

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 has Gifted You Specifically and Uniquely
- You Have Been Appointed by God

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

Matthew 18:3–4 (NKJV)

³ 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. ⁴ Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

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

Luke 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

This declaration was made at a time that was marked by unrest and rulers who worked everything but peace

- A new King and a new way was truly born!
- Jesus’ entire life was marked by unusual encounters and miracles
- Uncommon grace and mercy defined His presence here on earth
- His Gospel was a new way
- He had a life changing declaration and message

Matthew 5:2–12 (NKJV)

² Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the **poor** in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the **meek**, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who **hunger** and **thirst** for righteousness, for they shall be filled. ⁷ Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall obtain mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they shall see God. ⁹ Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are **persecuted** for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

At first glance the beatitudes seem to be about a life of less not one of Above and Beyond

In a sense they are

- A life about less of the meaningless and more of the meaningful
- About less of the noise in life and more of the sounds of heaven
- About less of the frantic pace of life and more of His rest
- Less of what the world says is important and more of what God cares about
- Less about the law and more about grace
- Less about exterior things and more about internal heart issues

The economy of God is more about *how whole* you are not *how much* you have

Jesus' declarations and teachings were not typical

There have been many declarations throughout the history of the world, but none were quite like His

- They were extraordinary, exceptional and surprising

He calls us to be disciples of His teaching and then live them out as we make disciples of others

What Are the Declarations of Your Life?

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
- Your words direct your life

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

God has always called ordinary, common people to take Him at His word and live a life that is uncommon and extraordinary

In the moments of life that we feel unqualified, small and unimportant we can choose to allow God to speak to us, breathe in us, and use us for His purpose

1 Corinthians 1:26 (NKJV)

²⁶For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NKJV)

⁷But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

- Don't underestimate what God wants to do in and through you
- God wants to work through you in unusual, powerful and miraculous ways
- God parted the red sea for Moses to free His people
- He caused the sun to stand still for Joshua
- He shut the mouths of lions
- He cooled a fiery furnace
- He turned water into wine

Isaiah 43 is full of Declarations

“I’ve Got This”

Isaiah 43:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ I *am* the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.”

- What are you believing God for in the upcoming year?
- Take hold of His promises for your life
- You can trust Him

He is your Shepherd, Savior, Friend, and King and he is going to direct, rescue, comfort and lead you into this next season of life

“I’ve Done This Before”

Isaiah 43:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea and a path through the mighty waters,

- God alone makes a way
- A path through the impassible
- He did it for the Israelites and He’ll do it again for you
- He still provides miracles
- He still breathes life into dead things
- He still holds back rushing waters to free His people

He is qualified to handle the dreams and desires of our hearts

“I’m Going to Do It Again”

Isaiah 43:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old.

- Forget the disappointments, regrets and losses of the past
- Envision the new day that is ahead
- Don’t look back on the “glory days” either
- God is doing something new
- The new thing God wants to do is not behind you

Its OK to celebrate the past but we sure don’t want to go back there

Isaiah 43:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness *And rivers* in the desert.

- The new thing brings life where there is none
- It brings new or lost momentum
- It enables us look at something monotonous with fresh life
- Clean out the cobwebs and stagnation
- New roads take us to new horizons, new possibilities and new opportunities
- Rivers are a source of supply, provision and resource

The Bible has a lot to say about rivers

John 7:37–38 (NKJV)

³⁷ On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

- Are you thirsty?
- Thirsty for more of what God has for you?
- Thirsty for more of what God has for us?

Ezekiel has a vision of a river flowing from the temple and wind their way to the dead sea

- The level of the water continues to swell
- Starting at the ankles and finally so deep it could only be crossed if you were to swim

Ezekiel 47:9 (NKJV)

⁹ And it shall be *that* every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.

What flows out of the house of God, the church should also touch dead things and bring them to life

- Rivers have living water
- Their very nature brings constant motion and change
- The Gospel was never meant to be contained but to be shared

Ezekiel 47:12 (NKJV)

¹² Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all *kinds of* trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine.”

- I see this as a picture of the body of Christ in all of our uniqueness and variety of gifts
- Am I planted along the river?
- If you are, you will not whither
- You will bear fruit that remains
- We will bring healing everywhere we go

When God makes a Declaration, there is often a challenge connected with it

- **Isaiah 43** is asking a question that is a challenge
- “*Can you believe I will do this for you?*”

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)

⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight.

- We are called to lift our eyes above what we see in the natural
- Will you embrace all that God has planned for your life?
- You must lay hold of His promise to make a way for you in the wilderness
- He’s done it before and He will do it again!

What dreams and desires, hopes and miracles, prayers and petitions are bubbling over within you?

- Do you expect it?
- Can you lay hold of it?
- Shall you not know it?

The day is coming when these dreams and desires will spring up because God declares them for you!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- What new thing are you beholding?
- You become like what you behold
- Are you beholding the glorious splendor of the Lord?
- Are you seeking Him and His will?
- Expect new roads of opportunity
 - New possibilities
 - New horizons
 - Unusual miracles

Proverbs 4:18 (NLT)

¹⁸ The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day.

- Expect more than you can ask or think
- Believe God is opening up new heights
- Stand in awe and be amazed!