

God is Able

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Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

EPHESIANS 3:20-21

Prayer is an awesome privilege that God has given to us, His people. We are the only people in the world who can pray with absolute confidence that God hears us. We need to understand the privilege and the power of prayer.

As we look around the world today, we see that it is spinning out of control: We see the rise of an extremist army that's marching through the Middle East, and the governments within the Western nations seem unable to decide what they should do about it. We look at these things and wonder what we, as individuals, can do. The thing we can all do is to pray because God is able. Our God is able to do anything, and historically when God wants to do something, He does it in concert with His people praying.

You can look throughout history and find many times when God has intervened and done a great work. But you find that before the work took place, God set His people to pray, and working together with their prayers, those things were accomplished. Whether it's on the international scene or your own life, you have this wonderful, powerful privilege of prayer. God sets us to praying, and then He works as the result of us calling upon Him.

In Ephesians 3:20, Paul says that God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we could even ask or think.

God has no limitation in what He can do. Here in verse 20, God's ability to answer

prayer is forcefully stated by the apostle, and we're going to see first of all that God is able because He is the Living God. He's the Living God who is not weak, but is powerful. We have a Living Savior; that can't be said of other religions.

Some say that God is dead, but we beg to differ. God is not dead. Some say that God never existed in the first place. The arguments for God not existing are weak, and when you look at the case for the existence of God versus the nonexistence of God, it is quite clear that there must be a God. Some may say, "I don't like the way things are in the world, so I don't want to believe in a God who would allow the world to be the way it is." The Bible has a good explanation as to why the world is the way it is: God didn't create the world this way; the world ended up this way because of its revolt against God. But God has a plan. He is able because He is the Living God, and as the Living God, He's the all-powerful God.

There are times when we can fall under the delusion, because of discouragement, that God is not powerful enough to deal with a situation. The Israelites would fall prey to that kind of thinking. In Isaiah 40:28, the Lord responded to that kind of attitude. The Lord says through the prophet, ***Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.*** His power is limitless. There's nothing hard for the Lord. You may say, "If God can do anything, why hasn't He done this or that?" I've discovered that God knows what's best; and though He does things that don't make

sense to me, I am confident that in the end, they will make perfect sense. There have been things that I've prayed about and times that I've sought to give God direction. I've yet to see God take my advice on these things—He does things His own way. But as I go on in life and see what happens down the road, I say, *Okay Lord, I would never have thought to do it that way, but I see Your wisdom in it.* Even though things sometimes don't make sense to us or go the way we think they should, that should not dis-

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courage us; God is all-powerful but also all-wise, and He knows what He is doing. He's got a plan, and He is working out His plan.

We can also be confident in His ability to work and to answer prayer because we know God cares. He took on human form and came to earth to solve the great problem of sin and death. To those who suggest that God is either dead, weak, or indifferent, we would say, "God is not indifferent. God cares and loves us." He cares about things happening in the lives of people today, and we need to have this confidence when we're praying. That's part of what motivates me to pray: I look at something and say, *That's wrong; that shouldn't be happening, so I'm going to call upon You, and I'm going to ask You to do something about it.* And because God is all-powerful and controls the universe itself, God is able to bring about answers to prayers that we would never even imagine. ✍️