



Good News Church  
**Worship Service**  
*A Conversational Experience  
& World Communion Sunday*  
Sunday, October 2, 2022  
[www.goodnewschurchga.com](http://www.goodnewschurchga.com)

- 10:00am** **Good morning and welcome! Enjoy Coffee, Breakfast, and Connecting with Others.**
- 10:15am** **Transition to tables**
- 10:20am** **Announcements** (*Details at [www.goodnewschurchqa.com](http://www.goodnewschurchqa.com)*)
- Newcomers are invited to pick up a Good News Church Welcome Bag
  - Kids' Breakfast Club – Sundays (10am)
  - Beer & Bible Study is NOT meeting this week
  - Women's Connect w/ Stephanie Wolfe – Tuesday, Oct. 4 (7pm)
  - Banjos & Brews – Thursday, Oct. 6 (6pm – 9:30pm)
  - Fall Cookout, Pumpkin Carving & Bonfire – Sunday, Oct. 23 (4pm – 7pm)
  - GNC Leadership Team - Nominations (10/30) & Installation (11/6)
    - Kyle & Nancy Drake
    - Dave & Kay Lee
    - John & Whitney Roland
    - Ray & Rachel Souza
    - Drue & Laura Warner
  - Giving: You can give to Good News Church GA (501c3)
    - **Here:** Drop box at the Welcome table
    - **Online:** [www.goodnewschurchga.com](http://www.goodnewschurchga.com)
    - **Mail:** Good News Church GA (5879 Hillside Farm Rd., Sugar Hill 30518)
  - Morning Overview – Interactive Conversation, Communion & Worship
- 10:25am** **Sharing Good News / Highlights (10 min.)**
- What has been a highlight (i.e., good news) from this past week?  
(1 minute per person)
- 10:35am** **Introductions / Getting to Know Each Other (10 min.)**
- Introduce yourselves to each other (2 minutes per person). Feel free to use the following questions as a guide for what you might share.
    - Where were you born? Where did you grow up?
    - What brought you to Atlanta? How long have you been in Atlanta?
    - What do you do - vocationally (work) and/or recreationally (fun)?
    - How did you find Good News Church? Why have you stayed?
    - Did you grow up in church? When did faith become important to you?
- 10:45am** **Song of Praise – “Great Are You Lord”**
- 10:50am** **Read Ephesians 3:14-21 and the Commentary (10 min.)**
- *INSTRUCTIONS: Read the scripture and commentary (see next pages). As you read, highlight, underline, and be thinking... What's my primary takeaway?*

### **Scripture Text: Ephesians 3:14-21    Paul's Second Prayer for the Ephesians (and for us)**

*14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and grounded (established) in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to comprehend (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.*

*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 glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

### **Ephesians 3:14-21 Commentary**

Resources: "Be Rich" Warren Wiersbe, "Ephesians" James M. Boice, "Bible in One Year" Nicky Gumbel

*"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name."* (vs. 14-15) The first thing that strikes us is Paul's posture: "*I bow my knees.*" It's a helpful practice to bow, to kneel, etc., but the Bible doesn't require any special posture for prayer because what matters most is not our outward posture (i.e., kneeling, bowing, standing, sitting) but the posture of our hearts. A good question for reflection... "*Is my heart bowed, kneeling, and submitted to God as my Father and Jesus as our Savior? If not, why?*" Then, pray about it.

### **Strength – Dwell – Comprehend - Know**

There are four requests in Paul's prayer that are all linked, one to another. Paul prays for strength, depth, apprehension, and fullness.

**1. Strength – "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,"** (vs. 16) The presence of the Holy Spirit in a person's life is the evidence of salvation, but the power of the Holy Spirit provides the motivation and ability to live the Christian life. The outer man (physical) is perishing, but the inner man (spiritual) is being renewed (2 Cor. 4:16-18). The power supplied by the Holy Spirit is given to enable the "inner man." The inner man can see (Psalm 119:18), hear (Matthew 13:9), taste (Psalm 34:8), and feel (Acts 17:27), and must be exercised (1 Timothy 4:7-8). He also must be cleansed (Psalm 51:7) and fed (Matthew 4:4).

- **What does it mean to have our inner man empowered by the Holy Spirit?**  
It means that we have surrendered control of our spirit to the Holy Spirit.
- **What do we do so that our inner man can be empowered by the Holy Spirit?** We feed the inner man with the Word of God (i.e., reading the Bible), prayer, worship (i.e., praise, expressing gratitude, singing, etc.), filling our hearts and minds with that which is pleasing to God (Philippians 4:8), being in community with other Believers, serving others, and living our lives in a way that reflects the love of God (Ephesians 4:1, Philippians 1:27).

**2. Dwell – "so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith."** (vs. 17a) Paul's desire as is expressed in this word "dwell," is *that we would have a deep sense of peace that comes from the experience of having Christ settled down at home in our hearts;* not a surface relationship,

but an ever-deepening fellowship. Paul adds two words to support his desire that Christ dwell in our hearts through faith.

- Rooted – “*And I pray that you, being rooted*” (vs. 17b) just as a tree must have its roots grow deep into the soil for nourishment and stability, so the Christian must have their spiritual roots growing deep into the love of God (Psalm 1:1-3). A good question to ask ourselves is, “*From what do I draw my nourishment and my stability?*” When the storms of life blow, the depth and strength of the roots is revealed.
  - Grounded (also “Established”) – “*and grounded (established) in love,*” (vs. 17b) an architectural term that refers to the foundations on which we build. The most important part of a building is the foundation. “*If you don’t go deep, you can’t go high.*” - unknown
3. **Comprehend (also “Grasp”)** – “*may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to comprehend (grasp) how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.*” (vs. 18-19) Paul’s idea here is not that we would only “comprehend” (understand) how wide, long, high, and deep is the love of Christ, but that we would “apprehend,” (grasp, grab hold of), and experience this powerful truth.
4. **Know (vs. 19b)** – “*and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*” (vs. 19b) The word that Paul uses here for “to know” is a knowledge that includes personal experience. More than just head knowledge, this is a knowledge that engages the heart. Instead of hearts that are a vacuum of emptiness, Paul’s prayer is that we would be filled with overflowing fullness of the love of God. If head knowledge is the gas and heart experience is the flame, then motivation and behavior are the resulting heat that occurs when the gas (knowledge) is lit by the flame (experience).

The measure of fullness is not in comparison to the fullness of other people, where we might be tempted to say, “*I’m more (or less) full, advanced, mature in my faith than that person.*” No, our measure of fullness is in Christ alone. In Christ, there is a bottomless well of which we can spend our lives seeking to be filled to the fullness of His love, and then in humility, sharing the fullness of His love with others.

**More than we can ask or imagine** – “*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,*” (vs. 20) As Paul concludes this prayer, his deep longing is to share the exciting truth that this far above all power of Christ and His Holy Spirit is available to us, and in far greater measures than we could even ask or imagine. The power and love of God that are available to us are both incomprehensible and immeasurable. They are also essential. We have no ability to live as a follower of Christ in our own power. The threats to Holy Spirit-powered living include pride, unbelief, unconfessed sin, and worldly living in action and attitude. A Christian robbed of power cannot be used of God (i.e., “*Without me you can do nothing.*” – John 15:5).

**Why does God share His power with us?** “*to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*” (vs. 21) God shares His power with us, individually and collectively (as the church), in order that the church (the Bride of Jesus) and Jesus (the Bridegroom) will both be glorified (John 16:16). The church seeks to glorify Jesus and Jesus seeks to glorify the church. Jesus’ intent is, “*to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*” - Ephesians 5:27

**Concluding Thoughts** - When the church's intention is to glorify Jesus, the church will receive God's power in even greater abundance. We can also be assured that when we invest ourselves in giving glory to Jesus, the legacy of our actions will last, not just during our lifetime, but "*throughout all generations.*" (vs. 21) "*Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last.*" – C.T. Studd

This entire work starts with God, is empowered by God, and is brought to completion by God. Our part is to bow the knee of our hearts by inviting the Holy Spirit to fill us and use us. When we do, we experience strength, depth, apprehension, and fullness of the love of Christ that results in glory to the church and to Christ. And THAT'S good news!

---

### **11:00am      Table Discussion (20 min.)**

*INSTRUCTIONS: When individuals share, please be brief (1 minute per person), so that there's time for others to share, as well. To get to all 5 questions, we'd recommend that you spend 6-8 minutes on Question 1 (giving everyone 1 min. to share), and then spend 3-4 minutes on Questions 2-5.*

- 1. What's your takeaway from the reading?**
  - 2. Kneel Before the Father (vs. 14)** Why do you pray? What are the biggest challenges about prayer? How does knowing God as "Father" impact prayer? What has been helpful to you in growing your prayer life?
  - 3. Strengthened with Power (vs. 16)** Practically, what do you do to be "*strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being?*" What difference has it made in your life?
  - 4. Love that Surpasses Knowledge (vs. 18-19)** What does it mean to "*grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,*" and to "*know this love that surpasses knowledge?*" In your spiritual journey, how did you (or how are you coming to) grasp and know the love of Christ? Who has been helpful in your spiritual journey?
  - 5. God Is Able (vs. 20)** As you reflect on this text, and knowing that God "*is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,*" what is a desire, need, or request that you would like God to provide for you?
- 

**11:20am      Song - "*Out of Hiding*" by Alex Peebles (written by Steffany Gretzinger)**

**11:25am      Communion Preparation (Drue and Ray)**

- What is Communion? Who is Communion for?
  - Communion is a spiritually significant meal (bread and wine) that Jesus gave to His followers as a tangible way to remember, with gratitude, His life, death, resurrection, presence, and love.
  - Communion is for those who have committed individually and to a group of people (a local church) their intention of being a follower of Jesus Christ.
  - Communion is for those who have examined their hearts and are not holding onto sin in an unrepentant manner.

- If you've not yet committed yourself to Christ and a local church or if there is an area of your life that you're unwilling to give God access, then scripture would advise against partaking (see scripture below). However, you can participate by observing what's going on around you and/or praying for God to meet you in a special way. We're all in different places in our spiritual journeys, so partaking and observing are both acceptable practices.
  - *Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.* – 1 Corinthians 11:28-29

**11:30am**

### **Communion Participation**

- *INSTRUCTIONS: The Table Facilitator will read (or assign others to read) the scriptures that correspond with the Bread and the Juice.*
- **THE BREAD**
  - READ - *And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."*  
- Luke 22:19
  - REFLECT (personally or out loud) – *"Because of Jesus' body broken for me, I'm grateful for \_\_\_\_\_." Examples may include peace with God, forgiveness of sin, unconditionally loved, adopted in His family, purpose for living, promise of eternal life, no fear in death, etc.*
  - PARTAKE / OBSERVE
- **THE WINE**
  - READ - *In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.* - Luke 22:19
  - REFLECT (personally or out loud) – *"Because of Jesus' blood shed for me, I'm hopeful for \_\_\_\_\_." Examples may include no more pain, tears, or sadness, reconciliation with..., healing of..., reunion with loved ones in heaven, seeing Jesus face to face, etc.*
  - PARTAKE / OBSERVE

**11:40am**

### **Song of Praise – “I Love You Lord”**

**11:45am**

### **Reflection / Takeaway**

*What's your takeaway from the service this morning?*

**11:50am**

### **The Blessing (Ephesians 3:20-21) / End of Service**

*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.* - Ephesians 3:20-21