A Message from Monte

Thanks for joining us in studying the Bible and praying about the More Than initiative!

This prayer and devotional guide is designed to be used this week, as we begin to seek God's will in our hearts and in our homes. A new prayer guide will be available each of the following three weeks, leading up to Commitment Weekend. Each guide will include short devotionals for five days, and will consist of a reflection on the scripture passage, some additional references, and a prayer. This first week, we will center our thoughts on Ephesians 3: 20-21.

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us," Ephesians 3:20

Day 1- "Now to Him who is able..."

The fact that there is no limit to what God is able to accomplish, should give us great confidence as we approach Him in faith! As we trust Him, truly understanding that He is our strength and our refuge, we can have patience as we wait to see Him work in our circumstances. Whatever our needs are, He is able to provide for them! "And my God will supply all your needs, according to His riches in glory in Jesus Christ." (Philippians 4: 19)

Pray for God to grow your faith as you trust in Him and His protection and provision.

Day 2- "...to do all we ask..."

Jesus tells us that we should boldly ask the Father for what we need. In Matthew 7:7, He promises, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened." In the model prayer, He teaches us to ask for our daily bread. The author of the letter to the Hebrews urges us to draw near to the throne of grace in confidence (Heb. 4:16). What is keeping us from taking our requests to the God who loves us and longs to bless us with all we need?

Let's pray that we will go to Him with our needs, acknowledging His boundless resources. Ask Him today to meet your specific needs, whatever they may be.

Day 3- "...all we ask or imagine..."

Have you ever experienced a time when you asked, or pleaded with God in prayer for some particular answer, but when the answer came, it was more than you asked for, or even imagined? This very thing happened for Jacob and his eleven sons, who were suffering, along with their families, through a time of famine. Jacob sent the sons to Egypt to buy some of the plentiful food he had heard was in storage there. They not only received all the food they needed, but they were all brought to live in Egypt, and were shown honor and given riches. Their story is found in Genesis chapters 37-50.

Pray today that we will not limit God, that we will not gauge His power by human standards and limitations.

Day 4-"...immeasurably more..."

When Solomon became king of Israel following the death of his father David, God appeared to him and instructed him to ask whatever he wished of God. The new king confessed that he needed wisdom and a discerning heart to govern the great people whom God had chosen for His own. God, pleased with this request, promised that He would not only grant him what he had asked, but would also give him more, namely riches, a long life, and great honor among the nations. (First Kings 3).

Pray that we, like Solomon, will come to God with our requests in an attitude of submission to His will and a desire to live within His purposes.

Day 5- "..according to His Power that is at work within us."

As believers in Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. But we might not think about the fact that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is available to us. The apostle Paul says in the letter to the church at Ephesus, that this power raised Christ and seated Him in the heavenly places. He goes further, stating that the Father has raised us up with Him, and that we are already seated there with Him!

Pray, as Paul did, that the eyes of our hearts will be enlightened, so that we will know the hope of His calling, the riches of His glory, and the surpassing greatness of His Power.

Ephesians 1:18-23 and 2: 4-7