

Taking in the View
Pastor Morgan Murray
West Valley Church

Feb 9

Ephesians 3:14-21

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Title: Taking in the View

Theme: The more we grasp the fullness of God's love for us, the more courageous we will be in giving that love away to others.

This is the text we are going to memorize while we are at Rancho Santa Marta.

Intro: When my Scottish friend – whose experience with mountains were the Alps – seeing Yosemite for the first time.

We need to see the familiar through other people's eyes to rediscover the greatness of it.

Our time at the ECO National Gathering was like that.

The conviction we left with: This sweeping view only becomes clear through the practice of prayer.

The more we grasp the fullness of God's love for us, the more courageous we will be in giving that love away to others.

To what end? This prayer asks that God help us to:

- **Live Capably.** The Spirit who strengthens/renews us

- **Love Competently.** Christ who takes up permanent residence at the center of our will, affections, desires
 - a. breadth and length and height and depth. Maybe you all hear the unforgettable voices of Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrel singing:

Ain't no mountain high enough

Ain't no valley low enough

Ain't no river wide enough

To keep me from getting to you

We can't out-love God, to get above it. There is no depth, no dark place where Jesus Christ has not been and cannot be found, to get below it. We can't do a work-around so as to avoid God, to get around it. And as we grow in our ability to accept and receive this love, we then have the ability to BE love for others.

- **Experience God Completely.** God who imparts upon us the fullest experience of love, as a loving parent.

The more we grasp the fullness of God's love for us, the more courageous we will be in giving that love away to others.

During the Lenten season, we will be taking advantage of the Second Hour Adult Ed time to pray together.

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