

# God is able

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**Bible Text:** Ephesians 3:20, 21  
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Ephesians 3:20, the Bible says,

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

The Lord is going to help us tonight and we're going to preach on "God is able." God is able. Let's pray.

*Father in heaven, we love you, Lord, I pray you forgive my sins and I pray you forgive us all our sins. Help us to get exactly what we need from you, Lord. We serve a God that is able, Lord. Lord, I pray you forgive my sin and my shortcomings, Lord. I pray your purge yourself and fill me with your Holy Spirit, Lord. Lord, take all the nervousness away and all the scariness, Lord. Help me to preach with power and with protection of you, Lord. Lord, we love you and in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

You may be seated.

The Bible says, "Now unto him," that "him" is God. "Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power at worketh in us. Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages world without end. Amen." When I started thinking of something, this verse came to me and it jumped out at me. It jumped out at me physically. I was laying in bed and I was asleep and I wrote most of it on Facebook but I didn't write the whole thing. I was laying on the couch and I wasn't feeling good that night and everything and I had a dream. I like dreams. Amen. As long as I'm not getting shot and killed like I used to. I used to wake up right before I died and those were weird dreams but I knew why because I was lost and if I would've died, you know, the Lord, he gives you chance, after chance, after chance and I was lost and I used to always dream that I'm going to get shot. I had a dream once that Crystal was chasing me with a butcher's knife with Biggie and I don't know what all that was about. I prayed, "Hallelujah, what's going on?" I love you Crystal, we be cool. Me and Biggie have a great relationship but I hope and I pray but I used to have weird dreams but this time it was a good dream.

And I had dreamed we were here in church and I was preaching. You know how when you have a dream, most times you forget what you dreamed about, so I jumped out of the bed and I'm trying to get a pen and pencil and everything to jot everything down, write everything down and then my wife she gets out of bed and she looks at me and says, "What's wrong with you?" I said, "Nothing okay?" She said, "What have you got in your hand?" I had a piece of paper and I had a pen and she said, "What are you doing writing a suicide note?" And I'm like, "No, the thought came and I wanted to catch it and throw it right down before I forget it." You know, I turned 30 and I'm starting to forget things and I can't spell my last name and so I write "C" and the whole line going across like that. But we have a God that is able. Able to do what? Help you with your memory. Amen. And we have a God that is able.

The Bible says, "Now unto him that is able." The word "able" means he has the power, he has the ability. We serve a God that has the power or the ability to do what? "To do exceedingly abundantly." When I looked up this word, it means to "abound bountifully." It means "vitality and excessive," but when I saw that word "vitality," I'm like, "What do you mean, vitality?" Did you ever ask for something and you ask and you kept asking, kept asking and you kept begging and like my mom she'd just throw it at you. You know, "Take it. Here." What happens is that's what we're talking about vitality, more abundantly, beyond measure. We have a God that is able to do exceedingly abundantly or above measure beyond measure, then it says "above all that we ask." That word "ask" also means "to beg." Have you ever had kids? I have kids and every time Michael gets home from school, he just stares at me. I'm like, "Use your words, you know, talk to me. What's going on?" "I'm hungry," and sometimes he just says "hungry." Now I think about my great grandmother who always used to say, "Hungry, hungry," and all that and all kinds of thoughts going through my mind and I'm like, "Boy, talk." He says, "I'm hungry." He's begging, he's asking and he knows he want a peanut butter and jelly. He doesn't want any type of peanut butter and jelly, he wants a peanut butter and jelly open. Peanut butter and jelly when it's open, that means it's not touching. He wants it separate. That's the way he wants it and he wants it toasted, nice and soft, so that all the jelly soaks into the bread. But "ask" means to beg. That's how Faith likes it too.

So he begs for that peanut butter and jelly but the Bible says "all that we ask," beg, "or think." So God gives us, you see, a lot of times when we ask for things, we think short. We don't think big. Let's be honest, we don't want to ask for a Bentley or a Benz. "Lord, I just want, for me I just want a Cadillac and I don't have to have the Bentley on 22. Just give me a Cadillac." You know, my first car was an '87 Coupe Deville with the soft top, a blue soft top and it was cream and that thing was nice until it got beat up and it wouldn't start and everything but before then it was nice and it was smooth and it rolled nice. But sometimes we don't ask, we don't think about those things. We think of something that's immeasurable. We have a God that is able to give us abundantly above what we asked for.

The Bible says "according to," what? "The power that worketh in us." You see, once you get saved, you have something called the Holy Spirit in you. We have the Holy Spirit and

he guides us into all truth. But the Bible says we need to ask for things and the first thing that came to my mind and I've got to be honest, I'm going to tell the truth and all that good stuff. Amen. I tell the truth anyway but, you know, you've got to say that little statement ahead of time. When back maybe two and a half years ago, three years ago, I told the Lord, I said, I was dealing with things in April during Jubilee 2011, the Lord was dealing with me about preaching and I'm like, you know, "No, call somebody else. There are other faithful, smart men that you can call. Why me?" That's how I was. I don't know where you're at but I said, "I don't want to do it." Then I tried to make a deal with the Lord. I tried to ask for something that I knew wasn't possible. I said, "Lord, I'll make this deal with you. You give me a house." Now my credit was shot at that moment, at least I thought my credit was shot. So I was like, "Lord, you give me a house and we'll talk then." At first I asked him to take the suffering from me and the answer was no. I still have it, I still swell. So I'm like, "How about you give me a house? A nice regular house and then we'll see." Lo and behold, you all know what I have now, right? I have a house. Now, in order to get a house, you have to have a certain amount of credit and establishment and all that stuff and I said, "Lord, you know I don't have any credit. I have all these student loans." I had cable in my name when I was a kid. I don't know how that happened so that messed my credit up. Some of you know what I'm talking about but I had cable bills and light bills in my name so I had no credit because of school. So these loans are defaulting, I've got hospital bills from me being in the hospital swelling with no insurance. So I said, "Lord, I'm going to ask you something that's impossible. I'm going to ask for a house." Well, December 16, 2011 we moved into a house. Now there's something that's going to take place. Either I'm going to surrender or I'm going to keep on going and act like I haven't asked the Lord about that. Some of you know what I'm talking about. Amen. You act like you haven't asked God for something, he gave it to you, you made that commitment and then you're just like {whistling}. But you see, we've got a God that is faithful.

So that Sunday, I was running late for church because I had worked that morning and I came to church late. I don't know what the pastor was preaching about. I came and sat in the silent room and I had no tie on, I had no socks on, I had some black dress shoes with no socks on and I had no undershirt or anything. I just came and I was sitting in the back and the pastor when I came into the church, he was preaching and he was doing something like this. He had little hanky and he's going like this and he's talking about surrender and surrender and he's waving his hanky and everything and I'm sitting in the back. I'm sitting next to Mike and Mike has no idea what's going on. All I know is my heart is beating in my chest and I said "Lord have mercy." I started speaking in tongues, it felt like. I'm stuttering and all this stuff but that thing that I asked for, the thing that I begged the Lord for, he gave it to me. And what's crazy about it, the whole situation, I thought my credit was worse than my wife's credit. Because she had all this established credit and everything. We went to the bank and I thought it won't hurt anything to go check it out. My credit was better than her credit. I have no idea how that happened. You understand what I'm saying, when you have default after default, that means your credit is going to be like a 200 or 100 or negative this and that but God is able to flip your credit. God is able to flip your credit so you can get something like that but I said all that to say this: I don't know where that came from. Amen.

"Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundant above all that we ask or think." My question to you is: what are you asking the Lord for? What are you begging the Lord for? The Lord is able to deliver us out of the hands of the enemy. Now go with me to Daniel chapter 3. You've all heard the story many times but I want you to see that God is able. He's able to do whatever he wants to do. Whatever you ask him to do, if you're right with the Lord. But go to Daniels chapter 3:17. You know the story of three Hebrew boys. The Bible says in verse 16, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve," there it goes, "is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." The Lord is able to deliver us out of the hands of the enemy. Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego were determined. They were determined and they were not careful to answer the king.

It says "if it be so our God whom we serve is able to, we know our God is able. We know our God is able to deliver us out of your hands, O King, but if not we're still not going to bow down to you. We still are not going to serve you." We have to come to a point in our lives that we're not going to bow down to the devil. Let's bring it home: we're not going to bow down to TV. What do you mean by TV? When it's time to do your Bible study or time in prayer, when it's time to pray, we're not going to bow down and flip to "Scandal." Oh, that's a good point. I don't watch "Scandal" but I'm want to bring it home to you. I watch a lot ESPN so let's bring it home to me. Amen. When "First Take" comes on at 9 am and I just walked into the house from dropping the kids off, I have a choice: I can either read my Bible or I can watch "First Take." I can pray or I can watch TV. I can send someone a text message to encourage them or I can watch "Skip Bayless." If you all know about sports and everything, Monday that's what you call a water cooler day when you stand by the cooler and you talk to your friends and you talk about everything on Monday.

Now I have a choice: I can fall into the enemy hands because ESPN, that's my battle and I know you've all got battles but my battle is ESPN. I know every show starting from 5 am is when it starts. That's "Mike & Mike." Mike knows what I'm talking about so we've got Mike & Mike and Mike. That's 5 o'clock in the morning and that goes from 5 to 9. Then you have something called 'Sports Center Live.'" Now that's at 8 o'clock that starts at 8. Where at 9 o'clock, if I'm not careful, "First Take" comes on from 9-11. Now from 11-12 it's "Numbers Never Lie." Then from 12 -2, you know, there's other guys. If I'm not really careful, that's not as bad for me to watch it but this is the schedule now. You all know what I'm talking about. That's from 5 to 12, seven hours, that's a full-time job just about. Now we'll probably take an hour lunch. I mean, that's a full time job so if you're not careful, I'm falling right into the hands of the enemy.

Now usually I get no text messages, no phone calls early in the morning. Today I've got people blowing my phone up. I'm getting questions on my Facebook. I'm getting all these debates and Lord knows now, there are two things I love doing. Let's go back. There are

two things I like talking about: there's sports and the Bible. You talk about something else and more than likely I'm going to go, "Alright..." Now you say anything about sports, now I don't really like golf and you say something about golf and I'm going to be all over it like, "Yeah, what about Tiger Woods and the other guy? Tiger Woods is hurt and everything I'm still bringing up Tiger Woods because that's what I know and that's who I like. Amen. Don't fall in the hands of the enemy. Stay away from him.

"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace," so he is able to deliver us out of the hands of the enemy and he's also able to humble the enemy. Flip over two chapters. Belshazzar, this king was a big dog king. This king, he had what I call "loot." He had a lot of money and he had a party and all the people in his house, they had a party but something happened at this party. He started having dreams and all these other things going on. I remember Brother Russell talking about this, the writing on the wall. You see, we're talking about that graffiti. That's what it was, it's about graffiti. There was writing on the wall and he needed it interpreted so he asked Daniel. Daniel told him what was going on and his countenance changed. I mean, the brightness of his face. That's in verse 6. His countenance changed and when his countenance changed it was like he saw a ghost. Yeah, he saw a ghost, the Holy Ghost because Daniel told him exactly what was going to happen to him.

If you fast forward and all of that, the Bible says down in chapter 4, verse 37, the last verse of chapter 4, the Bible says, "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase." That word "abase" means "to humble." God is able to humble the enemy. God is able to humble the enemy. What do you mean "the enemy"? I don't know what's going on in your life, I have no clue but if you have some type of enemy, God is able to humble the enemy. He is able to make that enemy fall to his knees. What do you mean? For example, I like football. We had an enemy on the block. We used to play block football. What do you mean? Where I lived, there was a whole bunch of people on our block so it was Long against Haddon. Well, I called them the enemy. Now don't take the enemy as a person, the enemy is the devil and his demons but this is for an example. I had an enemy and it was those guys. Well, we played in the rain and we played tackle football there on Long and Haddon and we won. We had a victory over those guys. Something happened. After we had the victory, we had little bets and everything but they had to bow down to us. Why? Because we were the kings of football. I loved playing football. I liked the aggression. I liked the fighting and that's how you get all that stuff out so you don't beat up your kids and everything. But we had a bet and we made those guys bow down to us. Now, when they bowed down to us, now you've got to be a word called humble to bow down to somebody. Bowing down is showing that you ain't the man, that you aren't that person. So God is able to make our enemies bow down or he is able to humble them. God is also able to deliver us. God is able to get you out of harm from the enemy. Something like that, amen.

Daniel 6. You see the plot against Daniel and the Bible says in verse 8, "Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. Wherefore king Darius signed the writing

and the decree." Signing the decree was about prayer. He said they were not able to pray. They knew Daniel was a man of his word. They knew Daniel was going to fall into this trap and pray anyway.

The Bible says in verse 10, "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed." He knelt down three times, "and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." As he did before. He didn't do anything out of the ordinary. He's doing what he's been doing but he let them know that, "I'm going to pray. I'm going to pray to my God because we have a true and living God." So he prayed and after this, they threw him in the lions' den but something happened.

In verse 16, the Bible says, "Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee." Are you all reading like I'm reading? "Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee." Is he saying, "Is he asking you or is he telling you?" The Bible says, "Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee."

Now come on down a little bit to verse 20, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt." So the Lord is able to stop that lion, stop your enemy from hurting you. The Bible says "because he believed in his God," verse 23. So my question to you: do you believe that God is able to do this in your life?

If you go to Matthew 9, we come to a man who was blind. Matthew 9:27, "And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him." It's always good to come to Jesus, amen?

The Bible said, "and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord." So they believed that God was able to do this. My question to you: do you believe God is able to do fill-in-the-blank in your life?

The Bible said, "Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord." Yeah, we believe you. Yeah, we believe that you can do this in our lives.

Verse 29, the Bible says, "Then touched he their eyes." You see, God wants to touch something in your life. He wants to attach himself to your problem or something that's controlling you or something that you don't have faith to get over.

The Bible says, "Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you." So God asks you the question: according to your faith be it unto you. Would that blindness, so to speak, would that go away from you or would you still walk away blind?

The Bible says, "according to your faith." You see, it comes down to your faith and my faith or how do we believe. If you don't have the faith, you won't be able to accomplish the thing that God will have for you for your life. We have to believe that God is able to do what he said he would do.

The Bible says, "according to your faith be it unto you." And the Bible says in verse 30, "And their eyes were opened." Why? Because they believed that the Lord was able to do it. "And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straightly charged them, saying, See that no man know it." Then what happened? What's going to happen if you were blind before and when you leave you can see? You're going to go home kicking rocks. These guys didn't go home kicking rocks. They didn't go home just going to the beach and skipping rocks like I used to do.

Look what the Bible says, "But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country." Don't you believe that God knew they were going to spread that news? Amen? Are you all alive. Have you got a pulse? Amen? "But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country."

So God is able to take you out of the hands of the enemy. God is able to humble the enemy and God is able to keep you from harm from the enemy. Now, these are verses I like. Go with me to 1 Peter 5:7. The other stuff was good too but these verses I like. We have a God that can sustain you. What do you mean? He's able to hold you up. How can he hold you up? 1 Peter 5:6, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." We have a God that cares about you. The Bible says, "cast," and that means "throw." That means you've got something like a jacket or something like this, it says cast and that means throw it. That means to throw it on the Lord.

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." God isn't a type of person that.. this is all my cares, this bag. I've got this whole thing of cares and I'm going to cast it on somebody and they're just going to look at it and examine it and just do nothing with it. But we have a God that cares for you. Have you ever had someone that cared for you? I guess y'all have never had nobody care for you. I have a wife that cares for me. Amen. I have a wife and when I'm sick, she takes care of me. What do you mean? She gets my pills like she did on Monday night. I wasn't feeling well. She got a pillow. I was asleep. She got a pillow, fluffed it up real nice and lifted my head up with two hands because my head is heavy and put it underneath my head and I got to snuggling. You know how you get to moving and getting all comfortable. I'm laying there and I had just a little throw blanket. She came with a big dog blanket. She came and threw it on me so I'm laying there all just snuggled up. That's why I woke up with a sermon on my heart, sermon on my mind, because I was comfortable. It's good to be comfortable. What do you mean comfortable? You see, when God holds you up and sustains you, you feel a little better. You feel a little pep in your step.

Go with me to Philippians 4:6. Thank you, my beautiful wife for comforting me. Amen. Hallelujah. I like the whole chapter of Philippians 4. It's one of the best chapters in the Bible along with Ephesians 3. The Bible says, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." What is he saying? That will sustain you. That will hold you up. When God asks you to pray, you can talk to, you can commune with God. That's always a great thing.

Verse 8. Do you want to have some good conversations, read verse 8. The Bible says, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." What do you mean? If you want to be sustained, if you want to be happy, think on these things. Think on God. Play some music. Play some good music. Change that: play some Holy Ghost filled spiritual music. What do you mean? Play something from CT and them. I found some girl on YouTube. I don't know her but I love her in the earthly love. But she was singing some songs and those songs were blessing me and I was happy and I was encouraged. What are you saying? Think on these things. Get off the news. Amen? Somebody is always dying or getting shot on the news. Turn that off. Let me turn it off. I can't watch it. It bothers my mind and I think I'm Al Capone and those guys and I want to go and shoot somebody. But think on these things. See how your mind changes that quick? Think on these things. Think on things that are honest and pure.

Turn with me to Psalm 56:3. We have a God that is able to give us peace. To give us joy. To give us longsuffering. To give us patience. The Bible says in Psalm 56:3, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me." What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. If you want to get some peace, you want to get some hope, trust in the Lord.

The Bible says in Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Why should you not lean to your own understanding? It will mess you up. It will jack you up. What do you mean? I was talking with some guy today and he has all these degrees and all this other good stuff. He didn't understand who Jesus was so I'm saying, "Do you want to know who Jesus is or are you trying to aggravate me and get me off track?" You see, he didn't really want to know who Jesus is. Why? Because I gave him verse after verse and he kept on skipping over those verses. Well, my job was done. I can't beat you upside the head to make you believe that God is real. He said, "Well, how do you know God is real?" I said, "Well, go outside. Look at the trees. How did the tree get there?" "What do you mean, how did the tree get there?" "Someone had to put the tree there. Someone had to place the tree there. Well, if somebody made the tree, that means somebody made everything else." It's simple but sometimes you can get so bogged down. You can't understand everything. It will mess you up. But all you need to understand is, "In the beginning God." That's enough right there. God was in the beginning. God created all things.



But the Bible says, "What time I am afraid , I will trust in thee." Now go back to Ephesians 3:20, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." All we have to do if we want God to answer our prayers. Isaiah 59 talks about the sin and iniquity in our hearts. If you get the sin and iniquity out of your heart, God is able to do mighty things. He can answer those prayers that you've been begging for, that you've been looking for, that you don't understand, that you are in need of.

The Bible says in 1 John 5:14, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." What are you saying? If we ask God and we know we're in right fellowship with God and we know that we ask in his name...we say "in his name" and that means in his power, his authority. So you can't ask God, "I want that house. I want all these houses on the block." That's not his character. It also means character. So when we ask things and our heart is right with God, he's going to hear us and he's going to answer us. The answer is going to be yes or no or when I say slow. Yes, no or slow. That's how God answers us.

I don't know about you but I'm thankful that God is able to do exceedingly abundantly that we ask or think. That means the best thing I can think of, God is able to do above that. How about we ask him today to do this in our life?

Let's pray.

*Father in heaven, Lord, we love you. I ask that you meet the needs of the people here, Lord. I didn't mention the last point, Lord, but you know our hearts and so I pray that you do exactly what you have to do. Lord, forgive us our sins. Forgive us of ourselves. Lord, move us out of the way. Lord, speak to our hearts. Lord, you've been good to us. Help us to thank you and to praise you for all things, Lord. We know you are able to do abundantly that we ask, Lord, exceedingly abundantly. Help us to believe what you said that you would do. Help us to lean on those promises, Lord. We love you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Let's all stand.