

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 3:14-21**. From Roy H. Enoch (4-18-93).
For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, [15] from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, [16] that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; [17] so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, [18] may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19] and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God. [20] Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, [21] to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.
- B. God is able to do far more than we normally think that He can.
- C. It is essential to see the help and potential of being on God's side. May we have a great assurance of purpose and increased goals.
- D. We often limit what God can do by a lack of faith and knowledge.
1. "We will never know what God can do through us if we only attempt what we think we can do by ourselves" (from Jack Wilhelm).
 2. Even the apostles were limited and often rebuked by the Lord for their lack of faith.

II. OUR SCRIPTURE TEXT SAYS THAT "GOD IS ABLE."

- A. See Eph. 3:20.
Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,
Many times we focus on the "ask or imagine" part of this verse. But the point is that God is able to do all things.
- B. As a parent realizes that some things that children ask for are not good for them, God does what is best, instead of what we want.
- C. God is obligated to give us the power to do what He tells us (1Pet. 4:11).
Whoever speaks, *let him speak*, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, *let him do so* as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

III. "GOD IS ABLE" TO SAVE US ETERNALLY.

- A. The text: Heb. 7:25.
Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
- B. Salvation is a difficult concept to grasp.
1. Many have difficulty forgiving themselves and believing that God will forgive them.
 2. Others seem to assume that anything they do is all right and they need no forgiveness.
 3. Others think they can do everything for themselves and need no help. (Their lives are probably littered with things they have dissembled and cannot put back together.)
- C. We do need salvation! God can save us! It is free, but conditional.
1. He gives us the details in His word.
 2. The commands of the gospel are conditions of the blessings.
- D. God is able to keep us faithful (Jude 24).
Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,
- E. Although we may choose to leave God, Satan cannot take us away while we stay in Him (Jn. 10:29).
"My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand.

- F. We are not compelled to serve God, and not compelled to serve Satan.
 - 1. God predestined that we should be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29).
For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;
 - 2. It is not His will that any should perish (2Pet. 3:9).
The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
 - 3. But most will not do the will of God to be saved.

IV. **“GOD IS ABLE” TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE BEING TEMPTED.**

- A. The text: Heb. 2:18.
For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.
- B. Do you realize that you are being tempted? It is even more dangerous if you are not aware! (1Cor. 10:11-13).
Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. [12] Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. [13] No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.
- C. There are all types of temptations: Intellectual, sexual, prideful, hateful, self-deception, etc.
- D. God is able to help those who are enduring great difficulties (Dan. 3:17).
“If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.
- E. Sometimes God allows us to suffer to test us and strengthen us.
 - 1. Paul was told that his “thorn in the flesh” was beneficial (2Cor. 12:7-10).
And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself! [8] Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. [9] And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. [10] Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.
 - 2. James (1:3) says that the testing of your faith produces patience.
knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
- F. If God could deliver Daniel (and He did), then He can deliver us from anything.

V. **“GOD IS ABLE” TO GIVE US ALL THINGS.**

- A. See 2Chr. 25:9.
And Amaziah said to the man of God, “But what *shall we* do for the hundred talents which I have given to the troops of Israel?” And the man of God answered, “The LORD has much more to give you than this.”
- B. God is not limited in amount but is limited by what is right and what is best for us.
- C. We should continue to pray for what we think we need, but offer the request as Jesus did in Gethsemane, “Oh My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will” (Mt. 26:39). Jesus did not want to suffer, but He was willing to. We should have the same attitude.
- D. Trust that God can bring the greatest blessings from the worst circumstances.
- E. Develop “abundance mentality” which means that God will always give an abundance no matter how difficult the circumstances. There is always enough grace, enough love, enough forgiveness, etc.

VI. **“GOD IS ABLE” TO TRANSFORM OUR LIVES.**

- A. God is able to help us change and make our lives better.
- B. We can change in such a way to leave the world behind (Rom. 12:1,2).

- B. We can change in such a way to leave the world behind (Rom. 12:1,2).
I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. [2] And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- C. We can change in such a way to become more like X (2Cor. 3:18).
But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
- D. We can be changed on the final day in order to be in heaven eternally (Phil. 3:21).
who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.
- E. The greatest blessings come to those who submit to God's control.
 - 1. When man chooses to reject God's control and submit to Satan, he loses God's blessings.
 - 2. God allows us to choose, and then holds us accountable for our choice.
- F. The judgment will put all under God's control again.

VII. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. If we give God control of our lives by submitting to His word, we will have the greatest happiness here and hereafter. God is able to:
 - 1. Save us eternally.
 - 2. Help those who are being tempted and tried.
 - 3. Give us all things.
 - 4. Transform us into His likeness.
- B. Will you yield your will to a God who is able?
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians?