

### Introduction:

What did you do for God this past week? What are you planning to do for God this coming week? What can a person with your abilities hope to ever do for God? Because we know how limited we are, these kinds of questions are sometimes overwhelming. Allow me to turn you to a passage: **Ephesians 3:20-21**. This passage is one of the most motivational scriptures in the Bible. Highlight and underline it. Memorize it. Quote it in your prayers. Post it on your bathroom mirror so you see it every morning. This scripture is all about God and what He does through us. You will find it astonishing.

### Discussion:

- I. God is working.
  - A. In **Ephesians 3:20**, Paul says, "To Him who is able to do ..." Paul knows God's ability because God is doing. God is working in His world today. Earlier in the chapter Paul spoke of God's eternal purpose in Jesus Christ that is now made manifest to rulers and authorities in heavenly places through His church. God is not sitting in heaven watching the world unfold. He is still working out His eternal purpose in Christ Jesus. His eternal purpose was to save us, allowing us confident access to Him through Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 3:12**; cf. **Hebrews 10:19-22**).
  - B. **John 6:44** demonstrates that God is working. He is drawing men to Jesus that they may be saved. Paul himself admits this working of God in **I Corinthians 3:6-7**. God caused the growth.
  - C. **I Corinthians 12:18** demonstrates that God has placed members of the congregation in the body just as He desired. God is working even within the congregation to make sure that the necessary parts are here to accomplish His work.
  - D. **Romans 8:28-29** demonstrates that God is working so that all things come together for good for those who love Him. He is actively working so those who love Him will become more and more like His begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
  - E. **I Peter 5:4-5** says God is actively working to protect those who continue in faith so they may receive an inheritance that awaits them in heaven.
  - F. Finally, the Bible demonstrates that no matter what man does with his free will, even to the point of attacking God's plan, God will be successful. He will even use the very acts that men and Satan plan for evil. In **Acts 4:13-31**, Peter and John had been arrested, imprisoned, threatened and released. They returned to their brethren and prayed. They quoted **Psalms 2:1-3**. This passage demonstrates not that God predetermined all things. Rather, that the heathen themselves devise futile plans taking a stand against God. But all their plans only produce what God wanted to happen. Just as Herod and Pilate made a stand against Jesus. But all they accomplished was God's plan. Jesus died for our sins and was resurrected. God is working so His plan will be accomplished and nothing that man or Satan does can stop His working.
- II. God is using us to accomplish His work.
  - A. According to **Ephesians 3:20**, God is working according to the power that is within us. Too many today have no idea how God is working. They want to see miracles and sensationalism. But God is working through what we have the ability to do. No doubt, the Bible demonstrates that God allowed some to perform the miraculous. But, according to **I Corinthians 13:8-13**, that was only for a time and for a particular purpose. The purpose has been fulfilled and the time has past. God can choose to work however He wants. We cannot put Him in a box of our choosing, telling Him how to work.
  - B. How has God chosen to work today? Through us. Amazing isn't it. Take note that **John 6:45** says God draws people to Christ through teaching. We see this exemplified in passages like **Acts 9:5-6** and **Acts 10:3-6** where men were not taught by miraculous revelation from God how to turn to Jesus. Rather, God used men to teach men, drawing men to Himself through Christ. He works the same way today. He draws men to Himself through Christ by our teaching.
  - C. **I Corinthians 12:12-31** and **Ephesians 4:11-16** both demonstrate that God uses Christians to build up Christians, conforming them to Christ and protecting them for their inheritance. As such, the New Testament letters are replete with admonitions for us to teach, admonish, comfort, encourage, instruct, and serve one another. God is using us.

- D. What does this mean for us? It does not mean that we are somehow indispensable to God. That is, that we are not so important to His plan that He cannot work without us. **Psalm 50:12** is an indication of this. In fact, far from God needing us. We need God. Without God, we cannot even exist (**Acts 17:28**) let alone have salvation. What it does mean is that God intends for us to be workers. He intends for us to be faithful and productive, glorifying Him (**Ephesians 3:21; John 15:8**). Those branches that do not glorify the Father, bearing fruit will be cast into the fire (**John 15:2,6**). So, we must each ask, what work are we doing? How can we improve our work?
- E. But this also means we are not alone to do the work. We are working through the strength that God gives us. We can do all things through His strength (**Philippians 4:13**). When Moses stood before the burning bush, he was able to come up with all kinds of reasons why he could not do the work. But God reminded him that he would not be alone. God would be with him (**Exodus 3:12**). Thus, instead of coming up with all kinds of excuses about why you cannot accomplish certain work, lean on God and dive into working for him. Pray, as Jabez did, that God's good hand would be with you (**I Chronicles 4:10**). You will accomplish a great deal. Not because of you, but because God is working His plan through you.

### III. God can accomplish more through us than we can even ask or think.

- A. What kind of vision do you have for yourself in the future? What kind of vision do you have for this congregation in the future? Most of us have very small visions. Our vision is limited by our finite minds. Our vision is often limited because we only think in the realm of what we personally accomplish with our own strength and ability. Therefore, we often aim low regarding growth as individuals and as a congregation. According to **Ephesians 3:20**, God, using the power within us, can accomplish more than we can even ask or think.
- B. What does that mean? That means when we ask and think, we need to ask and think BIG! Think of the illustration that Jesus gave the apostles. If someone asked us how big a weight we could move, using our own strength we might consider an object that was a couple hundred pounds, less for people like me. With faith, what object did Jesus say we could move? We could move an object far greater than we would ever even think to ask: a mountain (**Matthew 17:20**).
- C. How big are you thinking when it comes to your own personal future in God's service? What are you doing for God right now? What will you be doing for Him in five years? Have you ever thought about it? Do not see yourself as a bench warmer. See yourself as a soul converter. See yourself as a Bible teacher. Do not say, "I can never do that." Ask God and work at growth. He can work through you and accomplish far more through you than you can even ask or think.
- D. How big are you thinking when it comes to our congregational future? I am not talking about how many numbers do you see. I am talking about how many souls do you see this congregation working to save? How many preachers do you see this congregation supporting locally and worldwide? How many deacons do you see this congregation having? How many elders? How much work do you see us accomplishing through our Bible classes, worship and other avenues? What kind of family do you envision this church being? How many of our members' needs do you envision this church being able to meet? God can do more through us than we can ever imagine! We need to aim high. As one brother recently said, "Always aim at the top of the light poles, you may hit a star. If you aim low, you'll hit the dirt every time."
- E. God is on our side and He can accomplish more than we can possibly think. So let's think BIG!

### Conclusion:

Read **Ephesians 3:20** over and over again. Trust in God. Set your goals and work toward them. Ask God to bless you in your goals and take you to them and beyond. God can accomplish more than we can think and ask and He will. However, it begins with us thinking and asking. Do not simply let this verse pass you by. Take some time this week and think about your future and our future. Set some goals and start working. You are not alone. God is working through you and will accomplish more than you even thought and ever planned.