

Ephesians: Unsearchable riches of Christ

Study 17: To Him who is Able

READ Eph 3:20-21 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig Baxter's [sermon](#).

This doxology of Paul's follows two audacious prayers he prays for the spiritual transformation of the believing recipients of his letter (vv. 16-19). These prayers are backed up by Paul's cry of confidence in God who can and wants to answer His people "far more abundantly than all that we ask or think (v. 20)." As the church prays and as God answers, Paul joyfully affirms all glory to God will reverberate through the church, from generation to generation and forever.

Main lesson: God is able to transform our lives infinitely beyond all we can ask or think so that He gets glory through His church forever

Questions:

1. From the following verses, explain clearly what is meant by "God is able to do": Ps 147:5; Isaiah 40:18; 28; Jeremiah 32:17; Luke 1:37.
2. How might the truth of v. 20 encourage you to pray. Also consider Jesus' words in Luke 11:9-13.
3. If God is able and willing to answer our prayers, why do we so often not pray?
4. Why do many prayers we pray go unanswered? See James 4:3; Is 59:2; Ps 66:18; Prov 1:24-25, 28; 21:13; 28:9; James 1:6-7; 4:6.

5. Some claim that if we have faith in God, He must answer our prayers. Why is this wrong? (See Heb. 11:33-39)
6. A. Why didn't God answer Paul's prayer in 2 Cor 12:7-12 the way Paul asked. How did this serve the greater purposes of God?

B. What do you learn from this and how might it encourage you as you pray about difficulties you may be currently facing?
7. What might be some guidelines for the types of prayers God will answer? And how might vv. 20-21 encourage us to pray with great expectation?
8. What can you do to make God's glory the primary concern of your life (v. 21)?
9. Why should we pray for God to do amazing things, according to verse 21? Will you consider memorizing this prayer (vv. 20-21)? If so, begin now.
10. How has this lesson helped you in what you should pray and how you pray?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: God that He is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think

Thank: the Lord for specific answers and non-answers to prayer in your life

Pray: that God would give you the confidence to pray with greater faith and hope