

Ephesians 3: 20–21

“God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us” (MSG).

Other translations put it this way: He can “do above and beyond” or “exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.”

God’s ultimate desire is to see us filled and overflowing with every good, wonderful, perfect gift from Him

- His purpose in that desire is to build His church and expand the Kingdom
- The point of serving God is that we live to succeed and succeed to serve – **Matthew 20:26**

God has Gifted You Specifically and Uniquely
James 1:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

God is not short of ideas when it comes to the gifts He brings into your life

- And every one of those are good

His gifts come through His manifold grace

1 Peter 4:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

- Manifold – “many folds” or “many shades and colors”
- Multicolored, multifaceted gifts!
- Perfectly aligned and perfectly assigned for His purposes

Ephesians 4:11–16 (NKJV) He Himself gave some...

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Romans 12:4–8 (NKJV)

⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, *let us use it in our* ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

You Have Been Appointed by God

Life is full of appointments

- Business appointments
- Lunch appointments
- Family appointments
- Doctor and Dentist appointments

Did you know that life is also full of God-appointments?

Life is filled with situations and opportunities that were specifically chosen by God in order for you to fulfill the above and beyond purposes you were destined for

John 15:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

Throughout scripture we see people appointed by God

- Priests were appointed
- Singers were appointed
- Kings were appointed
- Land was appointed
- Governors were appointed
- Entire groups of people were appointed
- Even days were appointed by God

Jeremiah recounts more of his life than any other prophet

He was the prophet to Israel during one of the darkest periods in their history

- He was the son of a priest of a small town
- His ministry spanned five decades
- We hear of his call and the reaction of his followers
- His tests, trials, inner struggles and public speeches

Jeremiah 1:4–10 (NKJV)

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.” ⁶ Then said I: “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I *am* a youth.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me: “Do not say, ‘I *am* a youth,’ For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. ⁸ Do not be afraid of their faces, For I *am* with you to deliver you,” says the LORD. ⁹ Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant.”

- Does this appointment sound familiar?
- The blessings of God don’t come without stretching us out of our comfort zone
- Perhaps you to have made excuses when facing the unknown

We've all looked at our own inadequacies and tried to talk God and ourselves out of everything we've heard God speak over us

- You're in good company
- Not only did Jeremiah do it
- Moses did it, as well as Gideon

Exodus 6:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ But Moses said before the LORD, "Behold, I *am* of uncircumcised lips, and how shall Pharaoh heed me?"

Judges 6:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan *is* the weakest in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father's house."

The dreams you have for your life, the calling, grace and gifts that are upon you are perfectly aligned to fulfill your appointment

- No one can disqualify you from a God-appointment

However, life is unpredictable, and we are not immune to heartache and disappointment

- Times when our faith is tested
- Disillusionment and disappointment are part of life
- It can sometimes immobilize us

These momentary trials can either derail us or propel us into our future and destinies

Disappointment – *dis* means to go in the other direction

- To disappoint is to be taken off course from what God has appointed us to do

God appointed us and if we respond with disappointment, disagreement, or discord it will rob us and cause us to draw back from the call of God

- Living above disappointment is a skill and necessary to live the abundant life

Jeremiah's life was plagued by disappointment, and the persecution he endured was crippling

- The chief governor in the house of the Lord once put him in stocks behind the high gate of the city

Confined to a public, degrading form of humiliation he cries out...

Jeremiah 20:7–8 (The Message)

^{7–10} You pushed me into this, GOD, and I let you do it. You were too much for me. And now I'm a public joke. They all poke fun at me. Every time I open my mouth I'm shouting, "Murder!" or "Rape!" And all I get for my GOD-warnings are insults and contempt.

- Perhaps you've found yourself in Jeremiah's shoes?
- You've followed the call of God or believed His word and all you see are roadblocks, heartache and confusion

Are you desperate for answers, breakthrough or healing?

- Step one is crying out to God
- However, discovering what promises are on the inside of you is what will sustain you during trials

No experience, not even a bad one is wasted in the economy of God

- God will use it to develop you into the person you are meant to be

Look at Jeremiah's response to the discouragement he was facing

Jeremiah 20:9 (NKJV)

⁹ Then I said, "I will not make mention of Him, Nor speak anymore in His name." But *His word* was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding *it* back, And I could not.

- Regardless of your circumstance you must decide
- Is His word burning on the inside of me greater than my disappointment?
- Tribulation produces perseverance
- Perseverance produces character
- The greater your character the more God can pour into you

James 1:4 (NIV)

⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Don't let disappointment rob you when it comes to your confession

- God appoints but He never disappoints
- You are called, saved, purposed and graced for His appointment
- Fate and failure are not your end
- No end is final
- No failure is fatal
- No mistake is un-redeemable
- No goal is unreachable

Romans 5:3–5 (The Message)

^{3–5} There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary—we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!

- It's like the oil provided for the widow – **2 Kings 4:1-6**
- It's like the abundance poured out on those who practice the discipline of tithes and offerings – **Malachi 3:10**

The Power of the Tongue

Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV)

²¹ Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

- Words can paint a picture of despair or of hope
- They can bring life and a solution to a problem
- They can bring fear and pain

A child can have their entire worldview framed by the harsh words of a neglectful parent or their beliefs shaped by a careless frustrated teacher

Marriages have ended over sharp, wounding words from an untamed tongue

Proverbs 15:4 (The Message)

⁴ Kind words heal and help; cutting words wound and maim.

Matthew 12:36–37 (NIV)

³⁶ But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

What do your words say about you?

- What is your confession?
- The meditations of your heart?
- The thoughts you regularly play over and over in your mind
- Do they line up with your calling?

Faith has a sound

Galatians 3:5 (NKJV)

⁵ Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, *does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*

- God hears what we believe for
- Are you longing for a fresh start?
- Do you need healing?
- Do you need a financial breakthrough?
- Do you or a loved one need peace?
- Do you need to know that God will provide in the next season you're facing?

Faith needs to be spoken!

- Faith needs to be heard!
- When it's heard it has power!
- Faith sees through obstacles and over mountains
- Faith believes and hopes the best

Never underestimate the power of your words to bring change!

The word of God says that when we align our will with the word of the Lord that all that we ask will be done

– John 15:7; 1 John 5:14-15

Proverbs 16:3 (The Message)

³ Put GOD in charge of your work, then what you've planned will take place.

- God said, “Let there be light” (Genesis 1: 3)
- Noah preached deliverance and received it (see Hebrews 11: 7)
- Moses decreed the plagues (see Exodus 7–11)
- Elijah spoke drought into being (see 1 Kings 17: 1)
- Joshua commanded the sun and moon to stand still (see Joshua 10: 12)
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego confessed the Word (see Daniel 3: 17)
- Jesus proclaimed His resurrection (see Matthew 16: 21).

Luke 4:18–19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “*The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed;* ¹⁹ *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.*”

- Jesus new His calling and confessed it
- What is your calling?
- What are you confessing?