

# IMMEASURABLY MORE ..

## [Part 2]

### learning from the letter to the Ephesians

*“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, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! [Eph.3.20f]*

The letter to the Ephesians sets out for us ‘the unsearchable riches of Christ’ (Eph.3.8), and assures us that God is ‘able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine’ (Eph.3.20): this set of studies is intended to help us all enter into and enjoy that ‘immeasurably more’.

You can find the background to this series [here](#).

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#### **No pressure!**

There are 7 [sets of] questions in each study to provide the option, which some find useful, of the material being used as a daily study.

#### **Priorities!**

You’ll know your own group, so use what you’ll find most helpful. The questions this week cover just a couple of verses, so questions 1 & 7 are more general in nature. There will be profit in looking at all the questions, but perhaps the most important ones for us all to be looking at will be **3, 4 & 6**.

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#### **Prayer!**

Do try also to make a point in your Community Group of leaving time for praying together!

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### 3. Eph.3.20-21 [w/b Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May]

*“.. able to do immeasurably more ..”*

These are the verses from which the title for the series on Paul's letter to the Ephesians is drawn! So it should be worth our while getting to grips with what they have to teach us, and hopefully being encouraged thereby!

The two verses comprise an ascription of praise to God, or a doxology: it's a fitting conclusion to the first part of the letter in which Paul has set out the great truths about God's saving work in our lives as Christians. Through the rest of the letter Paul will address the practical repercussions of these truths.

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1. If you have the chance, read **Eph.1.1-3.20** in a single sitting to get the full force of what Paul is declaring.

Which bits of these first three chapters speak most powerfully to you and why?

Which bits have you found hardest to understand?

If you had to summarise in a sentence the thrust of what Paul has written, how would you put it?

2. **Read Matthew 8.1-3.** It may be that the leper who came to Jesus had no doubt about His ability to heal him: it was His *willingness* about which the man was not so sure.

Why might the man have doubted Jesus' willingness?

Do you find yourself sometimes wondering about the Lord's *willingness* to meet you in your need? Or do you have more of a struggle believing that in truth He is *able* to meet that need?

3. **Read Ephesians 3.20-21.** "Nothing is impossible with God," the angel declared to Mary (Luke 2.37): from beginning to end the Bible impresses on our hearts this great reality of God's 'measureless Might' (as the hymn puts it).

How does God underline for us in Scripture the greatness of His power?

Why do you think Paul rounds off this first part of the letter by referring in this way to the great *power* of God?

4. **Read Ephesians 3.20-21.** Paul wants us to understand that the Lord is well able to do much more than what we dare to ask for from Him (or even think He *might* just be able to do).

Consider what you have been asking God for in your prayers over recent days: does that reflect this conviction about the immeasurable greatness of God's power?

Or do you find yourself restricting yourself in praying to relatively 'low-level' requests?

5. **Read Ephesians 3.20-21.** Consider the words Paul uses here to 'qualify' his statement about God's being able to immeasurably more than we ask or think.

To what is Paul referring when he speaks about "*His power that is at work within us..*"?

What has he said along similar lines already?

How can we best be reminded of this truth about ourselves?

6. **Read Ephesians 3.20-21.** This great affirmation regarding God's immeasurable power issues in a statement of praise.

What does Paul mean by glory being given to God “.. *in the church and in Christ Jesus..* ”?

How does that happen? What are some of the ways in which we can ensure that glory is given to God in the life of *this* church?

7. Reflect back on these first three chapters of Ephesians, and then try writing out your own prayer of praise and thanks to God.