

# **WE DARE NOT DOUBT OUR GLORIOUS GOD**

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Ephesians 3:20, 21  
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## **INTRODUCTION: GOD'S GLORIOUS CIRCLE IN PRAYER**

Circles are interesting things.

There is a circle to the way God works.

2 Corinthians 3:18

Ephesians 3:16, 21

God answers prayer from the rich storehouse of His glory so that when we are blessed, we glorify Him.

### **Glory**

The attributes or characteristics of something or someone.

### **Glory of God**

God as He has revealed Himself in His actions and in His attributes

The source of answers to our prayers is the glorious riches of God and the goal of God answering our prayers that God would be glorified.

To give God glory is not to give Him attributes or to add something to Him, but to praise Him for the qualities He has.

### **Psalms 96:7, 8a**

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of His name;

Psalms 29:1, 2

### **Psalms 50:15**

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me.

**Proposition:** God is infinitely great in all His attributes, so the prayers of God's people should reflect His greatness and result in worship.

## **I. GLORY BE TO HIM WHO IS ABLE, V. 20**

This first point seems to emphasize what God can do now.

### **A. ABLE TO DO ALL**

#### **Psalm 115:3**

But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. The God of the Bible is a God Who is able.

#### **My God is So Big**

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do.

### **B. ABLE TO DO ABOVE ALL WE ASK OR THINK**

#### **1. WE ASK**

#### **2. WE THINK**

#### ***Perisseuo***

overabundantly, superfluous

#### **Romans 5:20, 21**

Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **2 Corinthians 7:4**

The super abundance comes not from what we deserve, but according to God's character.

**Action Point:** Think about something about impossible, something that is beyond your wildest dreams.

## C. ABLE ACCORDING TO A POWER WE KNOW

### II. GLORY TO HIM WHERE? V. 21A

The second point seems to emphasize what God has already done in the past.

#### A. GLORY IN THE CHURCH

? How does the way we pray differ from Paul's prayer?

1. It is primarily not about earthly things.
2. It is not primarily about our benefit, but God's glory.

So we pray big and bold things, but we must pray according to God's purposes.

#### **Romans 8:28**

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

We must pray according to God's priority.

#### **Isaiah 48:11**

For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act; For how can My name be profaned? And My glory I will not give to another.

God answers prayers based on what or who He loves.

#### **Deuteronomy 23:5**

Nevertheless, the Lord your God...turned [Balaam's] curse into a blessing for you because the Lord your God loves you.

#### **Psalms 122:6**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

"May they prosper who love you..."

Ephesians 1:3

**Action Point:** How does your impossible thought align with God's glory?

## B. GLORY IN CHRIST JESUS

The Gospel centering us on Christ corresponding to the earlier, "power at work in you."

Ephesians 1:3-8

## III. GLORY TO HIM WHEN? FOREVER, V. 21B

The third point seems to emphasize what God will continue to do in the future.

Now we have in answered prayer just a glimpse of what God will do forever in Heaven.

### **Revelations 21:5a**

And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

## **CONCLUSION:** PRAYING THE GLORY OF GOD

? What attitude emanates from Ephesians 3?

Trust, unselfishness in prayer.

Woe to us if our practice of prayer besmirches the character of God.

James 1:5-8; 4:3

## **APPLICATION**

Pray for what you know God wants.

Pray for what you think God wants.

Pray for what you think is impossible.