is the result of giving ourselves to this effort of growing in the knowing of this incomprehensible love and power of Christ? John tells us it will drive out all fear. 1 John 4:16-18 "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear*, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."

The result of growing in the knowing of the incomprehensible love of Christ, is a God glorifying peace, joy, faith, and fearlessness. We will experience an increasingly eager pursuit and appetite to know Him in His fullness, that we may give Him greater glory. The more we know, the more we know we do not yet know, and the more we long to know the love of Christ that is beyond knowing in its fullness. Press on, Pilgrim. You shall fail to discover the fullness of this love, but with every attempt each new failure shall only compel you to try again. Never will another failure yield such sweetness to the soul.

### *The Love of God*

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Hope Publishing Co.

The love of God is greater far  
Than tongue or pen can ever tell.  
It goes beyond the highest star  
And reaches to the lowest hell.  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,  
God gave His Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled  
And pardoned from his sin

When hoary time shall pass away,  
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;  
When men who here refuse to pray,  
On rocks and hills and mountains call;  
God's love, so sure, shall still endure,  
All measureless and strong;  
Redeeming grace to Adam's race—  
The saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,  
And were the skies of parchment made;  
Were every stalk on earth a quill,  
And every man a scribe by trade;  
To write the love of God above  
Would drain the ocean dry;  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,  
Though stretched from sky to sky.

### Chorus

O love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure

The saints' and angels' song.

*Charles Wesley 1707-1788*

*And Can It Be*

And can it be that I should gain  
an interest in the Savior's blood!  
Died he for me? who caused his pain!  
For me? who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all: th' Immortal dies!  
Who can explore his strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries  
to sound the depths of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore;  
let angel minds inquire no more.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore;  
let angel minds inquire no more.

He left his Father's throne above  
(so free, so infinite his grace!),  
emptied himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me!  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
thine eye diffused a quickening ray;  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
my chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in him, is mine;  
alive in him, my living Head,  
and clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach th' eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.  
Bold I approach th' eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Phillips, Craig and Dean  
What kind of love is this  
What kind of love is this,  
That climbs the hill,  
That bears the cross,  
That takes the nails?  
What kind of love is this,  
That takes my place,  
That gives His life,  
And clears my name?  
Oh, I want to know  
What kind of love is this?

What kind of love is this,  
That gives His Son  
That bears the sin of everyone?  
What kind of love is this,  
That cries alone,  
That tastes of death  
To bring me home?  
Oh, I want to know  
What kind of love is this?

What kind of love is this,  
That fills my soul,  
That lifts me up,  
And makes me whole?  
What kind of love is this,  
That gives me hope,  
That dries my tears,  
And brings me joy?  
Oh, I want to know  
What kind of love this is?

Chorus:  
It's wonderful,  
It's glorious,  
It's full of grace,  
And full of mercy,  
Powerful,  
It's marvelous.  
That's what this love is.  
That's what God's love is.

Self Check:

1. When was the last time your soul was amazed by the love of God in Christ?
2. What are your present fears? How does God's love answer and remove those fears?

Think about it:

1. Make a list of 10 words (or phrases) to describe the love of God.
2. Write a poem or paragraph of praise to Christ for His love to you
3. How does knowing that your wildest imaginations about God's power are less than reality help you?

For further study:

List the books of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and then write a brief description of God's love as it is revealed in each one. Gen: Love that restrains Exo: Love that redeems Lev: Love that sacrifices Num: Love that forgives Deut: Love that reminds Joshua: Love that saves a harlot Judges: Love that rescues the unworthy Etc.....

"Lord Jesus Christ, You have bestowed Your love on me, saving me, cleansing me, forgiving me, restoring me. Your love was manifested in Your incarnation, Your instruction, Your compassion, Your cross, Your resurrection, Your pouring out Your Spirit in my heart, Your keeping me, Your changing me, Your promises, Your determination to bring me to Yourself in heaven eternally. I shall never reach the summit of knowing Your love, but I can never stop loving You as I press on to know Thy love better today than yesterday. Fill me with Thy love so that I may reflect Thy love to a lost and loveless world that You "so" love. In Thy Name, Lord of love I pray, Amen."

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.

Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Ron & Val

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable, changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. We are Pilgrims in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.