

How Limited Is God? **Pastor John Carmichael**

[Eph 3:14-21 NASB95] 14 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 fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do far more 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.

- Why are we not stopping Russia right now? People are being killed and affected right now. It's complicated. Unfortunately, naturally speaking, when dealing with the demonized, the consequences have to be weighed. Nuclear war would be worse.
- We are limited. We need to pray.
- How limited is God when dealing with our issues? How limited are we in prayer to receive the relief we seek?
- The church of Ephesus was in desperate and complicated times. They had enemies from without and within. Spiritual and natural enemies. In the first 3 chapters Paul deals with who they are in Christ and what He has done for them. In the final 3 chapters Paul shows them how to live in the work and power of Christ. At the end of chapter 3, Paul prays for them. He ends with a doxology (praise to God).

How do we take the limits off of God and tap into His unlimited power?

There are five important aspects of prayer that help us live in God's unlimited power. We never have to live at the whim of our adversaries when we pray with these five aspects.

I. Textual Sermon

- a. Paul's 3 or 4 Prayers
 - i. V. 16 – strengthened with power of the Holy Spirit
 - ii. V. 17 – a dwelling relationship of Christ in heart through faith
 - iii. V. 18 – rooted, grounded, and comprehending the love of God
 - iv. V. 19 – a result and/or another request: filled up to all the fullness of God.
- b. Who is the prayers directed toward? All prayers should end in praise to God.
 - i. His is able.
 - ii. He works.
 - iii. His power and willingness is unlimited. Super superlatives. Impossible to convey the full meaning of these words.
 - iv. He is approachable. We can ask or even imagine. He is willing!
 - v. His is working in us to be able to ask Him.
- c. God gets the glory!
 - i. In the church – the church is part what gives God glory.
 - ii. In Christ – the work of Christ is central to the working of God in our lives.
 - iii. To all generations
 - iv. Forever.

II. Application

- a. Seek to live in the power of the Spirit. Have experiences with the Holy Spirit.
 - i. [1Jo 2:24, 26-27 NASB95] 24 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also

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will abide in the Son and in the Father. ... 26 These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. 27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

- ii. [Rom 8:26 NASB95] 26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for [us] with groanings too deep for words;
 - b. Live by faith in Christ. Never move from a place of trust and confidence in Him.
 - c. Know and believe in the love of God. When you know God loves you, you know how to pray properly.
 - d. Pray huge prayers based on His Person and His Promises.
 - e. Give God glory. God gets glory for what happens in the church as He does through what Jesus did and does. "Tell it!"
- **Let's choose to never be limited by asking big prayers through the power of the Holy Spirit, faith in Christ, and the love of God.**