

A.R.M.

Glory

Ephesians

Keywords Devotional



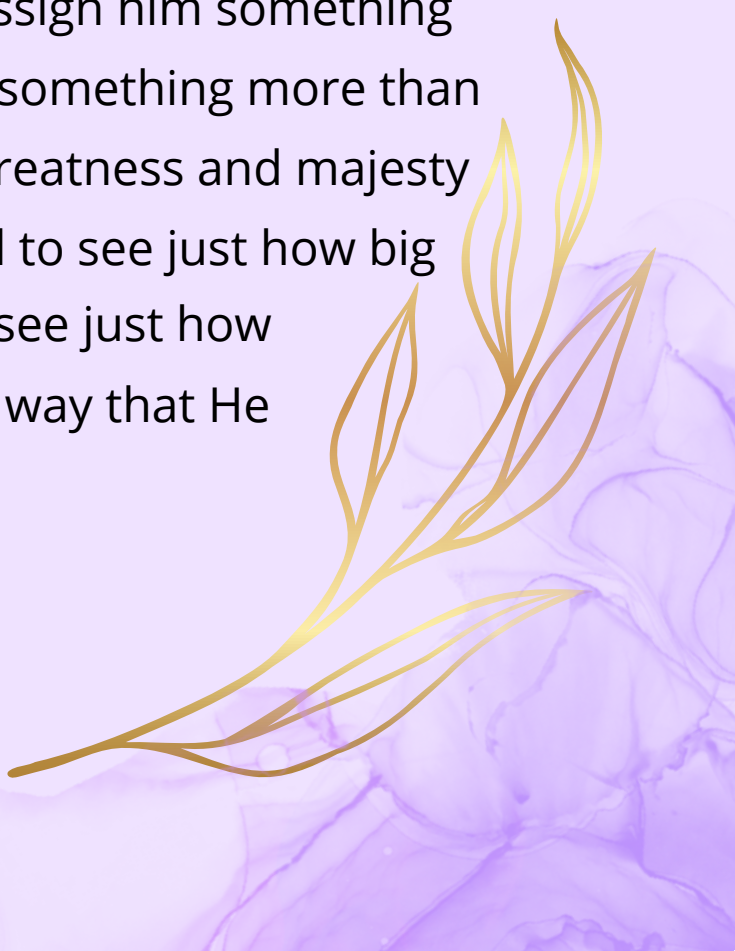
Glory:

honor, renown; the unspoken manifestation of God, splendor, majesty, radiance of His goodness, weightiness, significance

Give God Glory:

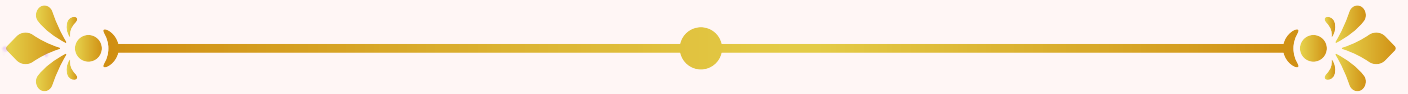
also attributed (ascribed) value and honor, ascribed weight.

To give Glory to God isn't to assign him something he doesn't have or make him something more than He is. It is to zoom in on His greatness and majesty sort of like a telescope is used to see just how big stars and planets are. It is to see just how great He is and treat God in a way that He is worthy of.



Ephesians 1:6

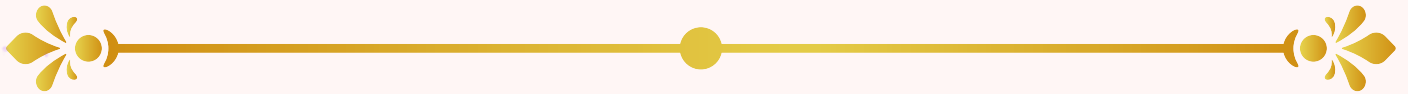
to the praise of the GLORY of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.



Everything we have been given through our faith in Christ is purposed to bring glory to God. When God blesses us, forgives us, adopts us, recreates us, and does everything else out of His good grace, He intends to glorify His great name by treating us as His own beloved children. God's loving treatment of us in Christ brings glory to His name.


Ephesians 1:12

that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise
of His GLORY.




When we trust in Christ and believe in the gospel message, we are glorifying God. It brings God glory when an individual believes in the good news of His Son. When we come to believe in Christ, we become living reasons that God's name is glorified, but also living witnesses to the greatness of His glory.

Connecting the Verses

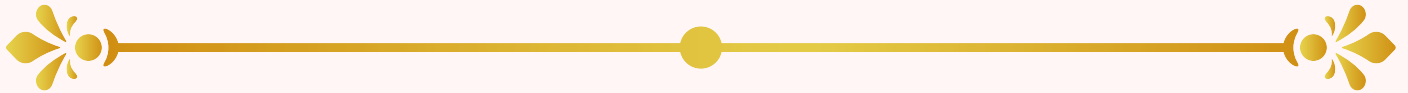


Not only does our faith bring glory to God's name, but God's response to our faith also brings much honor and glory to His great name. God doesn't just love us and benefit us with every spiritual blessing in Christ, but He's actually honored by bestowing such grace upon us. The activity of redemption exalts God's name. This means God delights in treating us as His own beloved children. He delights in blessing us because it magnifies His glory.



Ephesians 1:14

who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His GLORY.



The Spirit of God fills us when we come to faith in Christ. And, God's Spirit is a witness to our coming inheritance.

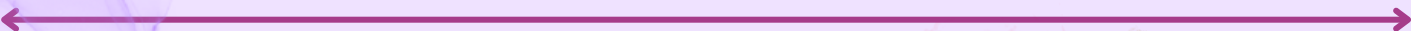
He actually guarantees us the inheritance God has promised to us. This activity of the Holy Spirit glorifies God, whether that be filling us or guaranteeing the coming inheritance. God receives glory by giving us confident assurance of our future inheritance in Christ.

God doesn't just give us reason to be confident of our coming inheritance, but He is glorified when we choose to believe the testimony of the Spirit regarding what God has promised for His children.

Connecting the Verses

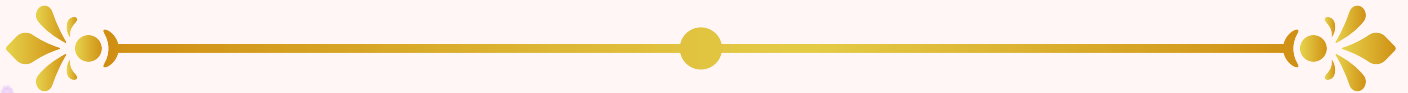


God accepts us into His family as His own beloved children because of His grace and love. He adopts us and makes us co-heirs with Christ, and He seals us with His very Spirit as a guarantee of our future inheritance. All of these acts of God bring glory to His great name. In other words, everything God does for us in Christ, not only benefits us but brings Him glory because He delights to do these things. The Spirit of God points us to the majesty and glory of God through His activity in our life. The blessings of God point us to God's great glory and should leave us in awe of His unspeakable majesty. And, God's acceptance of us should leave us at His feet in awestruck humility. We should be moved to worship and exalt the glory of God because of all that He has done for us in Christ.



Ephesians 1:17

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of
GLORY, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and
revelation in the knowledge of Him,



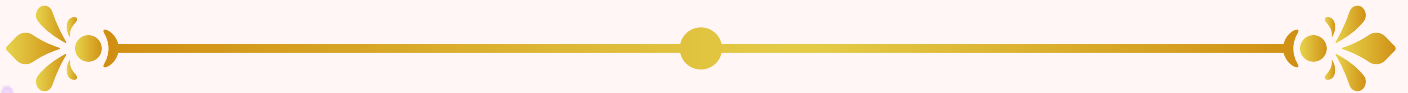
Our God is the Father of glory. His name is glorious. His character is wonderful. His works are magnificent. And, this great and glorious God wants us to come and know Him. As we pursue an ever-growing knowledge of God, we will find ourselves in a greater understanding of His magnificent glory. He is glory and majesty personified. He is the source of all glory. And, His existence alone deserves our highest worship and honor because He is so glorious.

Connecting the Verses

When we better understand the glory of God, we will live in such a way that brings God the glory He is worthy of. We won't bring God glory with our lives until we see and know His glory for ourselves. Our lives will naturally bring God glory when we come to know His worth and glory personally. God blesses us with every spiritual blessing to lead us closer to Him. God seals us with His Spirit and guarantees our eternal inheritance in order to bring us deeper into intimacy and relationship with Him. Everything that God does for us should lead us closer to Him and cause us to glorify His name even more. God's activity in our lives is not to be an end in itself but should cause us to see the real treasure as being God Himself.

Ephesians 1:18

the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the GLORY of His inheritance in the saints,



God's glory is rich and abounding. His inheritance is full of glory as well, which means that it is deeply valued by God.

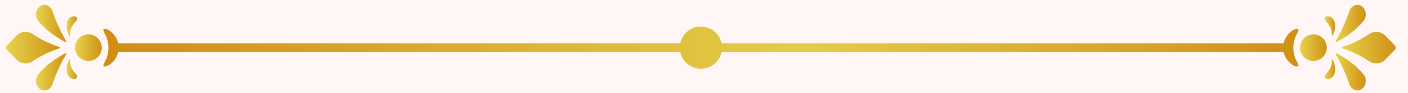
And, in this verse, the inheritance of God is His people. God's beloved children are His treasured possession. God has assigned so much value and worth to His people, that they are said to be rich in glory. This idea alone should cause us to stand in awe before God. God invites us into His very glory, and then He even chooses to be glorified through inheriting us as His own deeply valued treasure.

Connecting the Verses

Paul wants us to understand what it means to be treasured by the Almighty King of the universe, and why there is so much glory in that truth. It's one thing for God to be glorified through blessing us and giving us everything we have in Christ. But, it's another thing for God to decide that we, as His children, are His glorious possession. There is a glory that God receives through inheriting us, not because we are inherently glorious, but because He has assigned us such worth. The riches of God's glory can be seen in how He loves and values us more than we can ever imagine.


Ephesians 3:13

Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your GLORY.




Paul says that his suffering and tribulation are the glory (honor) of the Ephesian church. There are many views as to why Paul's suffering is the glory of the Ephesian church. But, what is clear is that Paul's suffering is the result of his faithful obedience to God. Also, Paul's imprisonment places him in a unique position to reach specific Gentiles and advance the Kingdom of God even more. The church should be finding a kind of delight in the fact that God is using Paul's suffering and imprisonment to advance His church and glorify His name. Also, there is a testimony of faithfulness and boldness that could embolden and strengthen the Ephesians to continue being faithful because of Paul's example. So, Paul's suffering can prove to be a point of strength for the believers, as they follow Christ in their own form of suffering.

Connecting the Verses

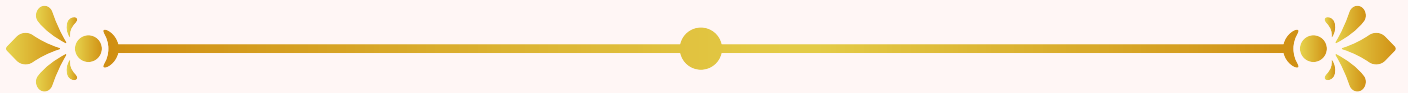


If God is so glorious and worthy, we should expect to be faced with situations where our love for God is put to the test. Suffering and tribulation have a unique way of testing our love for God and loyalty to Him. If we truly understand the glory of God, we'll be set up for success in times of testing like Paul. Trials and suffering are opportunities to glorify God and show the world how glorious He is. If God has been so good to us, we should be willing to glorify His name in the hardest situations because He is so glorious and worthy.



Ephesians 3:16

that He would grant you, according to the riches of His GLORY, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,



The riches of God's glory and majesty are endless. His honor and renown have no end. This infinite glory is the measuring stick of God's divine power and strength. And, Paul is praying that God would grant His spiritual strength to the church, which is in accordance with God's glory. But, this spiritual strength seems to be similar (if not the same) to God's actual glory. In other words, God's glory is the spiritual strength He supplies His people. When God supplies His people strength, He is supplying them from His own divine glory so that His greatness fills their life.

Connecting the Verses

God has actually made His divine glory available to His people so that when we operate in this world as His ambassadors, we carry the necessary spiritual strength to accomplish everything God has called us to do. And, this glory is seen in our lives when it's actively working through our visible lifestyle. God receives glory when we walk in His glorious strength, but this requires us to lean on Him rather than ourselves. And, it requires us to know His glorious strength which is one of the blessings He's made available to us in Christ.

Ephesians 3:21

to Him be GLORY in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.



God intends to receive glory and worship through His church. But, He also intends to be glorified by His church directly. As the church, we should live as those who are commissioned with the task of representing the infinitely glorious King of the universe. We should live as people who have been entrusted with God's very reputation because that's exactly what God has said. He has entrusted His glorious reputation and name to His church. And, what glorifies God is when His people faithfully walk in His ways and represent Him accurately to the world.

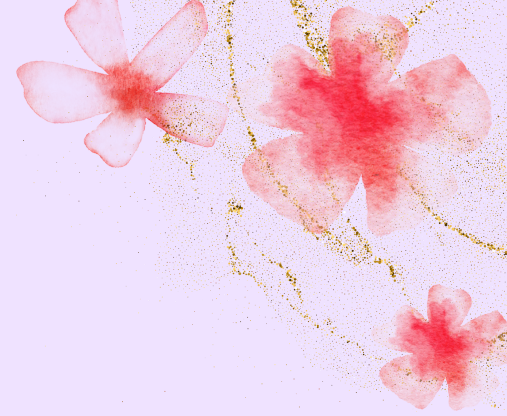
Connecting the Verses

The end goal of everything is that God would be glorified.

When God establishes His church, that very act of establishment glorifies His name. When God's people praise His name, God's name is magnified. But, also, when God's people walk in holiness and faithfully follow after Jesus, God receives glory and His great name is exalted on the earth through our collective efforts as the church. God's blessing is in the direction of His glory. His ultimate purpose is in the direction of His glory. And, everything God intends to do for His church and through them, is purposed to direct people to His own great glory. The church should be one big glowing sign pointing the world to the glory and majesty of our God. This is what it means for God to receive glory in His church.

Ephesians Chapter 1, v. 3-6

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

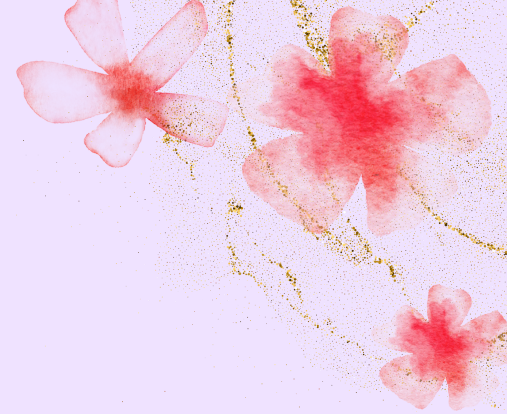


Connecting Ephesians 1:3-6

Paul opens his letter by blessing God. After introducing himself to his audience, his first priority is to praise God. And, Paul blesses God because He has first blessed us. God has blessed us with everything possible in His Son, and through this act of blessing, God's name is glorified. As blessed children of God, our very identity brings God the utmost glory, because it wasn't achieved or obtained by any efforts of our own.

This beautiful identity is a free gift of God's grace that His Son completely accomplished through His own sacrificial life, death, and resurrection. God's glory can be seen in our salvation process from beginning to end. When God blesses us, His grace is glorified. When He chooses us in His Son to be holy and blameless, God's grace is glorified. When God adopts us into His family as beloved children, God is glorified.





Connecting Ephesians 1:3-6 *(Continued)*

Not only is God glorifying His name through the way He graciously treats us, but our very identity is a witness to His magnificent glory and grace. In other words, we are living reasons that God is glorified, just by being who we are in Christ. When God blesses His people, His blessings aren't an end in themselves.

His blessings should direct us to His majesty and glory. Everything that God does for us in response to our faith, is designed to point us to His divine glory. The end goal of every good thing God does for us and gives us is to lead us to His greatness so that we would give Him the glory He's worthy of. He is the greatest treasure and blessing, and He is, therefore, worthy of all glory and praise.



Ephesians Chapter 1, v. 11-14

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.



Connecting Ephesians 1:11-14

Through our faith in Jesus, we have been given access to His very inheritance. God declares us to be co-heirs with His beloved Son so that we inherit everything belonging to Him. The main focus of the inheritance is the glory of God. We've been invited into fellowship with God to share in His glory as His beloved children. This is the best part of our inheritance. There's nothing better than coming into a relationship with the Almighty King of the Universe. And, this restoration of relationship glorified God, because He desires to invite His image bearers into His divine glory. The inheritance we have in Christ is amazing because God's glory is at the center of it as part of what we get to enjoy. God can't give us anything better than Himself. His glory is our greatest hope because it's the best thing we have to look forward to.



Connecting Ephesians 1:11-14 *(Continued)*

And, this inheritance is for those who trust in Christ as their only hope and salvation. God grants His Son's inheritance to anyone who would trust in His name for salvation. God declares that He is glorified when He gives His children access to enjoy His Son's inheritance. Not only does it magnify God's grace, but it also points us to His great glory. God is glorified through our inheriting everything Jesus rightly possesses and shares with us. When we trust in Christ, that faith glorifies God's name because we are taking God at His word and proclaiming His word to be true. And, God is glorified when people take Him at His word by believing His divine message about His Son.



Connecting Ephesians 1:11-14 *(Continued)*

Not only does our faith bring glory to God, but there's something else that brings God glory which Paul describes in verses 13-14. When we believe in Christ, the Holy Spirit seals us as God's beloved children. And, God's Spirit not only marks us as His own, but He even guarantees our coming inheritance. He is a witness to our coming inheritance, and He points us to the future glory of God which will be revealed in the children of God. So, God is glorified when people are filled with His presence and Spirit. But, God also receives glory when we take Him at His word by believing what the Spirit testifies about our coming inheritance. We give God glory when we believe in the assurance. And guarantee that the Holy Spirit gives us our promised inheritance.

God will be given much glory when we acquire possession of His promised inheritance for His people. But, as we patiently wait in faith, God also receives glory through the guarantee of His Spirit as well as our decision to take God at His word by living like our inheritance is guaranteed.



Ephesians

Chapter 1, v. 15-23

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.



Connecting Ephesians 1:15-23

The Ephesian church is glorifying God through their faith in Jesus and their love for all of God's people. And, Paul responds to the good report he has heard, by praying for the church and thanking God for all He is accomplishing in His people. Paul prays that the Father of glory would give His people deeper knowledge of God as well as the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. He specifically prays that as the church knows God, they would know the hope they have, the inheritance God has in His people, and the divine power that backs their lives.

Paul is essentially praying that the church would be led into a deeper experience of God's glory, through a deep knowledge of His love and character. This is why Paul describes God as the "Father of Glory." This emphasizes God as being the divine source of all majesty and honor, but also the only One who rightfully deserves honor and praise. God's name is glorified when the church comes into a more accurate view of His character and ways. But, God is also glorified when His people come to experience more of His glory.





Connecting Ephesians 1:15-23 *(Continued)*

We give God glory when we more deeply understand the hope we have in Christ. And, as we understand our hope in Christ, we will live the kind of lives that are consistent with the hope we truly have. God is glorified when we live according to the hope we truly possess because living in the direction of our hope will look like holiness, righteousness, love, and anything else that honors God's name.

But, hope is not the only thing Paul wants believers to understand. He also desires for believers to know the power of God as well as God's glorious inheritance in the saints. The inheritance Paul is describing isn't something that Christians are inheriting, but rather, it's something that God is inheriting. He is doing the possessing, and the church is what God is inheriting.

This means that God has assigned an insane amount of value to His children. The King of the Universes, who rightly owns all things that exist, has graciously decided that we are something to be inherited as His valued treasure. He values us and loves us as His own beloved children, and He even goes so far as to say that we are His glorious inheritance.



Connecting Ephesians 1:15-23 *(Continued)*

Paul wants us to understand how much we are loved and valued by God. He prays that the church would understand how glorious of an inheritance we are to God. And, this isn't because we are inherently worthy or valuable on our own. We don't give God any reason to value us so much. He has graciously assigned us such value that we give Him glory just by nature of Him inheriting us, the way that He chose the nation of Israel to be His chosen possession.

When we really understand how much God values and treasures us as His beloved children, we will live the kind of lives that truly give God glory. In order to give God glory, we have to understand the greatness of His majesty, and then we have to understand who He says we are. We live God-honoring lives when we live like we are truly His treasured possession.



Ephesians Chapter 3, v. 7-13

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

Connecting Ephesians 3:7-13

Paul says that he has been commissioned by God to bring to light the unsearchable riches of Christ through preaching the gospel message of salvation. And, as God saves people and grows His church, part of God's purpose is to display His infinite wisdom through what He does for His children and through their lives.

Part of this beautiful plan is that God gives His children bold, confident access to His very near presence, which is symbolized by His throne room. In other words, God gives us bold access to His throne room presence through our faith by filling us with His Spirit. We now have access to the glory of God through the mediating work of Jesus and by His Holy Spirit.

God's name is glorified when we utilize this access because it's a testimony to His grace and power. We don't approach God apart from Jesus. There's no other reason that can confidently stand blessings are because of His gracious work, so it has nothing to do with what we have done. And, God's name is glorified when He gives us access to His presence because it magnifies His grace.

Connecting Ephesians 3:7-13 *(Continued)*

Then, Paul says that his suffering in prison is for the glory of the church. How can Paul's suffering be seen as the church's glory?

There are a few possibilities. Paul's suffering in prison might embolden the church to continue strongly in the faith because their faith is motivated by the example of Paul. They also might find a healthy pride in the faithful service of their fellow brother. Or, the suffering of Paul is making way for the kingdom of God to advance in a unique way that involves his fellow prisoners and the church is, therefore, being added to through the suffering of Paul, which becomes the church's "glory."

No matter what, there is a clear pattern in Scripture that shows us how glory often comes through suffering as a faithful servant who is loyal to God. God has a unique way of bringing us into greater glory through the suffering we face as we faithfully follow our Good Shepherd. God's glory brings us through suffering and God's glory is the end goal of having our faith tested and proven by the fire.

Ephesians Chapter 3, v. 14-19

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Connecting Ephesians 3:7-13

Paul reminds believers that they bear the name of their Heavenly Father when they're brought into His divine family through faith. God is glorified when He invites us into His very name. And, as we bear God's name as faithful children, we represent Him to the world around us and bring Him glory through our lives.

Paul then prays that God would strengthen His people to be filled with the fullness of God. But, for this to happen, believers need to understand God's love better in order to be rooted deeper in the knowledge of His love. God's name is glorified when we better understand His incomprehensible love because this growing knowledge will lead us to live the kind of lives that honor Him and His great love for us.



Connecting Ephesians 3:7-13 *(Continued)*

Not only is God glorified when we know His love better, but His very glory is seen in how much He loves us. God desires to lead us into greater dimensions of His glory. He desires to fill us with His fullness on a daily basis. But, this won't happen unless we seek to know His love better every day. Those who understand the love of God will give Him the glory due to His name because they will be motivated by love and thankfulness. This is why Paul prays that God would strengthen us to know His love according to the riches of His glory.

God is so infinitely rich in glory, and He invites us to experience the greatness of His glory through a deeper knowledge of His love.

Ephesians Chapter 3, v. 20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Connecting Ephesians 3:20-21

God can answer our prayers in a way that exceeds our expectations and imagination. When we pray to know God's love better, God is glorified by that request, but He is also glorified by His own decision to exceed our expectations. We imagine that God will answer our prayer in a certain way, but God is able to do far beyond what we can even imagine Him to do.

And, this great power is at work when He answers our prayers for a deeper understanding of His love. God will truly root us deeper in His love so that we are filled with His fullness daily if we would only ask.

Connecting Ephesians 3:20-21 *(Continued)*

And, when we are filled with the fullness of God, His name is glorified on the earth. God is glorified in His people, by nature of who they are in Christ. But, He is also given much glory when His people faithfully represent His name on the earth. As we know His love better, we will live in His name and fill the earth with His glory.

This is why God is glorified in His church because His people are His chosen vehicle to spread His glory on the earth. God is glorified by our faith in His Son, and He is delighted to give us a new identity and status that glorifies His name. But, we also give Him glory when we choose to pursue His love and walk in that love daily as we are filled with His fullness. This is what fills the earth with the glory of our great God.