

Ephesians 3

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 3.
- B. Topic: the function of faith.
- C. We lay hold of all that Jesus has for us in faith by the mystery.

II. The mystery delivered.

- A. We have been given a deposit.
- B. Man lacks certain knowledge about humanity that is necessary to function.
- C. Christ in you is the mystery.
- D. There is an element never explained in the Old Testament—the church (a binding of Jews and Gentiles).

- 1. The Old Testament saints were filled by the Holy Spirit.
- 2. They were able to lay hold of the same truths of Christ that we are.

E. Dedication in itself is useless—there must be dependence upon God. (John 15)

- 1. We are given the power to choose.
- 2. However, the power to act must come from God.

F. Faith will produce unsearchable riches, power from heaven, and bold access to God.

G. Steps of recovery.

- 1. It begins with the release of the strength of the Spirit to the inner man.
- 2. The Spirit reminds us then of the mystery that Jesus Himself is in us.
- 3. We are responsible for being aware and responding to God's love.
- 4. We must comprehend with all the saints the dimensions of God's love.
- 5. We are called again to experience the love of Christ.
- 6. We are filled with the fullness of God.

H. The possibilities of adventure are endless in the mystery of God.

III. The mystery illustrated.

IV. The mystery at work.

Application questions:

1. What is the mystery of faith? Why is it a mystery?

2. How does the Holy Spirit permeate the steps to spiritual recovery? Explain.

3. What areas of personal struggle do you need recover? How might the steps be effective in bringing change to this area in your life?
