



Sunday December 31, 2017
Beyond Understanding

Part of our journey as believers involves learning to walk with God even when we do not understand. This actually should be a 'given', but for many of us this is very difficult to do, because we are very **rational beings** and we like to be (or atleast feel we are) **in control**.

God is Infinite and His ways and thoughts are beyond ours

While the Scriptures use many endearing terms to describe our relationship with God, e.g. children of God, sons of God, heirs of God, joint-heirs of God, etc. etc....none of these should lead us to misunderstand the greatness or infiniteness of our God. We should not make the mistake of bringing God down to our 'size'.....God is infinite and His ways and thoughts are infinitely higher than ours....

Isaiah 40:25-26

25 "To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One.
26 Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.

Isaiah 55:8-9

8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.
9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

We do not know every thing

So the fact is that we do not know everything.

Deuteronomy 29:29

"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

God reveals things to us, but these are only 'bits and pieces', 'words' of knowledge or wisdom. Only He know all things. There are many things that are 'secret things' that belong to the Lord our God.

When we do not understand and we don't know what to do

In life, we will all have to walk through those seasons when we do not understand and we don't know what to do - we have those questions: why? what? - and we don't have the answers...right away.

Proverbs 4:18



But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

We have to keep walking, even when things are not very clear. And as we do, things will keep getting brighter and brighter until we come to a place where it is like noon-day, we are able to see things clearly and are able to understand.

However, here is what we must know - that even through those seasons when we do not understand and we do not know what to do - we can walk in peace, joy, love and faith, virtues which the Holy Spirit imparts.

Learning to walk in peace that is beyond understanding

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

in everything...in the midst of things where you don't understand what or why...pray, make request, give thanks...and the peace of God which no one can fully understand..will fill your heart and mind...

Learning to walk in joy that cannot be explained (beyond explanation)

1 Peter 1:7-8 (Easy to Read Version)

7 These troubles test your faith and prove that it is pure. And such faith is worth more than gold. Gold can be proved to be pure by fire, but gold will ruin. When your faith is proven to be pure, the result will be praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ comes.

8 You have not seen Christ, but still you love him. You can't see him now, but you believe in him. You are filled with a wonderful and heavenly joy that cannot be explained.

Even in the midst of situations that test our faith...we are able to bring glory to God, we still love Him, and are filled with joy that cannot be explained...

Learning to walk in love beyond measure

Ephesians 3:17-19

17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

We are to be established in an unshakable manner - rooted and grounded - in love. However, this is a love which is beyond understanding, beyond measure.

We are to know that we are so loved by God.



And we are to walk in this kind of love toward others.

In the most trying of times - in those times when we do not understand why or what - we are still to be established in God's love to us and in God's love through us to others....a love that is beyond understanding...

Learning to walk in faith that is beyond reason

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

So our walk is a walk of faith.

Many times we follow God in faith and we do not always have the understanding - we do not always know the why, what, how, where....

Like Abraham, when we have a word from God, we step out in obedience to that word (Hebrews 11:8).

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand...

Faith comes first, then understanding follows.

Faith will eventually bring us to a place of understanding.

Faith takes bold action, because faith without works is dead (James 2:26). Faith also settles in quiet rest (Hebrews 4:3).

True faith enables us to work from a place of rest...even when we don't understand, knowing that understanding will eventually come.

So how do we walk in virtues that are beyond understanding?

How do we walk in peace, joy, love and faith that is beyond us? beyond our understanding, beyond our ability to wrap our mind around?....

...By learning to let go and simply rest in and rely on Him

Psalm 131:1-3

1 LORD, my heart is not haughty, Nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, Nor with things too profound for me.

2 Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, Like a weaned child with his mother; Like a weaned child is my soul within me.

3 O Israel, hope in the LORD From this time forth and forever.

Learn to calm and quiet yourself and rest in Him.

This happens in a place of communion with Him.



So the message this morning is simply an invitation for all of us to learn to walk with God even when we do not understand and when we don't know what to do. We can walk in supernatural love, joy, peace and faith even through such times!

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, faith....so walk yielded to the Spirit.

Even through those seasons when we do not understand and we do not know what to do - we can walk in peace, joy, love and faith, virtues which the Holy Spirit imparts.