



Topic: God of the Abundance and Prosperity

*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.
~Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)~*

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INTRODUCTION

Our study text comes from a very familiar text. There have been many sermons preached and many lessons taught from the text recorded in Ephesians 3:20. This Scripture is often shared as a means of encouraging the faith of those going through difficult and rough patches in their life. It is a seldom go to Scripture to share when we are going through and can't seem to see exactly what God is doing nor where God is taking us at the moment. This text encourages us to know that, while we can't see our way out; while we don't know when the end of a trying and difficult time will end, we can take comfort in knowing that even in this (whatever our this is), God is doing something so magnificent, something so exceptionally beautiful, so awe-inspiring above anything we can even imagine from the place where we are at that present moment. While this is uplifting to hold on to, the Scripture continues with saying this so magnificent, this so exceptionally beautiful, this so awe-inspiring thing God is doing in our situation will be done according to the power that works in us. Often time people equate this last clause of this verse to refer to our individual faith in believing God for our situation. While faith is important to pleasing and to receiving the blessings of God, this last clause is not explicitly related to our faith alone in the time of our trials and tribulations. Thanks be unto God who knows at times our faith may waver; at times our faith may wane. It is in these times that the power that works in us kicks in to carry us to God's intended and expected end for our situation.

OUR STUDY

What do we mean when we refer to God as the God of abundance and prosperity? This we will briefly address on this evening with the hopes of uplifting and encouraging you during your times of going through and not knowing what the end will bring nor when the end will come.

The God of the Abundance and Prosperity

In His abundance, God is an infinite, generous provider who supplies more than enough, not just for our personal needs, but to allow us to also be a blessing to others in our blessing. In His infinitude, God is everlasting, inexhaustible, and limitless. In God, with God, and through God, there is more goodness, love, and life than we could ever imagine. All of God's attributes are characterized by this abundance: God is abundantly nurturing, meaning He deals with us as a loving Father who without end will care for His children. God is abundantly kind, meaning there is never a time where He is not extending goodness and mercy. In fact, the David tells in Psalm 23:6 that God's goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our life, which express to us that God's love and kindness accompany believers throughout their lives.

God's abundance means God is always bigger and better and more beautiful than we could ever conceive with our finite minds.

In His prosperity, God is the ultimate source of wholeness, covering spiritual, physical, and financial abundance rather than solely material wealth. God desires for believers to live with peace, health, and enough resources to not only cover their needs but to allow them to also extend their resources in helping others in need. The God of prosperity desires is for His children to be rich...not just in spiritual blessings but in material blessing as well. The apostle John told us in 3 John 1:2, calling us "Beloved"...I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospers letting us know that it is completely okay and in fact God's desire that we grow spiritually as well as materially. We can say from this that God desires believers to live a balanced life not a one-sided life. We can be spiritual and yet wealthy at the same and there is nothing wrong with this picture of life.

Now that we have laid the foundation for God's abundance, how does this abundance come alive within us; how do we become the recipients of this abundance of God? Well, the second clause in text in Ephesians 3:20 tells us that it's according to the power that works in us. But, what does this even mean?

According to the Power That Works In Us

The power that works in us is the Holy Spirit's active, transformative energy enabling believers to live out God's purpose beyond their human limitations. It is this power that transforms lives, overcomes habitual sin, and provides strength during trials, ensuring God can accomplish more through believers than believers can ask or imagine (think). Lets look at a few key ways this power works in us.

Divine Empowerment: It is not human strength, but the indwelling Holy Spirit that provides spiritual strength for believers to live for Christ and to understand Christ's love.

Active Transformation: It is the power working in believers that actively changes believers to into the image of Christ enabling believers to accomplish things that apart from a life in Christ are otherwise impossible to accomplish. The greatest of these things is overcoming a life of sin and stubborn habits.

Sustaining Strength: This is one of the critical ways believers need the power working in us. In the believers' times of trial and tribulation, it is the power working in us that keeps us and stabilizes us.

Encouragement for Faith: Believers are encouraged to expect God to do "superabundantly" more than they can hope for, trusting that God is working despite the believers' human weaknesses. In this, the believers faith is increased as the believers sees the abundance of God in operation in their life.

CONCLUSION

In closing, our study text is a promise to every born-again believer in Christ Jesus and it is an amazing promise at that. The same power that raised Christ Jesus from the dead rests within us, ready to enable us to rise to any challenge we may face. No matter the task ahead, no matter the problem that lies before us, God has promised that the power that works (lives) within us through His Holy Spirit is more than enough for us to emerge victorious. The use of the word "works" in this text means that God did not just do the work in us at the time we first received salvation, but that God continues to work within us to this present day; God's power is at work in us at this very moment.

So, seeing we serve a God of abundance and prosperity; seeing that through God's Holy Spirit abiding and operating within us, we can take hope and courage in knowing that no matter what the situation is; no matter how difficult the task may seem; no matter how seemingly empty we may feel at times, the God of our salvation is working a far greater blessing of abundance within us through His mighty power. My brother and my sister, lift up your head and be ye lifted up in every area of your life as you await for the God of abundance; the King of Glory to enter in and bring along with Him His abundance and prosperity that He has ordained for your life.

God's peace and blessing be upon you....

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