

169 – Untraceable Riches

I received 27 more scriptures late last night or early this morning, so thanks for those, and for the personal explanations that went with each one. Assuming we used all the scriptures that have come in so far, we have enough for just under four months if we dedicated one for each day of the year. All that to say, feel free to keep sending them in. I think it might be worthwhile to compile these for just our family right, even before the rest of the world sees them. It really is astonishing how individually personal the Father's word is, and how little duplication there is within what people are sending.

This morning's Bible Gateway Scripture of the Day was **Ephesians 3:20-21**, ESV:

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

I looked at the CLNT, which reads similarly:

*20 Now to Him Who is able to do superexcessively above all that we are requesting or apprehending, according to the power that is operating in us,
21 to Him be glory in the ecclesia and in the Anointed One Yeshua for all the generations of the eon of the eons! Amen!*

I'll get to the full context of this passage later, because it's hugely important. For now, however, I'd like to spend some time on how this struck me differently than it ever has before. Check this with your spirit as we go through it, because what I'm about to share may not have been Paul's intended meaning at all; nevertheless, I see an application to our lives that I submit is at least worth looking at this evening.

1. Paul is talking about the Father in verse 20, "*Him Who is able to do superexcessively.*"
2. Paul says the Father "*is ABLE to do superexcessively*"; Paul does NOT say that the Father DOES or WILL DO superexcessively; rather that He is ABLE ... He may or may not.
3. The qualifier of the superexcessiveness is at the end of verse 20: "*according to the power that is operating in us.*"

My first question is, "What power is operating in me ...for real?" Never mind what the right answer should be; what's the TRUE answer?

Do you and I truly want ALL that our Father in Heaven has for us today? Do we even know what that means, because Paul's declaration of what the Father is ABLE to do appears to me to be a condition that determines whether He does it or what He does *when* He does it, i.e., "according to [in agreement with] the power that is operating in us."

When Paul writes, "THE power," he can only be referring to the power of the Holy Spirit living in us. I cannot imagine any other power that would be considered along with the definite article – that is, the word *THE* – in front of it.

So now, the Father's "ability" is determined by – stay with me here – the *degree* to which His spirit is operating in us. The text does not say that explicitly, but it does say that the Father's ability is in agreement with the power operating in us. How many spirit-filled people do you know or have you met whose lives seem to exemplify a kind of impotence when it comes to "POWER" you would expect from the Holy Spirit. Some people I know don't really seem to operate in power at all, or to what seems to me to be a much diminished extent; and their lives aren't examples of the Father's power that I have any interest in following.

Let me give you an example of what I'm talking about: Barbara and I used to fellowship with a couple who had a home church and met on Saturday nights informally, and often had people from out of town come in for whole weekends of ministry. The Saturday group was usually quite small – maybe 6 people. On the weekends when someone was ministering, their basement gathering room held over 50 people. What we noticed was that most of the people were infirm, as the scriptures would say, either physically or spiritually. They were either sick in body or weak in spirit. They were sweet enough people, but they certainly did not operate in power from on high. In fact, I'm convinced that's why they turned out in such numbers for the traveling ministers, because THEY DID operate in power – at least more so – and it looked to me like everyone wanted to get some on them because they had so little of their own. The more miraculous or glorious the ministry, the more people turned out; while the more informational the ministry – that is the more pure teaching there was – the less people turned out. Everyone seemed hungry – starving almost – for the power of the Holy Spirit to operate in them, but they seemed to be MORE committed to their conditions and an attitude of resignation about their lives.

Amazingly, when Barbara and I offered to conduct several evenings of ministry to empower them beyond their current perceptions and conditions, almost no one showed up – and the Lord brought such a rain down on the second night that it flooded the whole area and no one could go out for days! It was almost like witnessing Him shutting these

people out of what He is *ABLE* to do, as our text tonight says, which is, “*superexcessively above all that we are requesting or apprehending, according to the power that is operating in us.*”

This brings me to the next point about this text in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians: these dear people were clearly requesting and apprehending, at least to some degree, but the power operating in them limited the Father’s ability to deliver “*above all that [they were] requesting or apprehending,*” because “*the power operating in them*” was so small.

This is not to suggest that the Father is actually limited – may it not be coming to that, as Paul would say. Rather, it is simply that it appears the Father limits *Himself*, as the Scripture reads, “*according to the power that is operating in us.*”

The other aspect of this Scripture is the issue of what we are “*requesting or apprehending.*” **Apprehending** is “*perceiving with the mind*”, and **requesting** is “*expressing a desire to have or do something.*” (CLNT-KC, pg. 17, 246, respectively). This begs the question, “*what limits are there to our mental perceptions of the Father?*” What do we REALLY believe He is capable of doing; not what we TELL ourselves we believe, but what we REALLY believe? Next, I ask, “What are we requesting of the Father?” On the heels of that, I would ask, “Are our requests of the Father not based on our mental perceptions – our apprehensions – and isn’t all this determined by the same power operating in us, which not only limits His ability to deliver superexcessively, but also our ability to perceive or request?”

Look at people who don’t know the Father: some of them believe in an unnamed “*law of attraction*” more than Christians believe in YaHoVeH El Shaddai – the One Who suffices! Their lives are often more blessed – or so it would appear – than those who have been saved by the blood sacrifice of The Messiah, the Anointed One, Yeshua. I know I’m only referring to how things look in this Earthly realm, but Yeshua said, “*You will know them by their fruit,*” and fruit is born in the Earthly realm.

There’s another aspect of this text; let’s look at it again:

Ephesians 3:20-21

20 Now to Him Who is able to do superexcessively above all that we are requesting or apprehending, according to the power that is operating in us,

21 to Him be glory in the ecclesia and in the Messiah Yeshua for all the generations of the eon of the eons! Amen!

What if our requests and apprehensions are cloudy, uncertain, or even counter to His purposes? Might the Father do superexcessively *ABOVE*, not in the sense of *MORE* that

we might commonly think is meant by the term, “*superexcessive*,” but in the sense of HIGHER, or “*loftier*,” as we looked at in Isaiah back in early March:

Isaiah 55:8-9

For My designs are not your designs, And your ways are not My ways, averring is Yahweh. 9 For as the heavens are loftier than the earth, So are My ways loftier than your ways, And My designs than your designs.

The whole idea of *superexcessively above all that we are requesting or apprehending* indicates that whatever the Father delivers is *incomprehensibly ABOVE* our woefully inadequate capacity to perceive, let alone request. To me, this means that we could be thinking along a certain line and making requests, and the Father delivers something according to His purpose in our lives that we were SO not prepared for or looking at – because the Father knows what He’s after in and through our lives, and He’ll take us along His path so long as we are seeking after Him; but He’ll just as quickly take us down a road we weren’t expecting and would not have chosen, only to find ourselves in a very uncomfortable place. We might even think we made a really good choice, only to discover that we were being old-humanly short-sighted and fleshly in our perceptions and therefore in our requests. In this case, we may be where we need to be for the Father to get what he’s after in our lives, but we may not like it! Oh well, that’s Agape for you!

Two instructions I would impart, if I may, based on this text in Ephesians 3:

1. Be certain of the power operating within you. I can’t say it strongly enough: BE CERTAIN. If at any time life looks in any way other than full of the Father’s pleasure and blessing, look at the nature of the power operating in you. That will cloud your apprehension – your mental perception – and pollute your requests with the old humanity. You will find yourself in James 3’s “*double-souled*” condition:

Now if anyone of you is lacking wisdom, let him be requesting it from YaHoVeH, Who is giving to all generously and is not reproaching, and it shall be given to him.

6 Yet let him be requesting in faith, doubting nothing, for he who is doubting simulates a surge of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man be surmising that he shall be obtaining anything from the Lord --

8 a man double-souled, turbulent in all his ways.

2. ALWAYS take **Isaiah 55:8-9** into account, because when we do NOT, we may be certain that we are not operating under the power and anointing of the Spirit of Holiness; bank on it.

*For My designs are not your designs, And your ways are not My ways, averring is Yahweh. 9 For as the heavens are **loftier** than the earth, So are My ways **loftier** than your ways, And My designs than your designs.*

The section of Ephesians 3 that we've been studying so far comes at the end of that chapter and is preceded by the context of the entire first 3 Chapters of this epistle. At first, I thought it might be too much to look at it all, but anything less shortchanges the power operating in us, if I can borrow Paul's words, and as we go through it together, I think it will become crystal clear why Paul used a term like "*supersexcessive*" to describe what the Father can accomplish in and through us, but only, I believe, when we are perceiving accurately and requesting wisely from that accurate perception.

Let's go through the first three chapters of Ephesians, and I'll only comment as the Lord leads.

1 Paul, an apostle of the Messiah Yeshua through the will of the Father

Paul did not occupy his position as an act of His will, but the Father's – He was accosted by the risen Lord on the road to Damascus, where he was headed for an entirely religious and terrible purpose. Paul was certainly expecting neither the encounter with Yeshua in His glory, nor what followed that encounter, which consumed and cost Paul his position among the Jews and ultimately his life.

to all the saints who are also believers in the Messiah Yeshua.

2 Grace to you and peace from YaHoVeH, our Father, and the Lord Yeshua the Anointed One.

*3 Blessed be the Elohim and Father of our Lord Yeshua the Anointed One, **Who blesses us with [actually IN] every spiritual blessing among the celestials, in the Messiah,***

*4 according as **He chooses us in Him before the disruption of the world, we to be holy and flawless in His sight,***

*5 in love designating us beforehand for **[or into] the place of a son for [or into] Him through the Messiah Yeshua; in accord with the delight of His will,***

6 for the laud of the glory of His grace, which graces us in the Beloved:

7 in Whom we are having the deliverance through His blood, the forgiveness of [the] offenses in accord with the riches of His grace,

*8 which **He lavishes [into] us; in [every] wisdom and prudence***

9 making known to us the secret of His will (in accord with His delight, which He

purposed in Him)

10 to have an administration of the complement of the eras, to head up [the] all in the Anointed One -- both that in the heavens and that on the earth --

11 in Him in Whom our lot was cast also, being designated beforehand according to the purpose of the One Who is operating [the] all in accord with the counsel of His will, 12 that we should be for the laud of His glory, who are pre-expectant in the Messiah.

13 In Whom you also -- on hearing the word of [the] truth, the evangel of your salvation -- in Whom on believing also, you are sealed with the holy spirit of promise

14 (which is an earnest of the enjoyment of our allotment, to the deliverance of that which has been procured) for the laud of His glory!

15 Therefore, I also, on hearing of this faith of yours in the Lord Yeshua, and that for all the saints,

16 do not cease giving thanks for you, making mention in my prayers

17 that the Elohim of our Lord Yeshua the Anointed One, the Father of glory, may be giving you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the realization of Him,

18 the eyes of your heart having been enlightened, for you to perceive what is the expectation of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of the enjoyment of His allotment among the saints,

19 and what the transcendent greatness of His power for [or into] us who are believing, in accord with the operation of the might of His strength, [circle this and write see 3:20 in the margin]

20 which is operative in the Messiah, rousing Him from among the dead and seating Him at His right hand among the celestials,

21 up over every sovereignty and authority and power and lordship, and every name that is named, not only in this eon, but also in that which is impending:

22 and subjects all under His feet, and gives Him, as Head over all, to the ecclesia which is His body, the complement of the One completing the all in all.

Chapter 2

1 And you, being dead to your offenses and sins,

2 in which once you walked, in accord with the eon of this world, in accord with the chief of the jurisdiction of the air, the spirit now operating in the sons of stubbornness

3 (among whom we also all behaved ourselves once in the lusts of our flesh, doing the will of the flesh and of the comprehension, and were, in our nature, children of indignation, even as the rest),

4 yet YaHoVeH, being rich in mercy, because of His vast love with which He loves us

5 (we also being dead to the offenses and the lusts), vivifies us together in the Messiah (in grace are you saved!)

6 and rouses us together and seats us together among the celestials, in the Messiah

Yeshua,

7 that, in the oncoming eons, He should be displaying the transcendent riches of His grace in His kindness to us in the Anointed One Yeshua.

8 For in grace, through faith, are you saved, and this is not out of you; it is YaHoVeH's approach present,

9 not of works, lest anyone should be boasting.

10 For His achievement are we, being created in Christ Jesus for good works, which YaHoVeH makes ready beforehand, that we should be walking in them.

11 Wherefore, remember that once you, the nations in flesh -- who are termed 'Uncircumcision' by those termed 'Circumcision,' in flesh, made by hands --

12 that you were, in that era, apart from the Messiah, being alienated from the citizenship of Israel, and guests of the promise covenants, having no expectation, and without YaHoVeH in the world.

13 Yet now, in the Anointed One Yeshua, you, who once are far off, are become near by the blood of the Messiah.

14 For He is our Peace, Who makes both one, and razes the central wall of the barrier 15 (the enmity in His flesh), nullifying the law of precepts in decrees, that He should be creating the two, in Himself, into one new humanity, making peace;

16 and should be reconciling both in one body to YaHoVeH through the cross, killing the enmity in it.

17 And, coming, He brings the evangel of peace to you, those afar, and peace to those near,

18 for through Him we both have had the access, in one spirit, to the Father.

19 Consequently, then, no longer are you guests and sojourners, but are fellow-citizens of the saints and belong to YaHoVeH's family,

20 being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, the capstone of the corner being the Messiah Yeshua Himself,

21 in Whom the entire building, being connected together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord:

22 in Whom you, also, are being built together for YaHoVeH's dwelling place, in spirit.

Chapter 3

On this behalf I, Paul, **the prisoner** of the Messiah Yeshua **for you**, the nations –

“On this behalf” refers to virtually all of what precedes Chapter 3. Paul designates himself as the Lord’s prisoner, not the Romans. It’s helpful to remember that Paul’s literal imprisonment was because of the Jews, but was, he writes, “for you [or for your sakes], the nations.”

2 since you surely hear of the administration of the grace of YaHoVeH Elohim that is given to me for you,
3 for by revelation the secret is made known to me (according as I write before, in brief,
4 by which you who are reading are able to apprehend my understanding in the secret of the Messiah,
5 which, in other generations, is not made known to the sons of humanity as it was now revealed to His holy apostles and prophets): in spirit
6 the nations are to be joint enjoyers of an allotment, and a joint body, and joint partakers of the promise in the Messiah Yeshua, through the evangel
7 of which I became the dispenser, in accord with the gratuity of the grace of YaHoVeH Elohim, which is granted to me in accord with His powerful operation.
8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was granted this grace: to bring the evangel of the untraceable riches of the Messiah to the nations,
9 and to enlighten all as to what is the administration of the secret, which has been concealed from the eons in YaHoVeH, Who creates all,
10 that now may be made known to the sovereignties and the authorities among the celestials, through the ecclesia, the multifarious wisdom of God,
11 in accord with the purpose of the eons, which He makes in the Messiah Yeshua, our Lord;
12 in Whom we have boldness and access with confidence, through His faith. --
13 Wherefore I am requesting you not to be despondent at those of my afflictions for your sake which are your glory.
14 On this behalf am I bowing my knees to the Father of our Lord Yeshua the Anointed One,
15 after Whom every kindred in the heavens and on earth is being named,
16 that He [the Father] may be giving you, in accord with the riches of His glory, to be made staunch with power, through His spirit, in the man within [this is the new humanity that Paul is referring to here, which results – or ought to result – from the operation of the Father’s Spirit in us and ours],
17 the Messiah to dwell in your hearts through faith, that you, having been rooted and grounded in love,
18 should be strong to grasp, together with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and depth and height --
19 to know the love of the Messiah as well which transcends knowledge -- that you may be completed for the entire complement of YaHoVeH.

From about verse 14-19, we grasp that Paul speaks from the wealth of His intimate walk with and in the Lord. These statements and descriptions cannot come out of knowledge –

from doctrinal positioning or Scripture study; they can only come out of Paul's experience.

20 Now to Him Who is able to do superexcessively above all that we are requesting or apprehending, according to the power that is operating in us,
21 to Him be glory in the ecclesia and in the Messiah Yeshua for all the generations of the eon of the eons! Amen!

Having looked at the whole context of Ephesians 3, we can readily understand why Paul used a term like *superexcessive* to describe what the Father is able to do. In fact, verse 20 actually refers directly to Paul's whole list of blow-your-socks-off stuff in Ephesians 3.

By the way, you'll notice that Paul is in no way timid about his position as the one to whom the Father chose to reveal "the secret" and to put Paul in charge of dispensing it.