

Amazing Things About God

Ephesians 3:8-13

Lina Abujamra is a pediatric ER doctor who lives in Rolling Meadows, Illinois, who is also a believer. She has a blog, on which she wrote one day that she had been thinking a lot about God lately, so she came up with what she called “10 really amazing things about God.” See what you think:

1. He makes weak things strong.
2. He makes broken things whole.
3. He turns bad things for good.
4. He sees things before they happen.
5. He uses mean people to grow you.
6. He uses nice people to bless you.
7. He has an answer for everything.
8. He doesn't hold a grudge.
9. He cares more about heart than he does about results.
10. He cares more about your heart than he does about your face.

I'm sure that each of us would have our own list of really amazing things about God. We might list His grace given to everyone, His love which has no limit, His intervention and involvement in our lives on a daily, detailed basis, or the blessings He lavishes on us every moment. We could list His creation, His plan to provide salvation for us, or Heaven for those who follow Him. Or we might even list that terrible tragedy in our lives when He stood by and held us close.

On today's portion of our tour through the Grand Canyon of Scripture, we have three stops to make. At each stop we discover something pretty amazing about God that you might not have considered before. As your tour guide, I will point them out to you so you don't miss them! The Apostle Paul didn't make a list, but in writing about God and His awesome plan to provide salvation for us, he mentioned these three things, things that deserve more than a casual glance.

1 One amazing thing about God is that the riches of Christ are unsearchable.

In verse eight, Paul wrote, *“Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”* Paul is fascinated that such truth should be given to someone like him. But that's a fascinating thought: “the unsearchable riches of Christ.” The words roll off our tongues with such splendor that we might tend to be distracted

by their beauty. The meaning behind that beauty is such a profound truth that it deserves our attention. Let's all gather around so we can understand what this is about.

First, what are these “riches”? They are the wonders we find in God's Word. It's the mercies and grace that God extends to us on a daily basis. It's the forgiveness that Christ has made possible for even the foulest, most despicable sin. It is the knowledge of Christ as our personal Lord and Savior. It is knowing that He is our Advocate, our King, our Life. It is what we read about in Ephesians 1:3, where we are “blessed with every spiritual blessing.” The riches include hope, and peace, and joy, and wisdom—and so much more.

The word “unsearchable” means something that is untraceable. We are simply unable to comprehend the riches of Christ. We can write about them, sing about them, preach sermons about them, but never completely describe them. The word describes an area of land that simply cannot be put on a map, because it has never been explored. It describes an ocean so deep it cannot be sounded. The farthest reaches of outer space cannot contain them. “Unsearchable” means that the riches of Christ can never be fully comprehended by the human mind or heart. They cannot be measured or even fully described.

The riches of Christ are inexhaustible. They never run out; they never fail. The riches of Christ are just as full and lavish today for us, as they were when Paul first wrote those words. They have not been diminished in the slightest.

But, this word “unsearchable” does ***not*** mean that they cannot be experienced or that they are unknowable. We can truly experience them in our daily lives—it's just that on this side of eternity we will never experience all of them or ever reach the end of them.

The second largest excavated hole in the world is the Mir Mine in Eastern Siberia, Russia. It is 1,722 feet deep and has a diameter of 3,900 feet. The downward flow of air into the hole is so strong that the airspace above the mine is closed to helicopters. It was discovered in 1955, and by the 1960s was producing ten million carats of diamonds per year—two million carats of that being gem quality. The largest diamond found in that mine was 342.5 carats. The mine produced so many diamonds that the DeBeers Company was worried for a time that the price of diamonds might be driven down.

But the Mir Mine didn't last. It eventually ran out of diamonds! It was not "unsearchable." The riches of Christ *are* unsearchable. They are inexhaustible. They do not have walls, or a ceiling, or a bottom.

So what this means for us is that God's love will never, can never run out. His forgiveness and grace and mercy will never be exhausted. His power and strength will always be enough. There has not and will never be a need or a problem that you and I have that cannot be met by His unsearchable riches!

Now let's move on to the next stop on our tour.

2 Another amazing thing about God is that His wisdom is manifold.

Verse ten reads, "*His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.*" Oh, there is so much truth contained in these few words—so much more than we can get into today! This is a difficult verse, but let's look just a little closer.

The word translated "manifold" means "variegated," "multi-colored," or "many-sided." It means that God's wisdom is demonstrated in many different ways. It affirms that God's wisdom is revealed in so many ways that we could never completely understand them. It declares that there is no problem or difficulty that we could present to Him that He does not have the answer for.

Not even the Bible writers could find enough words to describe the wisdom of God. James wrote in his letter, chapter 3, "*The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.*" One word wouldn't describe it, so James had to use a long list of them.

The wisdom of God is demonstrated in His creation. "*By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place*" (Proverbs 3:19). The Bible tells us that even the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:25). We learn in Colossians 2:3 that in Christ "*are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*"

The truth that is found right here in Ephesians 3:10 is so vast that I almost dare not even approach it. But we have to address it at least a little bit. Paul says that God's

intention was to reveal the manifold, multi-colored, many-sided wisdom of God *through the church*. And get this: *through the church* the purpose of God was to be revealed *to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms!* Do you see what that says? The Plan God had for saving mankind, Jew and Gentile alike, was not even revealed to the angels. All through the ages God had kept this hidden from them, and now He has revealed it to the angels through the church! They watched it unfold as it happened, and how they must have been amazed! How they must have glorified God as they watched it happen!

The church demonstrates the wisdom of God as the Plan of God unfolds. In our day many people have a very low opinion of the church and her services and ministries. Even many who have joined the membership of a church sometimes relegate that church to a very low priority. But how that opinion would change should we ever understand that God has included the church in His strategy to reveal His Plan even to the angels!

So what this means for us is that the things we do, how we live out our faith, how we walk with Christ through our daily lives, are all part of the way angels learn how magnificent this Plan of God's really is. And when we take our problems to God He sees every aspect of it, not just the current situation, but the way it will become. He knows every piece of the issue, inside and out, backwards and forwards, and that is the way He knows us as well.

So now we come to the third and final stop of the day on our tour.

3 A third amazing thing about God is that His Presence is accessible.

Verse twelve contains words that are so beautiful in their meaning! "*In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.*" This God, the One Who knows no equal, the One Who is above time and Whose Very Being is Light, the One Whose riches are unsearchable and wisdom is manifold, has made it possible for us to approach Him!

How amazing this is! We sinful human beings, who are filled with all kinds of unrighteousness and evil, have been allowed to approach God through the blood of Christ on the cross! From the very day God placed the flaming sword in the Garden of Eden, we have been separated from God because of our sin (Genesis 3:24). Even when the tabernacle and then the temple were built, God had strict instructions for people to stay away from the Most Holy Place.

You see, sin is what separates us from God. The Bible is very clear about that. Do you need a reminder? Here's one: *"Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear"* (Isaiah 59:1-2). Our world doesn't want to hear verses like that anymore, because they remind us that we are not nearly as good as we think we are. But the truth is that we are in fact sinners, and sin is what makes our hearts grow cold toward the things of God. It is what makes us lazy in our walk with Christ. Sin is what turns our hearts away from worship and prayer and Christian fellowship. But most tragically of all, sin is what separates us from God.

The Gospel changed all of that. Now we are no longer separated from God. Paul has already visited this truth in 2:18 where he wrote, *"For through him we both [that would be Jew and Gentile] have access to the Father by one Spirit."* We find it in Romans 5:1-2—*"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand And we boast in the hope of the glory of God."*

Through Christ we may approach God—do you see that now? There is no other way, and we had no other hope, of daring to come near to Him, because of our sin. But God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to shed His blood for us that we might have the penalty paid for. And that is amazing, that God should make that possible, when we did not deserve it and could not earn it!

But pay attention to this: the Bible says here that we do not have to tiptoe in, hesitant and afraid that He will strike us or send us away. We no longer have to tremble in despair outside the throne room of God, without hope of having access to Him. Hebrews 4:16 tells us that we are now able to approach *"God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."* So that brings us back to Ephesians 3:12-- *"In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence."* This is not the same as flippantly or irreverently; this is "boldly," "with freedom and confidence." That is the Bible way, now made possible for us through Christ.

A little girl once asked her father what God is like. He took her into his lap and said, "Think of God this way: Suppose you took all your sand in your sandbox and scooped it into a little mountain in the yard. Then suppose you went everywhere in the world and got all the sand in all the sandboxes of the world and added it to this

mountain. Then, after you got all the sand in all the sandboxes, you went to all the beaches of the world and got all the sand from all those beaches and continued to add it to your mountain of sand.

“Then, at last suppose you went to all the deserts of the world and got all of that sand and added it to the mountain. Finally, you would have a terribly large mountain. Then, say you licked your index finger and went up and stuck it on the side of that huge mountain. When you drew your finger back, some grains would be stuck to your finger.

“But let us suppose that you took your other index finger and flicked away all of the grains that had stuck to your finger, except for one grain. That one grain of sand would represent what we know about God, and the mountain that is left would represent what we have yet to learn about him.” (As told by Calvin Miller)

Yes, He is pretty amazing isn't He? And on our tour today we stopped three times to learn a little bit more about this amazing God. The riches of Christ are unsearchable and inexhaustible. The wisdom of God is manifold. And the Presence of God is accessible—even to people like us!