

## “God is Able” - Ephesians 3:20-21 – March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

- I want to begin the teaching with a two-fold question that I will then attempt to answer from our text today here in Ephesians 3.
- What situation or set of circumstances are you currently experiencing in your life that has become impossible for you to solve?
- Do you believe that God is able to not only work it out for good but that He's also able to do even more than you could imagine?

- While I realize these questions can seem somewhat rhetorical, the fact remains that there is nothing that God is unable to do.
- This is what Paul is reminding the church in Ephesus about in verses twenty and twenty-one as he ends his prayer for them.
- Namely, that of how God is able to do immeasurably even infinitely more, exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or imagine.

- I do not know if it's possible to adequately express or articulate the strength with which the Apostle Paul chooses to word this.

Charles Spurgeon - "He has constructed here in the Greek an expression which is altogether his own. No language was powerful enough for the apostle, I mean for the Holy Ghost speaking through the apostle, —for very often Paul has to coin words and phrases to shadow forth his meaning, and here is one, 'He is able to do exceeding abundantly,' so abundantly that it exceeds measure and description."

Adam Clarke - "Therefore he is able to do all things, and able to do superabundantly above the greatest abundance."

- I'm hoping that all of us can connect the dots between this magnificent promise in God's Word, and it's application to our lives.
- This because, the implications of this can be a game changer, or perhaps better said applying this truth can be a life changer.
- If you'll kindly permit me to, I want to spend the remainder of our time together here in Ephesians by applying this to our lives.

- In order to do that, we first need take note of two details in what Paul writes, the first of which is that it's according to His power.
- The second detail is that it's for His glory. The reason these details are so important is that they speak to the "how" and "why."
- How God is able is that He is all-powerful, and why He is able is because He works it out for our good and His glory in the end.

- It's with this understanding that we're now better suited to apply this to our own personal situation by sort of filling in the blanks.
- In other words, "God is able to \_\_\_\_\_." Maybe for you its God is able to restore and heal my broken marriage.
- Maybe for someone else its, God is able to provide financially, or God is able to bring my prodigal son or daughter back to Him.

- Sometimes, not all the time, God does it for us and even instead of us in the sense that the battle belongs to Him and not us.
- One of the best examples of this is found in the book of Second Chronicles chapter twenty, where God does this for Israel.
- At the time God does this Jehoshaphat is the king of Judah, and is faced with an impossible situation and certain annihilation.

2 Chronicles 20:5-17 - 5 And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, 6 and said, "O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that **none is able** to withstand you. 7 Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? 8 And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, 9 'If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.' 10 And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy— 11 behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. 12 O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? **For we are powerless** against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." 13 Meanwhile all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. 14 And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. 15 And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: **Thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's.** 16 Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. 17 **You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you."**

- Please know that this is no way means that there aren't those times when God has us fight the battle in order to have victory.
- Actually, there are numerous accounts of the Israelites having to go into battle in order for them to possess the Promised Land.
- However, in the context of our text today, the Apostle Paul is reminding us of those times when we are unable, that God is able.

- I want to close with a verse that God has really been ministering to me as of late, as it relates to what God is able to do for us

Romans 8:32 - He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

- The reason I wanted to mention this again this week is because it captures the very essence of this grand and glorious truth.
- Specifically, that if God would give us His only begotten Son to die for us and deliver us, there's nothing that He won't do for us.
- If it's good, it's God! If it brings glory to God, we can be assured without question that we will be on the receiving end from God.