

Week 3: A Purpose We Must Pursue – The Church Multiplied

Day 21: The More Empowered Life

The Passage: Ephesians 3:14-21

The Focus: “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)

The Meditation: “Immeasurably more . . . according to his power that is at work within us.”

Empowering Truths: “Immeasurably more!” Stop and say it aloud, “Immeasurably more.” That’s who God wants us to be and what he wants to do for us. He wants us to envision it. He wants us to ask for it.

Instead, we usually treat God like he’s small, distant, weak, uninterested, and stingy. Therefore, we ask for cups of water from a “Niagara Falls” God. We row our sailboats when the wind is gusting. We drive our Ferraris on the side streets in first gear. We hum to ourselves when an orchestra is in front of us.

Can we believe for “immeasurably more?” 21 Days of Empowerment is like a table of appetizers at Thanksgiving. But Paul’s Ephesians 3 prayer soars beyond into a spiritual banquet and asks that God will empower us to feast here and now.

His prayer is that we will understand and live in our true identity. We are the ones in whom Christ dwells (3:17). We are the ones infinitely loved (3:18-19). We are the ones the Spirit empowers (3:16, 18). We are “immeasurably more” loved than we believe.

Out of that empowered “being” flows our empowered “doing.” The one who lives in us is able to do “immeasurably more” than we ask or imagine (3:20). We can see “immeasurably more” impact and fruit for the kingdom through our lives. This power is not because of anything in us. Jesus chose common disciples so we might know each of us qualify to be used greatly by God.

The power we carry daily is the power of a person. I have always told our pastors, “Your ministry must be an overflow of your personal love relationship with Jesus.” Your relationship with Jesus is the source of power for ministry. It is “according to his power that is at work within us” (3:20). Our power rises from Spirit-dependence, not self-reliance.

It seems upside-down to “boast” about our dependence, our limitations, our weakness. Yet Paul says this is the key to power. “Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me” (2 Corinthians 12:9b).

This “weak guy” is the same guy who survived shipwrecks, escaped prison, was beaten almost to death five times, faced down emperors, shook off poisonous snakes, and the list goes on. Yet this Indiana Jones of the New Testament declares, “I will celebrate my weakness in order that more of Christ’s power will “take possession and inhabit” (3:20) my life.

Paul’s refusal to rely on his righteousness, intellect, education, stamina, eloquence, etc., positioned Paul to receive the power of the Spirit. Whatever we rely on instead of Christ dams up the flow of his power through us.

God wants to bring glory to himself through your weakness and through Spirit-dependent churches.

These churches that walk in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Spirit with the goal of multiplication (Acts 9:31) “will bring him glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!” (Ephesians 3:21)

Power Truth: “Immeasurably more” is available if you live empowered by the Spirit. Do you believe it?

Our Prayer: Lord, forgive me for downsizing my expectations to fit my reality and power, instead of “upsizing” my prayers to fit your desires and ability. Stir my imagination, my faith, and my prayers to seek impact that brings more and more glory to you. Empower me to build your church through my life. I long for you to receive glory in the church throughout all generations.