



[Understanding the Christ](#)

Episode 42-The Four Dimensions of God's Love: Length, Breadth, Depth & Height

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Join Scott Stanley of DTG Ministries as he continues his videocast series exploring the deep things of God. In this episode, Scott reads and meditates on Ephesians 3:14–20 and reflects on how Paul's prayer reveals the Father's love dwelling in the believer—His Spirit in the inner man and Christ in our hearts by faith.

Scott unpacks the four measurements of divine love—length (eternal), breadth (all-encompassing), height (demonstrated in the death of God's only begotten Son), and depth (seen in God's eternal judgments and purposes)—and explains how grasping these dimensions empowers a believer with an ability that goes beyond what we can ask or think.

The episode weaves related scriptures into the discussion, including Exodus 34, Psalm 8, Revelation 12, 1 Peter, Titus 2, and Ephesians 1. Scott examines themes such as the role of the conscience/inner man, the faith of Christ, adoption as God's children, the difficulties of true salvation, and how faith is perfected through obedience and works.

Key takeaways include the transformative effects of understanding the Father's love, why salvation and spiritual maturity are often hard for the righteous, and how scriptural truth equips believers to overcome iniquity and be clothed in Christ's righteousness. Scott

also points listeners to additional Revelation studies and resources available at www.theLambsLove.org for those seeking deeper teaching.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to KJV for verbatim wording.

Hi, I'm Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries, considering understanding the Christ. I've been doing a series of videocasts, keying on Jesus Christ and maybe things that, being in the universal church, you don't hear these things. Maybe some of these concepts, you know, they're not as common to us. It's my prayer, it's my hope that we can begin to get a bigger picture of Jesus, and in so doing, we get a bigger picture of the Father. In doing this, I think we get a bigger picture of humanity and what God is doing with his elect.

I think some of this is so deep, deep in that, let's just say God is deep. I wanted to call this ministry The Deep Things of God. It's through his Spirit we learn what *eye has not seen, what ear hasn't heard, what hasn't entered into the mind of man, the things which God has promised or prepared for those who love him* (1Co 2:9). That has led me to do some serious thought... serious thought, and prayer. I was recently considering a verse that just intrigues me, and I could never really get a handle on it.

The other day, as I was considering this verse, I just stopped and prayed. I was out on a walk, and I just stopped. I just asked the Lord, you know, "What does this even mean?" I closed my prayer, and I didn't take two steps before that understanding came to me. I want to share this with you. I want to begin reading in the scriptures from Ephesians chapter 3, starting at verse 14.

Eph 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (now notice, he bows his knees to the Father of Jesus),

Eph 3:15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

Eph 3:16 That he (the Father) would grant you, according to the riches of his glory (which is seen in Exodus 34:6-7), the riches of his glory (the character he has of love and mercy and longsuffering), that through the riches of his glory, that you would be strengthened with ability by his Spirit being in your inner man.

Now we're speaking of the Father... His Spirit being in your inner man. I am equating the inner man with our conscience.

Eph 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...

Now just stop a minute. Remember, he'll grant you to have his Spirit in your inner man, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith,

Eph 3:17 ... That you, being rooted and grounded in love...

You're understanding love. You've got the Spirit of the Father, Christ in your heart, and here is the verse that has always intrigued me.

Eph 3:18 That you may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, the length, the depth, and the height (and I just put in my Bible, of that love) ... The breadth, the length, the depth, and the height. (And let me just finish this off.)

Eph 3:19 And that you would know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that you might be filled with the fullness of God.

Now, verse 19 tells you that verse 18 is speaking of the love of the Father. See verse 19 again.

Eph 3:19 And you would know the love of Christ. You could also put it passes knowledge. So that you could be filled with the fullness of God (because it's his love being spoken of in verse 18, now possessing the love of God and understanding the love of Christ).

Eph 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the ability that is working in us (in our mind),

Eph 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church in Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.

What is so intriguing about the length, breadth, depth, and height? Because it possesses this understanding of God's love. See, it puts an ability in you that can work over and above anything that we ask or think. That's almost incomprehensible. I remember years ago reading that and thinking, anything I can ask or think... There is a power working in

me that gives me the ability above anything I can ask or think? What in the world is that? How do I understand that?

Years later, I'm sitting here making a video on it, and I have some insight that I just have to share. I have to put this out there. I've chosen to do this on a video instead of adding this to the Revelation studies, which you can hear and see if you go to:

www.theLambsLove.org

You can click on podcast or videocast and start participating in the concepts God is giving the last generation church. Not just the last generation. It's the last generation church.

So let's think about it. We're talking about the love of the Father, and that we might be able to comprehend with all saints. This is something for all of us. Actually, when you see where this leads, it just makes perfect sense. But it is very, very, very uplifting to understand what he is saying.

So, talking about the love of God, what do we mean by the length of his love? Well, I realized in length, he's talking about time. The length of his love is eternal. The way he loves you now, he always has, and he always will. All of the saints need to comprehend the length of the Father's love. It is never going to change. He loves us.

What about the width? The width is all-encompassing. I always think of that picture of Jesus on the cross, and his arms spread wide open. There's a caption that says, "How much do I love you? This much," and his arms are held open at the cross. And I think of the Father. His love for us is all-encompassing. See, he knows the end from the beginning. He knows your vulnerabilities. He knows the iniquity you carry. He knows what you've been through. He knows what you've done. He knows... and his love for you, the eternal love he has for you, encompasses all of it. That is the width of his love.

But what about the height? The height of his love for you is seen in the death of his Son. *For God so loved you, the world.* Jesus could have chosen a thousand ways to express God's love for the world, for humanity, and he decided to go with, *"He so loved the*

world, he gave you his only begotten Son," because those people who have children can get that glimpse into what it would take to offer your son, to offer your child.

I've been told before, and really, if you consider this with me, that when you're born into this world, you have a love for your parents, you love your mother, but you eventually will grow up and meet someone that you will love differently than you love your mother. It's a different love. But I say it's a greater love. It's different. The way you love your mother isn't the way you love your husband or your wife.

But then when you have a child, that love is different than anything you will ever experience. And again, I think of my children and how I would be willing to take a bullet for my child. You would do that without even considering it. You would just step in front of that child and do what you could to spare their life. That love is entirely different than the love you have for your mother, the love you have for your spouse.

Now, the love you have for your child, it's been told to me that when people see their child for the first time, they're changed forever. So this is what Jesus chose in declaring the love of God for humanity. *For God so loved you, he gave his only begotten Son.* Now, are you beginning to see the length eternal, the width is all encompassing, the height is the death of a child... the death of your only begotten son?

What about the depth? The depth, I was trying to figure out, well, how do you consider a deep love? How do you consider a deep love? I had to look at my wife and think, well, how deep does my love go for her? How do I understand the depth of that love? You can Google it. You can try to look up deep love and try to come up with things. I finally decided this, that I have to measure the depth of God's love according to the other three measurements: eternal, all-encompassing, the death of an only begotten Son.

Now, how deep is that? How do you even measure that depth? There is a verse in the Psalms that says *God's judgments are a great deep* (Psa 36:6). What do you mean by his judgments? The determinations that he has made. That kind of helps me understand his love because I see that in eternity past, he brought forth his only begotten Son. Why? Because he was going to create humanity. He brought forth his Son and made a judgment.

See, that's a judgment right there. He made a judgment. I'll bring forth the Son. Why? These people are going to need the Son. Why? Because I'm going to give them a free will. And they can think whatever they want and believe whatever they want. And I see the problems that are going to arise. I can see it happening. So I'll bring forth the answer to their problem. They're going to find their answers in Jesus Christ.

What answers? Who's looking for an answer? The person who isn't satisfied being in bondage to sin and iniquity. The person who isn't satisfied with continuing to argue. Arguments flaring up in their family, no rest, no peace... you're not happy. Why aren't you happy? Because you know there's something better than this. Why did God create us to fuss and fight? Why did he create us?

Well, for those people who are searching for something better, they will find it in Jesus Christ. There isn't any other place you're going to find it, because Jesus Christ was ordained from eternity to give his life on that cross. That was a judgment made by God that this is going to have to happen. Oh, give me another judgment. That he would be ordained the Christ from the foundation of the world. God made that judgment. He's going to be ordained to be the Christ.

What's hard about that? Well, you see how that happened. The Son of God emptied himself, was put in the womb of Mary, was born in Bethlehem, grew up, and grew in grace. Having emptied himself, he learned the things about God through the scriptures, then was told by God, *"You are my Son. This day I have begotten you,"* Psalm chapter 2. It was ordained from eternity that the Son would do that. The Bible fills us in, fills in these holes to try to help us understand what was in the mind of God when he was doing these things.

But again, I'm taking this to Ephesians 3 and this love factor. We want to know the length, breadth, depth, and height of God's love for us. So again, his judgments are a great deep. By looking at his judgments, I began to see a depth of God's love for me. Imagine planning the birth of a Son so that he could give his life to bring me the understanding of the cross. By understanding that cross, God is able to teach us death to self. He is able to teach those people who will receive it how to have compassion, how to have mercy, grace, and long-suffering.

What's all that? How to have the love for others that God has for us. That was the purpose of the Son of God. Now, why is God doing this? I know he wants us to understand this love. I know he does. So what I want to do, I mean, I'm asking this question that we're getting ready to read, Psalm chapter 8. And how many people have asked this question? Let me just start reading at verse 1.

Psa 8:1 O LORD, O Jehovah, our Lord, how excellent is your name in all the earth! who has set your glory upon the heavens.

Psa 8:2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings you have ordained strength because of your enemies, that you might still the enemy and the avenger.

Psa 8:3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars...

Let's just stop. Looking at these words, let's just stop right here. Look at the words, the heavens, the moon, and the stars. The heavens is God's understanding. The moon is the scripture, and the stars are the truths, the heavenly truths from those scriptures. Look at it again. When I "consider," that word is "perceive," not consider. It's to perceive it.

Psa 8:3 When I perceive your heavens (when I perceive your understanding), the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have ordained;

Fingers are a symbol of faith. When I perceive your heavenly understanding, the work of your faith... What is it? The scriptures and the truths that come from them. "Which you have ordained" means "to set firmly in place."

Psa 8:4 Then what is man, that you're mindful of him? and the son of man, that you visit him? (Or you care for him, you come to his side.)

When I consider, when I perceive your understanding and what I'm getting out of the moon and the stars that you've ordained, what is man that you're mindful of him to give him those things? What do you mean by "to give him those things"? Consider it with me: God's heavenly truth, his faith, which is seen in the scriptures and the stars. What is man? What is man that you're giving him those things? I don't get it. What is man?

Well, man was given an infinite mind. There isn't anything in the mind of God that you cannot understand and possess yourself. You cannot have so many thoughts that you can't have one more. You're infinite. So, God, when I consider your heavenly understanding, the way you see things, and I look at these scriptures, and I look at the stars, it's all your faith. Remember, Galatians 2:16, *We believe in Christ to have the faith of Christ.* It's the faith of Jesus we're talking about here in this verse.

Your heavenly understanding, the scriptures, and the stars, these are the work of your fingers. This is your faith. What is man that you would give that to him? What is man? He goes on to say that you've put all things under his feet. Well, all things that he puts under our feet, remember what he said in Psalms 110? He says this:

Psa 110:1 The LORD, or Jehovah said this to my Lord (Jesus), Sit at my right hand, until I put all enemies under your feet.

What are the enemies? Enemies are iniquity. The iniquity comes from the nations. He is redeeming us from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people by means of the judgments that he made in eternity past in anointing his Son to be the Christ. In planning the very death of his Son to perform this, to bring this about, he is going to put all things under our feet.

All of that iniquity. Two kinds of iniquity: There's the iniquity we have when we read the Bible, and we don't get it. We don't understand what he's talking about. It's twisted thinking. There's also the iniquity we have that springs up in our minds when we deal with people. It causes anger, bitterness, and resentment. We have iniquity, and because of our iniquity, it's hard for us to show compassion. It's hard for us to love that individual and be long-suffering.

So you've got two kinds of iniquity. Understanding the scriptural truth gives you the tools to walk in love toward your neighbor. Walking in love toward my neighbor fulfills loving God, because that's how I love God. So, what is this? What is man that you're doing this? Why are you doing this? Because the ultimate "all things under our feet" is seen in Revelation 12, where the woman is clothed with the sun, which is the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The moon is under her feet. That's the Bible. There is no longer any iniquity there. She understands it, and she has a crown of twelve stars.

What does that mean? That person described there is saved. How did she get there? Did she get there by praying a prayer and being told, "Okay, you're saved"? Let me read one more verse to you. Let's turn to 1 Peter 4.

1Pe 4:16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God on this behalf.

1Pe 4:17 For the time has come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall be the end of them that obey not the gospel of God?

1Pe 4:18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

What do you mean by "*if the righteous scarcely be saved*"? Again, I thought all I had to do was pray a prayer, and I'm saved. Let me read this to you from the NIV.

1Pe 4:18 (NIV) And if it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and sinner?

What do you mean by hard? What's hard about it? For us to understand the length, breadth, depth, and height of God's love, for Paul to pray, "*I pray to God that he would grant you to have his Spirit in your inner man....*" God is putting all things under our feet.

How did the woman in Revelation 12 become clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet? All of these people in the universal church, if you were to ask them, "Are you clothed with the sun?" they wouldn't even know what you're talking about. If you were to say, "Well, is the moon under your feet?" they wouldn't know what you're talking about.

"Do you have a crown of 12 stars?" Nah, they don't know what you're talking about. Let me tell you something about them. They're not saved. Not saved according to the Bible definition of it. According to the Bible definition, it is hard for the righteous to be saved.

1Pe 1:9 Receiving the end (which is the completion) of your faith, it's the salvation of your soul.

What's your faith? Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the word of God (Rom 10:17). Faith is what you are taught. We want to be taught the faith of Jesus Christ, and we want to believe it. Then remember James 2:22, that *your faith is perfected by your works*. In other words, you're going to be taught something, and by living what you believe, that perfects your faith, and the perfection of your faith is the salvation of your soul.

So, are we understanding that God's love for you is eternal? It's all-encompassing. In other words, he already knows you don't understand. But he is going to bring you to the place that you do. But guess what. If it's hard for the righteous to be saved, what's so hard about it? You have to believe what God is telling you. So what? You're surrounded by people who don't want you to believe it. There isn't a church on the planet, whether it's pagan, Catholic, or Protestant... there isn't a church on the planet that can teach you who that is on the cross and why he died.

They all see God as the angry God who needs to be appeased. Pagans will have their way of appeasing him. The Catholics bring Jesus into the picture to appease God's anger. And the Protestants have accepted that. Is that the truth? Not so. Titus 2:14, *"Jesus died to redeem us from all iniquity."* What's hard about that? You've got everybody standing in your way to prevent you from believing the truth. In order to believe the truth, you're going to have to stand up, resist what they're saying to you.

In fact, the way Jesus put it, you've got to hate father, mother, sister, brother (Luk 14:26). Does he mean emotionally hate them? No. That word "hate" simply means "to turn away from them." When they start telling you, you've got to go to their church, you've got to believe in the Trinity, you've got to keep the Sabbath, you've got to speak in tongues... you've got to this, you've got to that... What God is saying, *"It's hard for you to have your faith perfected. It's going to be hard."*

So, why is he doing it? It's so hard. What is he after? Why is he doing this? Ephesians chapter 1, starting at verse 3.

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ. (Using Christ, God has blessed us with spiritual blessings or blessings of the mind.)

Eph 1:4 According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy, that we should be without blame before him in love. (Why?)

Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children through Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.

Let's just stop right there because I've already talked about that. The love a parent has toward their child is different than any kind of love. You want that child to have everything. You want that child to have a life immensely better than your own. You want that child to be happy, to have joy. You want to protect them and help them. And this is the answer God has given me.

What is this love that is eternal? What is this love that's all-encompassing? What is this love that's as strong as the death of the only begotten Son? What is this love where the judgments are a great deep? What is this love? It's the love of the Father for his child. This is huge. Understand, when you believe God, and you accept Jesus is his Son, Jesus gives you the authority to become a child of God. And God is the one who will impress your heart.

Somebody may speak to you, "Jesus is the Son of God, born in eternity." But it is God who will impress on your heart, this is the truth. He's asking you, he's receiving you as his child. He wants you to be his child. He has determined what he is going to do with you, which, may I say, *"Eye has not seen. Ear hasn't heard. Neither has entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love him (1Co 2:9)."*

We are his children and the love he has... May we all, may all the saints grasp it, trust in it. Trust him. His love for you is all-encompassing. All of your vulnerabilities, all the problems you've got, he takes you as you are, and he will correct you, and he will elevate you to the heights. We can't even imagine what he is going to do because we believe him, we trust in him, and we accept him as our Father.