

Key Scripture Ephesians 3:6-21 **7**I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace, given me through the working of His power. **8**Though I am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, **9**and to illuminate for everyone the stewardship of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. **10**His purpose was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, **11**according to the eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.**12**In Him and through faith in Him we may enter God's presence with boldness and confidence. **13**So I ask you not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory. **14**... for this reason I bow my knees before the Father, **15**from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. **16**I ask that out of the riches of His glory He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, **17**so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. Then you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18**will have power, together with all the saints, to comprehend the length and width and height and depth **19**of the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. **20**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, **21**to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

1. **Ephesians 3:6** This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are **fellow heirs**, fellow members of the body, and **fellow partakers** of the promise in Christ Jesus.
 - a. Jesus is the door for all people. In other religions of the world, "salvation" is by works and often is limited to sects or classes of "special" people who have earned gods' benevolence. Jesus breaks all that prideful ambition apart and calls all men to humble themselves and to repent.
 - b. The work of Jesus at the cross strips every man of His selfish ambition, He alone could pay our sin debt and purchase us back from the dead. We all were utterly helpless unless He stepped in to save us.
 - c. Fellow heirs, means we have the same blessings given to the descendants of Abraham. We have even better promises than those who were under the covenant of the Law.
 - d. What did Jesus promise His disciples?
 1. Eternal Life **1st John 5:11, Titus 1:2, John 10:28, John 3:15-16, Romans 6:23**
 2. Constant fellowship with God the Father and the Son. **John 14:18 & 23**
 3. A new body that would be incorruptible **1st Corinthians 15:50-52, Romans 2:7**
 4. Authority and rule in the Kingdom **Revelation 3:21, Luke 22:30**
 5. A new name that no one knows but God and the person He gives the name to. **Revelation 2:17**
 6. A Heavenly city called New Jerusalem where Righteousness dwells permanently **Revelation 21:2**
 7. To taste the powers of the age to come. **Hebrews 6:5, Luke 16:11**
 8. To know the Joy of the Lord **Matthew 25:21**
 9. Riches, crowns and an inheritance that cannot fade. **Psalms 103:4, Matthew 6:20, Romans 11:12**
 10. Marriage to the lamb of God as the Bride of Christ. **Revelation 19:7**
 11. To know full freedom from sin **John 8:36**
 12. Honor in the coming Kingdom, vindication in the coming kingdom, victory over all evil. **John 12:26, Revelation 15:2, 1st John 2:13**
 13. Sonship exactly as Jesus is in constant fellowship with the Father. **John 14:21**
 14. Houses, fields and riches in the Kingdom to come and fellowship with believers to a degree that mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters will be given to you. The promise includes this lifetime but comes with understanding its context. **Luke 18:29, Jeremiah 29:11, Hebrews 13:5**

Conclusion: Never forget the amazing gifts God has given to you in Jesus, they outweigh present sufferings and make our current struggles insignificant compared to His eternal rewards.
2. **Ephesians 3:7** **7**I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace, given me through the working of His power.
 - a. We do not serve God by our own strength. Our ministries are accomplished **through the grace of God**. The Apostle Paul makes it clear that the power that sustains the work is from God and not himself.
 - b. Paul considers the work of preaching the gospel to be a gift from God. What a heart transformation, to see the life of a servant as God's gift. Paul understood the blessing God gave him to become the apostle to the gentiles. All of this after he was known as a Murderer of Christians.

3. **Ephesians 3:8** 8Though I am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,
 - a. “Less than the least of the saints”, Paul is humbling himself because He used to murder Christians in ignorance. Paul has not forgotten to be grateful for God’s mercy and neither should we.
 - b. Paul is not using this language to gain points with the Ephesians He really see’s himself as the least of the Christians. This is an amazing transformation that God brought to pass in Paul’s life. God can change your view of yourself. If you struggle with pride God can deliver you as well.
 - c. “unsearchable riches” is better translated as incomprehensible riches or “not fully understood” Paul is saying God’s grace allowed Him to understand the fullness of who Jesus is and what He has accomplished for us. He is again referencing that the revelations He has been given were once sealed mysteries.
4. **Ephesians 3:9** 9and to illuminate for everyone the stewardship of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.
 - a. Paul’s mission was to open the eyes of the people and their personal responsibility to the mission of the proclamation of the gospel.
 - b. The mission of the worldwide evangelization of the world through the church was kept hidden by God himself.
5. **Ephesians 3:10-11** 10His purpose was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11according to the eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - a. The church does not wrestle against human entities but human entities who are ultimately controlled and deceived through demonic spirits in the heavenly realms. The Church through its work, is God’s vindication among his enemies. In part we are the victory of God over these evil spiritual forces.
 - b. We cannot defeat spiritual enemies with earthly tools or means. Through the Holy Spirit we have been given powerful weapons for spiritual warfare.
6. **Ephesians 3:12-15** 12In Him and through faith in Him we may enter God’s presence with boldness and confidence. 13So I ask you not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory. 14... for this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.
 - a. The eternal purpose of God was to restore mankind so that we may again have access to God to dwell where He dwells in boldness and confidence.
 - b. Paul is encouraging the Ephesian church that his sufferings are a part of God’s plan and ultimately is for their benefit. Can you imagine the spiritual maturity it takes to see life the way that Paul has chosen to see it. The Apostle Paul has clear and deep insight into what victory to God really looks like.
 - c. In essence Paul has developed such a selfless love for the church that He considers it a blessing to suffer for there benefit.
 - d. Paul let’s the Ephesian church in on His prayer life for them. We learn how to better pray for others in the church though following Paul’s’ example.
7. **Ephesians 3:16-19** 16I ask that out of the riches of His glory He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, 17so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. Then you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18will have power, together with all the saints, to comprehend the length and width and height and depth 19of the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
 - a. We need to be strengthened with Power in our Spirit so that we are not moved from doing what is right, good, and holy in the world. Remember every day we are bombarded by our adversaries’ attacks.
 - b. Vs 17: So that you may have the courage to live in and for Christ by faith, that Jesus would be near to you since your hearts are firmly planted in Him not wavering in unbelief.
 - c. Vs17 with Christ in you, with full faith you will be settled in God’s love for you. It’s hard to serve God if you don’t know or experience His love in your life consistently.
 - d. “Have Power to comprehend the love of Christ.
 - e. Jesus love surpasses knowledge, meaning it must be received by experience to fully grasp.
8. **Conclusion:** Measure your life’s value and worth by God’s perspective. Whatever trials we endure here in this life, they pale in comparison to the glory of the life to soon come. Press in and press onward towards Jesus.