

EXCEEDING AND ABUNDANTLY ABOVE

Eph. 3:17-20 - *"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. 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."*

1. OUR NEED.
 1. We are preoccupied with what we think are our needs.
 2. We need to understand our greatest need--that is to be pleasing to the Lord.

2. EXCEEDING AND ABUNDANTLY ABOVE ALL WE CAN ASK OR THINK.
 1. God is a God of abundance.
 1. He has plenty of everything we need.
 1. Love, mercy, grace.
 2. Peace, joy, happiness.
 3. Money?
 4. He does own a cattle on a thousand hills.
 5. He created everything of wealth.
 2. 8 I will not reprove thee for thy sacrifices or thy burnt offerings, to have been continually before me.9 I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he goats out of thy folds.10 For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.11 I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine.12 If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.13 Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?14 Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:15 And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.
 2. He gives us the power to get wealth, that his covenant might be established in the earth.
 3. Our God shall supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
 1. All our needs.
 2. According to His riches; not according to our need.
 3. He knows our need before we ask.
 4. It operates by faith.
 4. God is our source; no man; not even the church.
 1. The element of faith.
 2. The law of sowing and reaping.
 3. The principle of consistency.

4. The principle of diligence and persistence.
5. Ordering our conversation aright.

3. ACCORDING TO THE POWER THAT WORKS IN US.

1. There is a power that works in us.
2. That Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith.
 1. That we may be rooted and grounded in love.
 2. That we may be able to comprehend what is the breadth, length, depth, and height of the love of Christ; the love that passes knowledge.
3. That we be filled with all the fulness of God.
 1. (Eph 1:22 KJV) And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, (Eph 1:23 KJV) Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.
 2. (Col 2:9 KJV) For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. (Col 2:10 KJV) And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

4. THE CHRIST IN OUR HEARTS IS MORE THAN RELIGION.

1. He is not a historic Jesus, but the living Christ.
2. Jesus was and is the Word of God.
 1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.
 2. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
 3. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
 4. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
 5. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
 6. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.
3. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
 1. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.
 2. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.
4. John only bore witness to the greater light.
 1. Who are you John? Are you Elijah? Are you one of the prophets? What sayest thou of thyself?
 2. I am a voice of my crying in the wilderness; prepare the way of the Lord.
 3. He is greater than I.
 4. I baptize you with water, but He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

5. JESUS THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS US LIFE MORE

ABUNDANTLY.

1. More than religion--a relationship.
2. More than doctrine--life.
3. More than the law--the grace of God.
 1. The law.
 1. Earning our way; acts; deeds.
 2. Payment of a debt.
 3. God doesn't owe us anything.
 2. Grace.
 1. Strictly on the basis of what He did.
 2. Not dependent upon our righteousness, goodness, or holiness.
 3. Freely given though we don't deserve it.
 4. It depends upon our ability to trust Him through faith and obedience.
4. Everything that you will ever get will be by faith and the grace of God; we will never be able to merit the goodness of God through our own righteousness.
5. We have not yet comprehended the goodness of God that leads us to repentance.
 1. If we repent because of fear, we will be back in the same rut when the fear passes.
 2. If we are overwhelmed with the love of God, we will want to serve Him.
 1. He loved us when we were unlovable.
 2. He cared when no one else did.