

## 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

You Have Been Appointed by God

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)

<sup>16</sup> 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

### Matthew 18:3–4 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

- Am I living life receptive to the Lord’s will?
- Am I ready to follow His lead?
- Do I have a child like expectancy?

Do I remain attentive, receptive and childlike to the Lord’s voice?

- Or have I allowed His voice to become background noise to a busy life?
- Living life alert, alive, present and receptive will open doors of opportunity
- We will hear the things we need to hear

So often our complacency and familiarity can rob us of our receptivity and we miss what God has to offer in our relationships and churches

### Matthew 13:55–58 (NKJV)

- Jesus could do no mighty works in His hometown
- The people saw Jesus as the “Carpenters Son” – Verse 55

The level of expectancy can be felt!

- The worship is easier
- The preaching is a joy
- It is tangible, powerful and brings unity

## 1 Corinthians 3:10–11 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

<sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

- Great buildings and structures all start with a good foundation
- As well as years to build in some cases
- All it takes is a natural disaster to topple them in a matter of seconds
  - So it is with our life

It takes a long time to build a life

- Years of constancy, faithfulness, longevity and godly virtues
- It's something that is built over a lifetime
- This is the kind of life that produces great fruit that remains
- And to think it can be destroyed in the blink of an eye

No sin is unforgivable or unredeemable

However, humiliation, pain, regret and destroyed credibility can be lost over night

God is all forgiving and will always help us rebuild but that path can be long, difficult and painful

Significant keys to living a life that is above and beyond are authenticity, credibility, and consistency

- Characteristics that are developed in the mundane, unseen habits of everyday life
- Not the glamor and highly visible occasions and special days

Something that happens when you daily search the scripture for new revelation and apply it to the way you live

Timothy a disciple of Paul

Acts 16:1–3 (NKJV)

**16** Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, *the* son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father *was* Greek. <sup>2</sup>He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.

<sup>3</sup>Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took *him* and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.

- A certain disciple
- What a way to describe someone
- A sign that he was Gods choice to be mentored by Paul
- He as well as his family had been chosen, set apart by God

God has done the same for you and me!

## Jeremiah 1:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> “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.”

- God was confident when He called you
- It is certain that God chooses and has a purpose for each and every one of us
- His gifts are final, unchanging and certain

## Romans 11:29 (NKJV)

<sup>29</sup> For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Genuine faith

## 2 Timothy 1:5 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup> I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

- What is genuine faith?
- **Acts 16** says, timothy was well spoken of
- Probably generous, kind, patient, loving and Christlike
  - Not just at church but in the marketplace
- Full of the fruit of God’s Spirit
- A loyal, wide-eyed follower of Jesus
- A trustworthy son with a credible platform

## 2 Timothy 1:2 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

- He would eventually become the Pastor in Ephesus
- Timothy's success was directly linked to his character
- Paul is referring here to his genuine, real, unblemished character

God is calling all of us to live true lives

- True to ourselves
- True in relationships
- True in our leadership and calling

## Matthew 7:15–20 (The Message)

<sup>15–20</sup> “Be wary of false preachers who smile a lot, dripping with practiced sincerity. Chances are they are out to rip you off some way or other. Don't be impressed with charisma; look for character. Who preachers *are* is the main thing, not what they say.

- Jesus was addressing hypocritical religious leaders of His time
- They would say one thing and do the other
- Have you ever been hurt by someone like that?
- We are all guilty at some level or another
- Hypocrisy hurts the Bride of Christ

We all face times when we may feel we don't fit, are unqualified or make the grade

- Maybe you've disqualified yourself
- Maybe you feel that your past prohibits God from using you
- We all come up against moments of doubt, discouragement and intimidation
- The truth is, no one is dismissed

### 1 Timothy 4:12–16 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

<sup>13</sup> Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. <sup>14</sup> Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. <sup>15</sup> Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. <sup>16</sup> Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

- Be certain of the call of God on your life
- Age, lack of experience, other's opinions, and worries can distract you
- Keep the main thing the main thing
- Don't let intimidation limit your power
- Let your example do the talking

There is not one recorded sentence from Timothy that we read in the Bible

- We never hear him speak
- His life did the talking
- Could the same be said about you?

Don't be half-hearted in your spiritual development

- Pay attention and devote yourself to your studies
- Take care of yourself and those God has entrusted
- Plant yourself in the house of God
- Where you can grow and encourage others

So many times we want a miracle to fix something when God has given us the tools we need to live a life above and beyond

- Jesus has overcome so we can overcome – **John 16:33**
- We need to look at challenges with spiritual eyes as well as natural eyes
- God has equipped us to walk in freedom through His word and the Holy Spirit
- Sometimes we look for a miracle because we want God to do all the work
- To many people are praying to be delivered when what they need is and overcoming spirit!
- Yes we need God's help in this journey but don't substitute His miraculous power for wisdom and work
- We can make a daily decision to conquer our negative habits and destructive behaviors

Yes it is true that God can and will deliver us from destructive addictions, however we must be prepared to take up the challenge to live by His word and equip ourselves with the spiritual armor He has given us

### 1 Corinthians 15:45–47 (NKJV)

<sup>45</sup> And so it is written, “*The first man Adam became a living being.*” The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven.

- Notice the pattern
- First the natural and then the spiritual
- What you put first will undoubtedly determine your future

### 1 Timothy 3:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);

- The fulfillment of our calling begins in our homes
- Daily decisions we make concerning our spiritual walk with the Lord
- The disciplines we instill in our natural lives
- We take steps in the natural and God brings the supernatural, miraculous provision, blessing, favor and freedom

## Genesis 17 Amplified Bible (AMP)

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the <sup>[a]</sup>LORD appeared to him and said, “I am <sup>[b]</sup>God Almighty; Walk [habitually] before Me [with integrity, knowing that you are always in My presence], and be blameless *and* complete [in obedience to Me

- Habitually – Our habits form our foundations
- It’s the small things we chose to do every day
- Not striving but enjoying His grace in baby steps along the way

I’ve heard it said, “*Some people are to spiritually minded for any earthly good.*”

Many people concern themselves with getting their spiritual lives in order but ignore their natural lives

- Daily devotional life, thought life, relational life, work life and private life are important to God
- The big things as well as the little things

## 2 Corinthians 10:3–6 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup>casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, <sup>6</sup>and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Walking in the natural realm and waring in the spiritual realm is our reality

- The natural and spiritual realm do not have to be opposing forces
- They are meant to go perfectly hand in hand with one another

So many of us are good in one realm but not the other

### **Some are warriors in the spirit**

- They are the first to arrive and last to leave a prayer meeting

They have the ability to hear the voice of the Lord and encourage others – *(Your Spiritual gifts are for others)*

- Yet, their bills don't get paid
- Their lawns don't get mowed
- Their cars are a mess

Their lack of attention to everyday responsibilities in life cause chaos

### **Others are discipline in their natural lives**

- Their homes and jobs are organized
- People see them as well put together
- But, come any sign of a spiritual battle and they fall to pieces

God says we need to “put on” our spiritual armor and fight!

– **Ephesians 6:11-13**

## Romans 12:1 (The Message)

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.

- You must commit to the continual renewing of your mind before you can know the mind of the Spirit

If your head is filled with negativity, self-doubt and anxiety, you will have a hard time discerning the voice of the Lord

Hearing God's voice consistently for a lifetime will take effort and discipline

## 2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT)

<sup>15</sup> Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.

- Not to check off a list of requirements
- Instead take it as a challenge
- Are you feeling stalled in your spiritual momentum?

If you steep your life in authenticity, credibility and consistency, you are building a foundation that will last

## Matthew 7:24–25 (NKJV)

<sup>24</sup> “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: