

## He Can Do Anything . . .

"(v.14) My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent (v.15) Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. (v.16) I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that (v.17) Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, (v.18) you'll be able to take in with all Christians the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. (v.19) Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.

(v.20) ***God can do anything***, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

(v.21) Glory to God in the church!  
Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!  
Glory down all the generations!  
Glory through all millennial!  
Oh yes!"

**Ephesians 3:14-21**  
**The Message**

### **God can do anything!**

The modern world has become familiar with the thought of limitless progress in knowledge. Indeed, we set no bounds to the forward march of science and technology.

Christianity looks like a static faith by contrast. The gospel has not changed for 20 centuries . . . "*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever.*" (Heb. 13:8)

But the comparison is an illusion. There may indeed be progress in science, but it is a progress eventually toward death. The death—first of the scientist—and then the death of the material world which he has explored, to say nothing of the possible death of the scientist's soul in his very search for knowledge.

The Christian gospel by contrast offers a vision of progress "*throughout all ages, world without end.*" The Christian hope of life with God beyond our historical existence has often been overlooked. Visions of new discoveries in physics or biology have thrilled us more than visions of Heaven. Thus Christianity felt compelled to rival scientific progress in producing results which even the scientist would have to respect. All well and good . . . .but, when the author of Ephesians speaks of . . . "*God can do anything*" . . . he is not envisioning "*treasures on earth where moth and rust corrupt.*" . . . Rather, he is describing a realm of experience in which progress can be limitless. The progress is not material, it is spiritual.

God can do anything!

God does it through building your **spiritual strength**.

(Paul is writing) . . . "I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength."—(v.16)

&

"He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us."—(v.20b)

A Couple of Examples:

1- God will help you remove **financial** fear within you because it is so destructive to you.

"Such is the fate of all who are greedy for money; it robs them of life."—Proverbs 1:19

"Greed brings grief to the whole family."—Proverbs 15:27a

Your Strength **comes** by obedience: "You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully. And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.—II Corinthians 9:7-8

2-God will **show** you how He views **tithing** !

A—Money is a **tool** !

God uses the abundance or scarcity of money in our lives to mold us and make us pleasing to him. Paul learned contentment through the extremes of having much and have nothing. (Philippians 4:11-13)

B—Money can be a **test** in our life.

(Luke 16:10-13)

A key thought in this passage is that we cannot serve both God and money. That's interesting.

Many people would say they are not serving money, but their thoughts, attitudes, habits of accumulating possessions, and the amount of time they spend at work say just the opposite. The presence of money in life tests our determination to serve God.

C—Money is a **testimony** !

(Matthew 5:13-16)

Does your use of your money and possessions complement your commitment to be salt and light in the world? Whether you are poor, comfortable, or wealthy, the way you use your money can be a testimony for Christ. How does your checkbook, debit card or credit card reflect your faith?

**Here is the point**—God can do anything. Let Him.