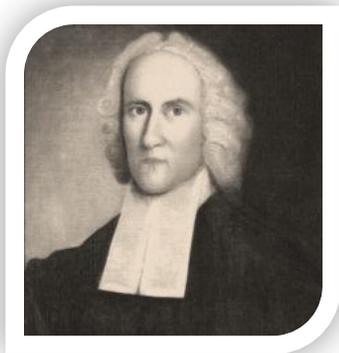


November 2009

Quick Bio-glance: Jonathan Edwards - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_Edwards_\(theologian\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_Edwards_(theologian))



Jonathan Edwards (October 5, 1703 – March 22, 1758) was a preacher, theologian, and [missionary](#) to [Native Americans](#). Edwards "is widely acknowledged to be America's most important and original philosophical theologian,"^[3] and one of America's greatest intellectuals.^[4] Edwards's theological work is very broad in scope, but he is often associated with his defense of Reformed theology, the [metaphysics](#) of theological determinism, and the [Puritan](#) heritage. Edwards played a critical role in shaping the [First Great Awakening](#), and oversaw some of the first fires of [revival](#) in 1733-1735 at his church in [Northampton, Massachusetts](#).^[5]

Edwards's sermon "[Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God](#)," is considered a classic of early American literature, which he delivered during another wave of revival in 1741, following [George Whitefield's](#) tour of the [Thirteen Colonies](#).^[6] Edwards is widely known for his many books: *The End For Which God Created the World*; *The Life of David Brainerd*, which served to inspire thousands of [missionaries](#) throughout the nineteenth century; and *Religious Affections*, which many [Reformed Evangelicals](#) read even today.^[7] Edwards died from a smallpox inoculation shortly after beginning the presidency at the College of New Jersey (later to be named [Princeton University](#)), and was the grandfather of [Aaron Burr](#).^[8]

Born: October 5, 1703(1703-10-05)[1]

[East Windsor, Connecticut](#)

Died: March 22, 1758 (aged 54)[1]

[Princeton, New Jersey](#)

Occupation: Pastor, theologian, and missionary

Spouse(s) Sarah Pierpont[2]

Theology term:

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is from the two Greek words [*hyper*], meaning "over," or "above," and [*ballein*], meaning "to throw." [*hyperballein*] meaning to throw beyond or to excess. By extension, it means to go beyond, or take farther, as to excess or exaggeration. In theology, a hyperbole is a word or statement deliberately exaggerated, and not intended to be understood literally. It is often a type of figurative language, metaphor, or rhetorical trope. e.g.

Matthew 23:24

"Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel."

In this oft used example, the word camel is a hyperbolic expression of largeness. You can know this is a hyperbole or figurative exaggeration because it is not humanly possible to swallow a camel.

<http://www.mountainretreatorg.net/faq/glossary.html>

Monthly Memory Verse November 2009



(KJV)Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

(Include: Ephesians 3:21)

Eph 3:21 unto him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations for ever and ever. Amen.

Memory verse for the month: November 2009 (KJV)

Dale's Notes

Read Ephesians Chapter 3

11/03/2009

(KJV)

Eph 3:20 [Now unto him] that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

*When admonishing a brother this week this is what was on my mind.

1. Pray specific about what is going on.

2. Do you have a clear understanding as to what you want the Lord to do?

- Write it down (God knows but you don't; this why you're asking for help)
- You already know God is able (Knowledge is not a problem)
- You already know God has taught you skills and gifted you
- Now, what do you want to accomplish this **week, today**, within the **hour**, even right **now!**

Our God is a Now God!

You have to read Eph 3:21 because the above verse 20 is not a complete sentence. Ephesians 3:20 ends with a comma that means there is more to be said for a complete thought to be expressed to the reader. The lists of adjectives in verse 20 are descriptive of God's power or ability through us ("*according to the power that worketh in us*").

The words "Now unto Him" are repeated (unto Him) in verse 21 but verse 20 describes the one who should receive the Glory in the church by Christ Jesus now! At this moment in time!

Why, because He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above all that we ask and think through His power in us! "In us." are keywords here!

It's His praise we lift up for His current working in us.

"NOW" is presentence active because it speaks of Gods ability and working at the present time (*That's why we read "Now unto Him"*).

"NOW" speaks of time and space, this time, this space, right Now in this moment! **(Give praise!)**

"NOW" –drives home what God is able to do for you. Now, He can do exceedingly! Now, He can do abundantly!

Now, He can do above all asked or thought! The word [now] speaks to what **you** currently are asking or I am asking or **we** are asking!

Also, [now] speaks to what we currently think, understand, imagine or expect of God (our thinking is not able to grab all he can do).

All of this is presentence, there is no later but God is able to do right now!

Again why does the writer say, "Now unto Him"? We don't have think about it or guess he gives the answer.

He (God) can do exceedingly, abundant and above because he live in us! He is present, so his praise should be present, it should be now!

"Now unto Him" give praise because of His current work in the church by Christ Jesus who lives in us.

Finally, if you are a child of God, there is no looking for him somewhere far beyond human imagination or guess work. No brother, He is found in every Child of God. He lives within you! You are made alive in Christ through His precious Holy Spirit by his Holy word.

This makes the Lord present in you; this allows His power to be lived out in you. This makes God **now** to you, through you, and in you.

The verse teaches that the **power is not of you** but of Him that lives in you. Now knowing this what can't we do? Let us give praise now to him that works all things according to the counsel of his own will even in us.

Phi 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

11/11/2009

Eph 3:20 [Now unto him] that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

He is able! *"Now unto Him that is able to do".*

Where are you, when you read this verse? I mean really, where are you in your walk with our Lord? What kind of God do you imagine or know? It's either imagination or true knowledge of God. If it's imagination, then it's not the God of the Bible. You must know He is able to do and do now!

*I think of Mary the mother of our Lord Jesus at the announcement of his birth; she was reproved for her understanding as to what God can do.

Luk 1:37 For with God nothing shall be **impossible**.

*I think of our Lord's answer to Peter and the disciples concerning salvation (Who can be saved?).

Luk 18:27 And he said, The things which are **impossible** with men are possible with God.

*Hebrews: rebuke to them who try to know and please God apart from faith.

Hbr 11:6 But without faith [it is] **impossible** to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Again, our understanding is exactly what it is, our understanding.

When we come to understand things of heavenly origin, we know they are spiritual, they must be understood in light of God's Word and through the indwelling Holy Spirit. To believe God doesn't require us to know the mechanics or all aspects but simple faith in the revealed WORD of Truth, through obedience.

So, I believe in my God who "is able to do exceeding, abundantly above all that we ask or think," Yes, it's true, David wrote "such knowledge is to high I cannot attain unto it", speaking of the makeup of our bodies, with regards to God's creative power.

Psa 139:6 [Such] **knowledge** [is] too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot [attain] unto it.

But our Christ has come down to men to meet them eye to eye, face to face, and heart to heart to make known and do His Heavenly Father will. Who would ever thought God's only Son would come down and live with men and be put to death by their sinful hands? That's Impossible but is very true!

Who would ever think He (Jesus Christ) shall come again and reign forever as conquering King and Lord over all domains and powers? Now that is faith and its true, every WORD! Both statements require faith in God's truth, understanding no matter what I think, it's true. That fact is God is able to do right now and is doing exceeding, abundantly, above all we can think or ask.

Dale, why do you say this? Look at the world around you; He (Jesus Christ) is holding it together, even the heavenly bodies seen and unseen (Col.1:16-17). Romans 1:18-21 tells us, this is why men are without excuse before Him, because it speaks of His great and mighty power being evidenced day by day.

The fact is because the sun and moon *are* He is able, the fact is because the stars and all other celestial bodies *are* He is able, the fact is because we breathe and feel the unseen air He is able to deal with the unseen! The fact is we looked into the depths of the sea and look to highest heights with the human eye He is there in all creation, displaying Himself to be able! Therefore, man is guilty of all this before the Great Creator, because He has displayed Himself to do exceeding, abundantly, above all we ask or think.

1Cr 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have **entered** into **the heart of man**, **the things** which God hath prepared for them that love him.

This is the God of the Bible that does "exceeding, abundantly, above all we ask or think,"

He is the one who loves us with an everlasting love through His beloved Son our savior Jesus Christ.

11/16/2009

Eph 3:20 [Now unto him] that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

It's clear in reading the first three chapters of the epistle of Ephesians, the apostle Paul unveils God's great grace, great power, great rule, great authority, and great dominion over and above all, displayed through His beloved Son. Paul speaks with adjectives found in the ESV (English Standard Version)

- **"every** spiritual blessing"
- **"glorious** grace"
- **"riches** of his grace"
- **"lavished** upon us,"
- "in **all** wisdom and insight"
- "unite **all** things in him"
- "works **all** things according to the counsel of his will,"
- **immeasurable greatness** of his power
- **heavenly** places
- **far above all**

Eph 1:21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Eph 1:22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

And that's just some in the first chapter!
You could try to sum it up in one word, Grace!

I can't go into major details as to meaning but only try to highlight the importance of such descriptive adjectives of our Lord's incredible, astounding, awesome, perplexing, and mind boggling Greatness! The Greatness of his Grace! It becomes abundantly clear our God's wisdom, power and great grace cannot be fully, completely understood by men. *I 'm not saying we can't understand* but I am saying God's wisdom is so great human words and human intellect fall short to fully express the greatness of our God and His Grace toward us through our savior Jesus Christ.

Let's read the verse Eph. 3:19

Eph 3:19 and to know the love of Christ that *surpasses knowledge*, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

That we may know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, there it is, knowledge; God's love through Christ incomprehensible! Have you come to know the Love of Christ that reaches far above and far beyond your understanding? The expressions of human words are not enough to fully qualify a true expression outside of the living Word of God. John wrote at the end of his gospel these words relating the working of Christ in his earthly ministry.

Joh 21:25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

WOW! What love, what power, what Grace, what wisdom, and what so great a salvation, don't neglect it. Remember Hebrews.

The gift of faith through grace is the working of God's immeasurable greatness, immeasurable love, and his immeasurable power, which He lavished upon us in Christ and set forth before the foundation of the world! It's you dear Christian, He (God) has blessed you with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

This is why our apostle Paul says the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. Who deserves it! This love is found in us, through us and for us. For this love is God in us!

This is why Eph. 3:20 and 21 ends with a proclamation of praise be to God throughout all ages through the Church, amen!

11/23/2009

Eph 3:20 [Now unto him] that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Let's look at what God is working through us. You can't come to our memory verse without asking what Paul is so excited about with praise in his prayer (**Eph 3:14** For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,).

Paul just finished describing God's grace in calling him to minister to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches in Christ. He wanted the Gentiles to know they too are part of God's Devine plan, which He (God) purpose in Christ that the gentiles are partakers in the gospel and the heavenly blessings.

He keeps them all on track with the very first statements of praise he made to them concern all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, found in Chapter 1 verse 3. He drives home the mystery of God that was hid from the sons of men but now is revealed by the apostles and the prophets by the Spirit of God.

Paul sets forth such a deep understanding of the working of God through Jesus Christ through the Church that our hair should be blown right off our heads, and then brought to our knees as the beloved apostle says of himself! He speaks of bring together two into one through Christ (Jew and Gentile), the new family of whom all heaven and earth is named. He blares like a trumpet, sounding the mystery of God, the working of God, unsearchable riches of God, the Wisdom and the Glory of God throughout all ages in Jesus Christ! Yes, the Great Grace of God! He (Paul) takes our minds up to the heavenly places and he set everything on the love of Jesus Christ that passes knowledge. He prays the Father to grant understanding and wisdom to the saints so they may know and be consumed in the love of God that passes all knowledge.

(KJV)

Eph 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

Eph 3:18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

Eph 3:19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Finally, Paul ends Chapter 3 through prayer by magnifying the God Heaven with praise. How could he not; after all the things he just finished talking about in the last three Chapters.

Eph 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Eph 3:21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

I know there is so much here, I didn't really mention Chapter 2 but you take the time and read these last three chapters and continue to read the rest of the letter to Ephesians. ***Have A Happy Thanksgiving!***

Thank you Most High God who sits between the covering Cherubims for your mercies extended to us. You are to be fear with holy reverence and forgive our sinful ways. No liar will tarry in your sight. Thank you Good Father for your word that you open to us; if we would only read it. Grant your people a desire to know its truth and contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints, in Jesus Christ name: Amen.