

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.”

The life God wants you and I to have is beyond comprehension

It’s not limited to space and time, not able to be measured with earthly devices or human minds

- Think about it, “God can do anything!”
- Not just a little bit more than what you have dreamed of
- Far more!

The craziest, wildest things you have dreamed of aren’t enough

- No plans of ours can compare to His
- He takes what you see and expands it into something you can’t see

God can take every limitation that has been put on you by yourself as well as others, and expand your heart and purpose in a way that is infinitely bigger than you can imagine

Ephesians 3:14–21 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- We need to learn to trust God with the secret desires of our heart
- There is more to the valleys we walk through in life than just the pain we experience
- There is more to learn in storms than what we see in the natural
- There is more purpose to our provision than our own fulfillment and enjoyment

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

If your dream is something you can do on your own, you're dreaming too small

- God size dreams are only accomplished when we put our faith in God
- The One who knows the beginning from the end
- God's desire is for life to be filled with hope and abundance
- Dare to dream audacious dreams

If you don't have a dream you are limiting your destiny

We can dream with God in two primary ways

- Consciously with aspirations for the future
- Physically, through visions in our sleep

Genesis 37:1–11 (ESV)

Joseph's Dreams

¹ Jacob lived in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan. ² These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him. ⁵ Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more.

⁶He said to them, “Hear this dream that I have dreamed:
⁷Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.” ⁸His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. ⁹Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, “Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” ¹⁰But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?” ¹¹And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

- Sheaves of grain bowing down
- The sun, the moon and the stars
- That’s a big dream!
- It must have sounded absurd to his father and brothers
- Your God Dream will sound absurd

Don’t get discouraged if the dreams in your heart seem miles away from where you are today

- Whatever it is God has intrusted to you
- Your family, career, ministry or whatever
- Don’t count it as insignificant

Zechariah 4:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand." (The seven lamps represent the eyes of the LORD that search all around the world.)

- Hold fast to the dream in your heart
- Be faithful to steward it wherever you are in the process
- God sees where you are
- His eyes, wisdom, favor and provision will see it come to pass

Because of Joseph's dreams his family became enraged with him

- His brothers tried to kill him
- He was captured, thrown into a pit and sold into slavery
- Talk about a dream killer
- But Joseph didn't stop dreaming

Have you ever had a dream die?

- You've shared with someone
- They tell you it's ridiculous or even mock you
- Maybe you've been met with cynicism or laughter

Sometimes this can even come from those who are closest to us or know us the best – Even family

- Or perhaps you experienced a failure

You are going to have to hold firm to your convictions and the word of God if you are going to see the dream come to pass

- The enemy would love to kill your dream with all sorts of “realities”
- These come in the form of opposition or lack of resources
- Negative voices
- Sometimes the wrong ambition in your heart

Along the way you will have to make choices and sacrifices that feel like backward momentum instead of forward

- These sacrifices may come in the way of serving in the local church

Those sacrifices will allow you to experience God’s provision as you keep on dreaming of the future

- Growing in confidence of a God who always provides

Dreamers never stop dreaming!

- Despite the obstacles or limitations imposed on you

A dream in your heart will also cause you to choose your friendships more wisely

- Friends who are dreaming alongside you
- Being around other dreamers is a catalyst for dreaming bigger

A dream in your heart will give you vision for your life, so you don’t cast off restraint and head in the wrong direction

Proverbs 29:18 (The Message)

¹⁸ If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.

- Nobody pursues a dream believing they'll fail
- Yet, many people only dream to function or just survive
- God wants us to dream of success!
- He wants you to live above and beyond all you could ask for

Joseph's dream was a dream of success and it came to pass

Genesis 41:40–43 (NKJV) *Pharaoh said to Joseph,*

⁴⁰ You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.” ⁴¹ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” ⁴² Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. ⁴³ And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, “Bow the knee!” So he set him over all the land of Egypt.

- Don't just settle for mediocrity
- God is a God of success
- Not only success, but good success

Joshua 1:7–8 (NKJV)

⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

- Most people have the will to live
- Fewer people have the will to succeed
 - Because of the personal cost and sacrifice
 - *Joshua lingered in the tabernacle*
- Fewer people have the will to serve

The point of serving God is that we live to succeed and succeed to serve

When you live with a dream in your heart and a will to serve you start to really live

When your dreams and success are centered around the cause of Christ and serving others you will cause others to step out of their comfort zone

- You will become a leader of your generation
- You will help others inherit their promised land

Matthew 20:26–28 (NKJV)

²⁶ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—
²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

- A servant lives for something greater than themselves
- Servants understand their value in building something great

If you have a dream in your heart, then you need to be a sower

- A sower works the ground

The process of sowing and reaping is a biblical principal

- When you sow into the kingdom of heaven you will reap a harvest
- What you sow is what will keep your dream thriving

Never underestimate the power of servant leadership

- The dreams God gives us are dreams that help others
- Joseph's dreams eventually brought safety and care to his family and the nation

Genesis 50:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive.

Daring to dream big will cause us to ask questions like,

- What does God want with my life?
- How does God fit into this plan?
- How does this plan fit into Gods?
- Does God even care about the details?

When you chose to live for God you will have to come up against the mysterious, unknown and sometimes unanswerable

Job 11:7–9 (The Message)

“Do you think you can explain the mystery of God? Do you think you can diagram God Almighty? God is far higher than you can imagine, far deeper than you can comprehend, Stretching farther than earth’s horizons, far wider than the endless ocean.

- The Apostle Paul referenced the mystery of Christ 21 times in his epistles
- Jesus often used parables to peel back the mystery of the gospel
- “The Kingdom of God is like...”
- “The Kingdom of Heaven is like...”

His parables helped to relate the gospel to our everyday lives, yet profound and full of mystery

- Life with Jesus is filled with mystery and possibilities
- There is always more to learn about the mystery of Gods will

Matthew 14:25–33 (NKJV)

²⁵ Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” ²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” ²⁹ So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind *was* boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

- It was three o’clock in the morning
- These men saw a mysterious figure moving toward them across the water

There is always intrigue and suspense when you choose to follow Christ

- Maybe you’ve found yourself asking, “*God, is that really You?*”
- Or, “*What is the will of God for my life.*”
- Perhaps you are wondering what is next on your faith journey

When you chose to live a life that is above and beyond you will find yourself having to step out of your comfort zone

- You will have to take steps into unknown territory
- Sometimes people read this story and think, “*Yeah, but Peter sank!*”

But we have to remind ourselves that at least he got out of the boat

- The other disciples didn’t even do that
- Well, at least they got into the boat
- Many of us don’t even do that

5000 who had heard Him preach the day before stayed on the shore

- Are you more like the people on the shore?
- Or like the disciples who took a little risk?
- Or are you like Peter?
- He not only left the shore, but also got out of the boat when Jesus beckoned, “Come”

What is your response when He beckons you?

- What have you done with promptings in your heart
- What have you done with giftings in your hand?
- Are you following Christ into your God-given future?

It all starts by putting one foot in front of the other

- Trust Him to direct your steps

Our connection with God is all about Him and not about us

- So many times, we think we need to do more
- Or make more connections
- Or go to one more conference
- Or plan the perfect strategy for success

The key to understanding and walking in the perfect will of God is in our relationship with Him

John 14:23 (NKJV)

²³ Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

- Walking every day in devotion with the word of God
- Listening to promptings of the Holy Spirit
- Will lead you into more grace, peace and the abundant life He has planned for you
- Not a place of burnout from pursuing the “things” we think will bring success

Colossians 2:2–3 (NIV)

² My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

- It doesn't start with a plan it starts with a Person