

Praying for Eighteen Inches

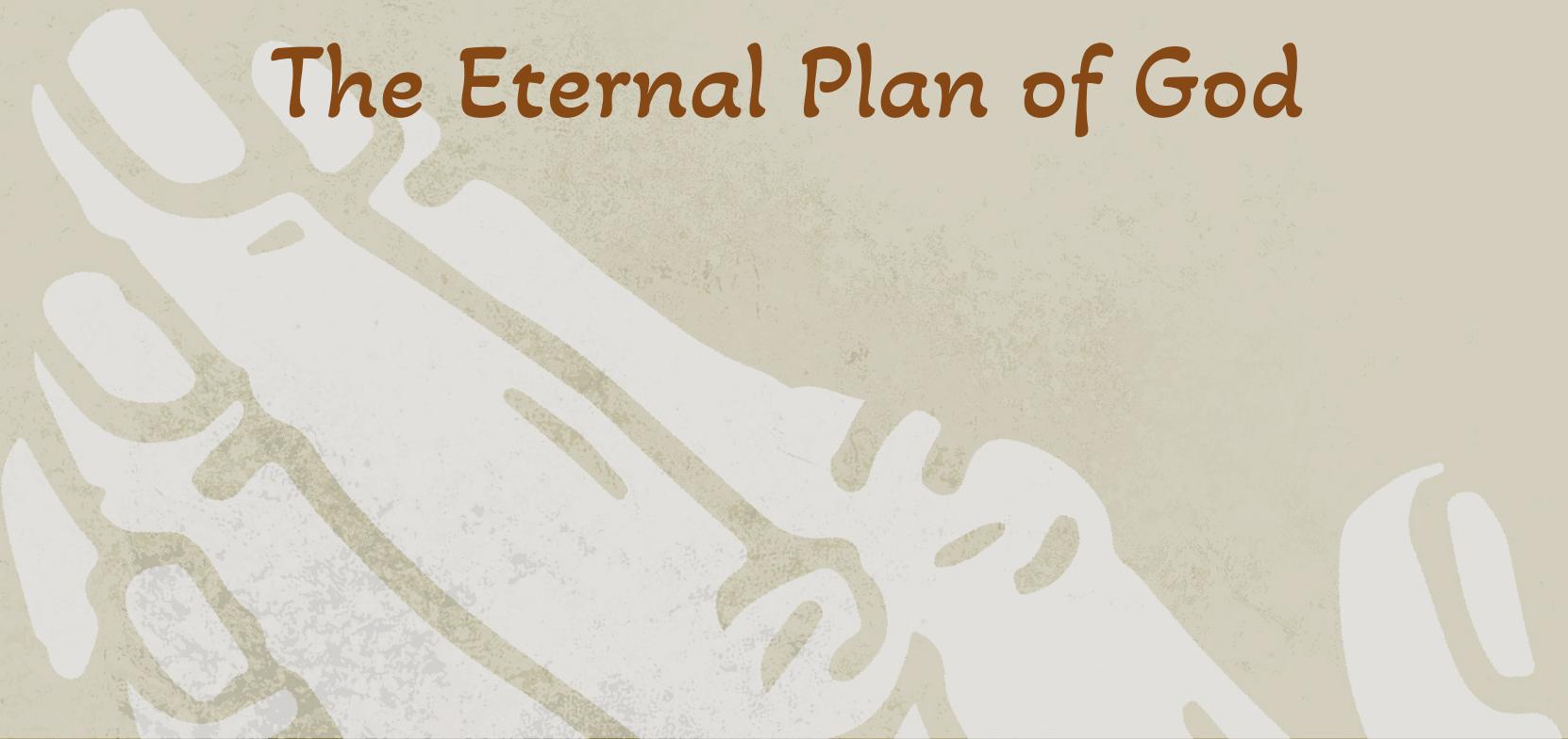
Ephesians 3:14-21

Sojourners Sunday School



Book Theme

The Eternal Plan of God



Book Key Verse

Ephesians 4:1

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord,
implore you to walk in a manner worthy
of the calling with which you have been called,

Passage Theme

Paul prays for the eighteen inches between our minds and our hearts so that the information and knowledge we receive from the Word of God would impact our lives and make us living testimonies of His grace to His glory.

Book Review

Ephesians 1 – God's Plan in Eternity

Ephesians 2.1-10 – God's Plan in Each Believer

Ephesians 2.11-3.13 – God's Plan in the Ecclesia

Passage Outline

- I. The Posture of Paul's Prayer (14-15)
- II. The Petition of Paul's Prayer (16-19)
- III. The Praise in Paul's Prayer (20-21)

I. The Posture of Paul's Prayer (14-15)

1. Start with the truth - “for this reason”
2. Start with humility - “I bow my knees”
3. Start with the Who - “before the Father”

II. The Petition of Paul's Prayer (16-19)

1. Confident Reception of God's Strengthening Power

a. The Source of the Power

b. The Target of the Power

II. The Petition of Paul's Prayer (16-19)

2. Constant Conviction of Christ's Indwelling Presence

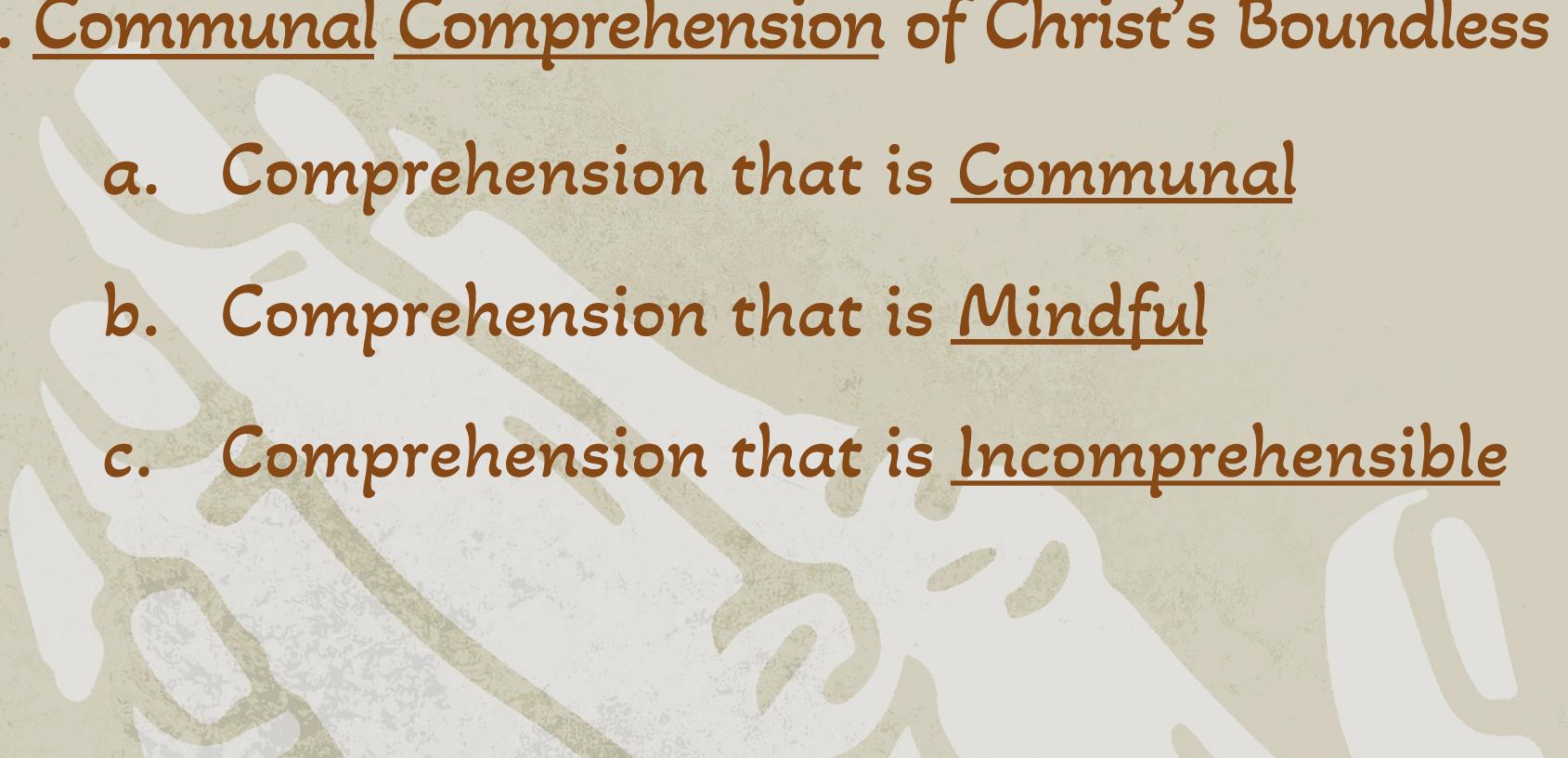
a. Faithful response to Christ

b. Rooted and Grounded in Love

What is rooted? What is grounded? What is love?

The tree of Calvary was rooted. The Cross was grounded.

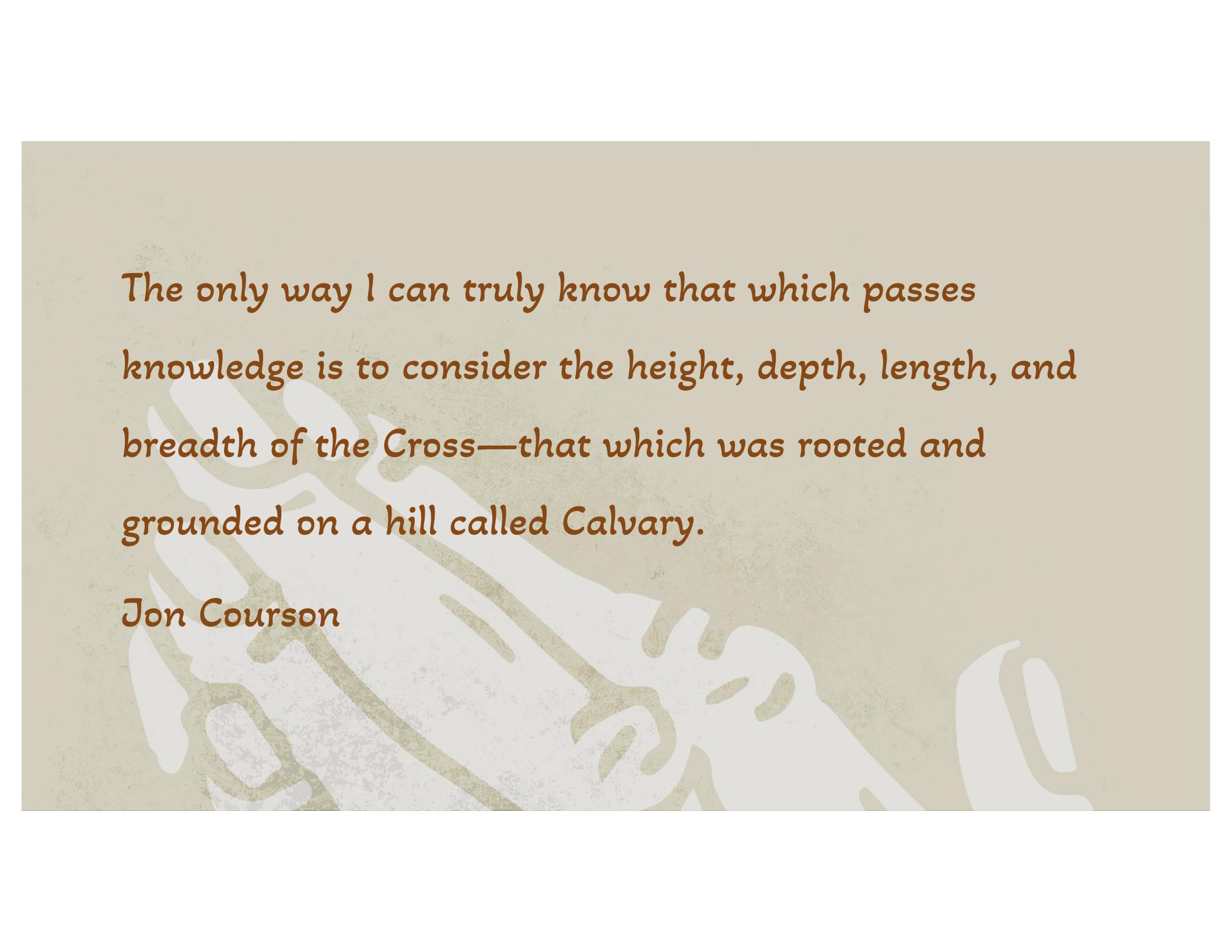
Therefore, the only way I can truly know the love that passes knowledge is by focusing my eyes upon the Cross of Calvary and seeing what is the breadth and the length, the depth and the height of the love of God....



II. The Petition of Paul's Prayer (16-19)

3. Communal Comprehension of Christ's Boundless Love

- a. Comprehension that is Communal
- b. Comprehension that is Mindful
- c. Comprehension that is Incomprehensible



The only way I can truly know that which passes
knowledge is to consider the height, depth, length, and
breadth of the Cross—that which was rooted and
grounded on a hill called Calvary.

Jon Courson

II. The Petition of Paul's Prayer (16-19)

4. Complete Filling of God's Overflowing Filling

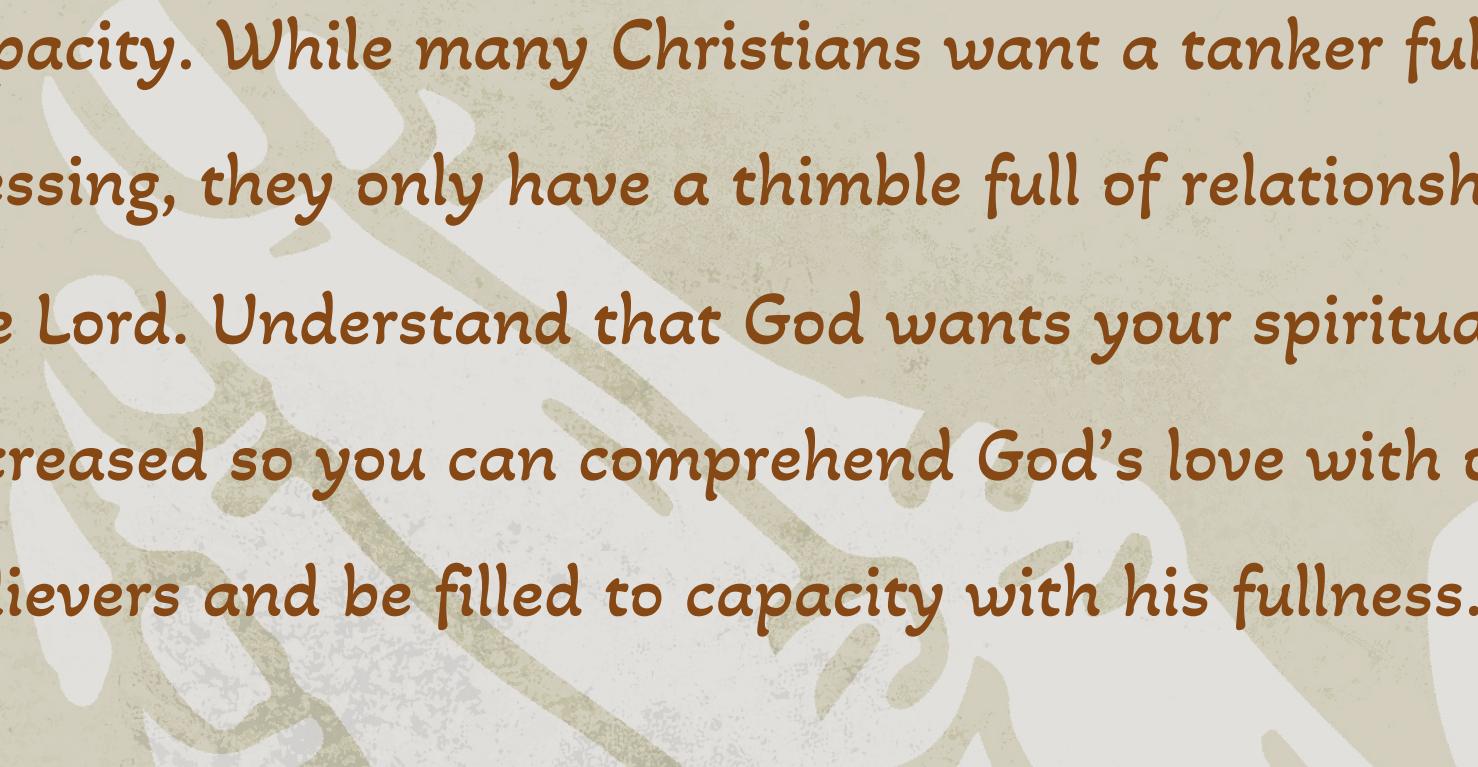


III. The Praise in Paul's Prayer (20-21)

1. The Object of Praise
2. The Means of Praise
3. The Community of Praise
4. The Extent of Praise

Application

1. Respond rightly to Christ's Love in Action
2. Continue to grow in your knowledge of and love for the Lord



If you dip a thimble into the Pacific Ocean, you'll get a thimble's worth of ocean. That's it. Your container is at full capacity. While many Christians want a tanker full of blessing, they only have a thimble full of relationship with the Lord. Understand that God wants your spiritual capacity increased so you can comprehend God's love with other believers and be filled to capacity with his fullness.

Application

3. Remember the corporate aspect of your Christian life
4. Cultivate a response of praise as you learn more and experience more of the work of God in your life.

Application

Pray for that eighteen inches
between your head and your heart!