

We have explored Paul's prayer requesting God's stretching work in the hearts of the Ephesians. He wants his brothers and sisters in Christ to reach new heights in expressing God's love.

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. and I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*  
*Ephesians 3:16-19*

Today's study presents a visionary doxology stretching our imaginations regarding the work of God in and through believers.

*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, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

*Ephesians 3:20, 21*

### **1. Believe God Can Do Anything**

*Now to him who is able...*

Do you believe God can do anything? Can he change anyone?

Notice the way Paul expands his understanding of what God is able to accomplish through his power at work within us.

*To Him who is able*

Able  
Able to do  
Able to do what we ask  
Able to do what we imagine  
Able to do what we ask or imagine  
Able to do all that we ask or imagine  
Able to do more than all that we ask or imagine  
Able to do immeasurably more all that we ask or imagine

Why do we fail to see God working like this in us?

*God's Power* is often dormant in our lives because we fail to trust God and yield ourselves completely to him. God's power is released as we stretch to do the things of God, not our things.

### **2. Expect God to Work in Everything**

*To do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine*

*Jim Cymbala:* The degree to which we allow God's power to flow through us is the degree to which *God is able to do immeasurably more in us.*

Can you hear God saying—

*I can do more in your life than you have asked or imagined?*

*I can do more in this church than you have asked or imagined?*

*For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.*

*2 Chronicles 16:9*

William Carey: Expect great things from God,

Attempt great things for God.

God's Resources flow to God-Sized Dreams!

### **3. Commit to Joining God in Something**

*According to his power that is at work within us.*

God's power is connected to the prayer of *verse 19.*

*That you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

Where does God's power reveal itself?

God's power is revealed as we allow him to guide us through seemingly impossible situations in which we seek to honor him.

*To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus*

*throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

v. 21

Paul's most common description of a follower of Jesus...*in Christ*.

To be *in Christ* does not mean that to be *inside* Christ is to be organically united to Christ, as an appendage is to the body or a branch is to the tree. A major key turns as we ask God to work *in* us, not for us.

G.H.P. Thompson: The honor of Jesus is in the hands of the church. What happens in church is not about me or you but about Jesus.

The Bible translation used in this Bible study is the New International Version, 1984.

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