

**THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS**  
**“THE POWER OF GOD”**  
**(EPHESIANS 3:20-21)**  
**APRIL 1, 2007**

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Ephesians 3:20-21, “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.”*

**INTRODUCTION**

Paul ends this glorious prayer in chapter three of Ephesians with a doxology. He is so overwhelmed with who God is and the amazing gift of grace He offers to all who place their faith in Jesus Christ that he ends this prayer with powerful statements of praise to God. Nothing could be more fitting than this after such a prayer. Paul has just finished praying for the Ephesian believers to be “strengthened with power through his Spirit,” that “Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith,” that they might “know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge” and they might be “filled with all the fullness of God.” After expressing these unbelievable truths, he pauses to ask himself what it is that makes all this possible. There is only one answer, it is the grace of God. It is all of grace. There is nothing in man that deserves it, nor is there anyway man can earn this grace. Paul is so deeply moved by this realization that he bursts forth with a desire to praise, thank and glorify God. Just as Paul reacted at the end of this prayer, we should respond to this gift of love and grace with a grateful and humble heart of praise and honor to our Lord.

**UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT**

1. Read Ephesians 3:20-21. What do these two verses reveal to us concerning God? What do they tell us about our relationship with Him? What is God’s purpose for all believers in Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What do Paul’s praises of God in Ephesians 3:20-21 have to do with the rest of this prayer?

3. The power Paul refers to is the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of all who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ. What are the limits of this power? What are the results of the power at work in us?

### **OUR WALK WITH GOD**

1. How is our awesome God displaying His power through the body at RiverLakes? Spend some time sharing with your small group some of the work God is doing in your life and the lives of others in your church body?
2. In what specific ways are you encouraged and motivated by this doxology of praise in Ephesians 3:20-21? What are some changes or steps you will start to implement in your life as a result of this encouragement?
3. According to Ephesians 3:20, there are no limits to what God can do. God's answers to prayers are not limited to our understanding or knowledge. Recall a time in your life when God acted beyond your understanding or imagination in answering a prayer. Share this experience with the group and how it impacted your walk with Christ.

### **GOING DEEPER**

1. If Ephesians 3:20 is true, why does it sometimes seem God is inactive in the world, in the church, in your life? What do Psalm 103:8-17; Isaiah 55:8-9; Jeremiah 29:11-13; Romans 8:28-39 and 2 Peter 3:8-9 remind us concerning God's love and sovereignty in all things? How do these truths encourage you?

2. Read Matthew 6:5-15, 7:7-12, Ephesians 6:18; James 5:13-18. What do these verses tell us concerning our attitude in prayer and what we should pray for?

### **ADDITIONAL THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

“The Church will be there for ever and ever. You and I will be there, unto all generations of the age of the ages. The principalities and powers in the heavenly places will look at us in astonishment and amazement, and seeing us, they will ascribe unto God all the honor and the glory and the majesty and the might and the dominion and the power. It is in us, in the Church, that they see the glory and the wisdom of God as they see it nowhere else. We shall thus be manifesting the glory of God for ever and for ever, unto all the generations of the age of the ages. Such is the power of God... He is not only able to keep and to hold us, but He is able to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.”

“Are you joining in this great doxology? Having looked at the possibilities that are open for you even now in Christ Jesus, and having offered these petitions for yourself, are you saying: Let all the glory in earth and heaven and sea, and wherever there are any beings, let all glory and honor be ascribed unto the blessed God, the Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, our God, the God of our salvation. Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus, unto all generations of the age of the ages.”

“The Unsearchable Riches of Christ,” D. Martin Lloyd Jones

SUGGESTED SMALL GROUP STUDY FORMAT  
STUDY TEN – “THE POWER OF GOD”  
EPHESIANS 3:20-21

CONNECT ..... 20 MINUTES

Time of Fellowship

Opening Prayer

Icebreaker Questions:

1. What is your favorite “junk” food? How would you feel if that were all you had available to eat?
2. When home alone, do you like silence, or do you have to have some noise going on? Why?

MEMORY VERSE (Memorize and say aloud in your group) ..... 5 MINUTES

*Ephesians 3:20-21, “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.”*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ..... 35 MINUTES

PRAYER AND PERSONAL REQUESTS ..... 30 MINUTES

1. Take time to praise God for who He is and all He does and thank him for the blessing of having a relationship with Him.
2. Continue to pray for our church and the direction the Lord is leading us in the future. Pray for our leaders to be humble men who seek God’s will for our church. That our congregation would offer up their lives as “living sacrifices to the Lord” and be His light to this community and beyond.
3. Pray for the personal needs of one another in your group.