

Underestimating God's Power

Ephesians 3:20,21

Introduction:

- A. God's power is always u_____ estimated
 - 1. His s_____ power
 - 2. His t_____ power
 - 3. His s_____ power
- B. The chapter ends with a praise to God for His power that is always underestimated

God's Power is infinite (20a)

- A. God's power is what?
 - 1. Comparing translations
 - a. KJV and NAS - *exceeding abundantly*.
 - b. NIV – *immeasurably*
 - c. NLT - *infinitely*.
 - 2. The Greek word
 - a. Made up of a root word meaning a_____, overflowing.
 - b. Has two prefixes that compound the abundance and one is a prefix we use in English – h_____ (hyperactive, hyperventilate).
 - 3. God's abundant power is compounded even more with the words *beyond, above, more*, which translates the Greek preposition h_____ - super, super, abundant (infinite as NLT reads).
- B. What is God's power able to do according to verse 20.
 - 1. Infinitely above ALL that you or I could ever a_____
 - a. Jesus gave the conditions to answered prayer in Jn 15:7 – we must abide in Christ, and His w_____ must abide in us.
 - b. When He answers our prayers, He often does more than what we have asked (think of some examples)
 - c. God is always w_____
 - 1) Sometimes God w_____ for us to ask before He acts (Jms 4:2)
 - a) Solomon asked for w_____ (1Kgs 3:7-12)
 - b) Hezekiah asked God to give him more years of life and God gave him _____ more years (1Kgs 20:1-6)
 - c) Samson asked God to return his superhuman s_____ (Jdg 16:28-30)

- 2) Sometimes God acts without anyone asking (e.g. parting the Red Sea, preserving the Israelites clothing for _____ years).
2. Infinitely above ALL that you or I could ever t_____
 - a. Beware of philosophical questions or statements that miss the point of God's power, *can God create a rock so big that He could not lift it?*
 - b. There are many things that God cannot do, but this inability is not due to weakness but p_____.
 - 1) God cannot l_____ (Num 23:19)
 - 2) God cannot t_____ anyone (Jms 1:3)
 - c. We often think that God's power would be demonstrated in a m_____ that we want. – Is God less powerful when His plan is different from ours?
3. The pyramid of God's power in verse 19:

Beyond
Abundantly beyond
Exceeding abundantly beyond
Exceeding abundantly beyond all we ask
Exceeding abundantly beyond all we ask or think

God's power is active in you (20b)

- A. Two Greek words that paint a vivid picture
 1. The word translated as power is the Greek word dunamis from which we derive our English word d_____ – God's explosive power.
 2. The word translated as work is the Greek word energeo from which we derive our English word e_____. – God is energetically working within us.
- B. God's explosive power energetically works through us through the in_____ Holy Spirit (see v. 16)
 1. Col 1:29 – Paul wrote that his labor of spreading the gospel was according to God's power which mightily worked within him.
 - a. Almost everywhere Paul went, he was met with intense o_____ (stoned, shipwrecked, beaten, imprisoned, insulted, etc – 2Cor 11:23-27)
 - b. Paul prayed for God to remove the opposition but God responded that in it His power was p_____ (2Cor 12:7-9)

- c. Paul responded by being c_____ with the opposition, because it made evident God's power as opposed to his own (2Cor 12:10)
2. God uses h_____ vessels to demonstrate the infiniteness of His power and to accomplish His plans (Phil 2:13)
 - a. God works in us the w_____ to do what He wants (without God, we would only do what we want)
 - b. God works in us the p_____ to do what He wants.
 - 1) It is not our power that brings a person to _____
 - 2) It is not our power that impacts lives for e_____
 - 3) So, do what God wants and leave the r_____ up to Him.
- C. Do you believe that YOU are the l_____ of the world? (Matt 5:14)
 1. Jesus commanded us to let our light shine by doing good w_____ in such a way that people glorify God.
 2. It is simple – be o_____ to God.
- D. Do you believe that we as a church body can impact our world in an eternal way? (Eph 3:21)
 1. God is going to g_____ Himself in the church.
 2. God is not limited by our s_____ (we are bigger than most of the churches that existed in the first century).
 3. All we need to do as a church is be o_____

Conclusion:

- (1) What will you ask God individually and we ask Him as a church body? Remember our asking must be according to His conditions (Jn 15:7).
- (2) What can we expect by asking God? Remember that God will do infinitely above what we ask or think.
- (3) What will be the result if we ask God? God will be glorified in the church for eternity!

Now to Him who is able to do exceeding 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.