

More Than You Think

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At the end of the third chapter of Ephesians, as Paul is making his transition between the theological arguments that made up the first half of the book and the practical application that makes up the rest of the book, we have a very interesting and encouraging passage. It is interesting because it gives us something to think about. It is encouraging because it should strengthen our hope. Ephesians 3:20-21 says, “Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.” Let’s take a few minutes to examine this passage and what it teaches us.

First, the most basic point made here is that God is all powerful. Too many times we place limitations upon God. Perhaps this is especially true when it comes to prayer. Do you really believe that God can do the things you ask Him to do? Then pray like you mean it! Paul says that God is able to do what we ask. In fact, he says God can do “far more abundantly beyond” what we ask. This is a super superlative. It is hard to put it into words. The King James Version says He can do “exceedingly abundantly above” what we ask. Therefore, there is no doubt that God can do what we ask – and more.

But Paul did not stop there. He said that God can not only do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask, but also can do far more abundantly beyond all that we think! This really shows the power of God. Think about it. God is able to do more than you can possibly imagine. That is the omnipotent God.

The next point that I would like to make is that God’s power is working in us. I do not understand all of the implications of this statement, but the Bible says it is true – “according to the power that works within us”.

This is not the only time this kind of statement is made. In fact, at the beginning of Ephesians we read the following: “and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.” (Eph 1:19). God uses His power for us. The same power that raised Christ from the dead (Eph 1:20). This should give us great confidence and encouragement.

When we think about God’s power working in us, we should rest assured that God will provide the things that we need. God will protect us. God will always be with us. “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5). He will give us the things we ask Him. “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:32). That is a good question. If God was willing to let His Son die for us, don’t you think He will give us the things we ask? The things we need? It doesn’t make much sense to give us His Son, and then abandon us. God won’t do that. His power still works in us.

Finally, God is to be praised. When we think about the fact that God is all-powerful, when we think about His love and the fact that His power works in us, we should wholeheartedly agree with what Paul said next. “to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.” Let us never take these things for granted, but always give thanks to God and praise Him for the things He has done for us – and continues to do for us. And not only give thanks, but live a life that shows we are thankful. Immediately after this passage, Paul says, “Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called...” (Ephesians 4:1). May we all strive to walk worthily.