

# God Is More Than Able, So Don't Forsake The Journey

## Introduction

Good Morning, Newsong church! Now you may be thinking, "Hey, this is new, weren't you the girl just leading worship? What's going on?" And the answer to that question is "Yes". I'm normally up here at the beginning of service and the end of service.

But today I have the honor and privilege of being with you all up here during the middle, the main course, the meat and potatoes part of the service. I have the honor of sharing the word of God with you all today.

And I know there may be one additional burning question, so let me answer: no, I will not be singing my sermon.

Now with those questions answered, I want to welcome all our first-time guests and any of you watching online with us. Don't forget to drop a comment and tell us where you are watching from. We would love to connect with you.

So, as some of you may know, or maybe if you are new, and you don't, we are in a sermon series called "For Such A Time As This" with our series verse being Esther 4:14 "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

In this verse, Esther's cousin is like "Look, if you stay quiet now and don't do anything, help for our people (which were the jews, Esther's people) will come from somewhere else, but you and your family will be destroyed. You'll miss the opportunity and blessing that God has in using you for His glory. And hey, who knows, maybe you became queen precisely for this reason – for such a time as this?"

Know this church, God gives ordinary, regular people extraordinary influence at just the right, perfect time (His time) to accomplish great things, all for His glory.

Now this series was put in motion by our lead pastor, when God had put it in his heart to have some of the young voices in our church speak to their generation and generations to come. And this was the question he posed, “If we could say one thing to our generation, what would it be?”

And so the last few weeks have been amazing to listen to my peoples, my peeps, my brothers and sisters in Christ share what God has put on their hearts to not only share to our generation, but for all generations to come.

Jacob, our youth director, kicked the series off by challenging us to put our faith in Jesus over our fears. Then we had Sammy, who serves in multiple ministries, worship team, youth, prayer, and the list goes on. And he spoke of the bride of Christ (which is we, the church) being ready for our groom’s return (which is Jesus). We don’t know the hour, day, or minute of his return, but are we ready? And last week, Jomarís, our next step director, spoke on being all in for Jesus, with no reservations, no retreats, and no regrets.

And now here I am, answering the same question, “If I could say one thing to my generation, what would it be? And my answer is “God is more than able, so don’t forsake the journey”. And that is the title of my sermon today. Now let’s pray...

So, my key verse for today is Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

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

So church, let's turn our hearts and minds to a powerful truth today: God is more than able. In our walk of faith, it's easy to become discouraged, to feel overwhelmed by the obstacles, or to simply grow weary.

We might be tempted to forsake the journey, to give up on the path God has set before us. But I want to remind you, and myself, that we serve a God who is bigger than all those things.

Now, I chose to speak from this scripture and this topic about God being more than able because it has a very special place in my heart.

About two years ago, I was in my senior year of college, finishing out my nursing program. What should have been a fun, easy time filled with planning for graduation, getting ready for life after college, and making memories with the friends I made along the way was instead going to become one of my biggest battles and challenges of my faith yet.

I was either struggling to pass exams or just missing the mark for passing, having professors tell me it was looking like I wasn't going to make it through and my grades and confidence were simultaneously getting chipped away. It started to really weigh on me, because after every blow the realization of not making it through was becoming a reality. And I did not know what I was going to do. I put all this time and money, tears and effort into this. People had faith in me and I didn't want to disappoint them.

I had already failed a nursing course that set me back a year and God made a way for me to continue in the program.

But as graduation was approaching the burden of fear, frustration, and disappointment was really starting to weigh on me.

And the norm for me during my final semester would be...I would take an exam, get my grade, be disappointed and would come home to my parents to cry and weep.

And I started to cry out to the Lord "Lord is this something you are removing from my life? Where are you taking me? I know you didn't allow me to get this far, just so it can be gone from my hands. I don't know what to do.

And when I look back on that time, and I'm sure my parents can attest to this I've never been like that. I shocked myself with how hopeless I was, trying to keep my faith afloat let alone alive. I was trying to keep my ember from being doused. And I'm thankful

for my parents, my pastors, leaders and some church family who kept on praying with and for me.

So, one day after a really bad exam day, a few weeks out from graduation, I was distraught and stressed. My mom had encouraged me to head up to our house in PA a day earlier than planned, and sidenote at that time I was in the process of getting my dog.

So she says go see the puppy at the breeder's house and just rest at the house. So I packed my stuff and headed to PA.

And let me tell you God had me right where He wanted me alone, in the quiet and He met me right there in that car ride. If you can't tell already I am a worshipper at heart. But it was dead silent in my car. All I was doing was thinking and praying, trying to hold onto my faith. But after a few minutes, I decide to put on a random worship playlist (because I'm going to worship through my worries) this song comes on "More than able" and as I am listening it starts to describe everything that I'm feeling and at the same time encouraging me and reminding me

that God that calls me His, He's got it all in His hands, is able to do all things and He writes my story not me or anyone else. And all I felt while I was listening was that God was speaking directly to me and I always call it my love letter from Him. So of course, I start balling in the car, can barely see with all the tears, and then a thought popped in my head like "Alyse keep your eyes open you are driving".

Now I'm sharing all of this because as I was trying my best to stay afloat most of the time I was drowning in private, coming up for air and then sinking back down. It was a constant tug and pull on my faith. Because I didn't realize the journey God was bringing me on. Instead I wanted out, I wanted the easy way (I wanted quick glory that would satisfy me but really had nothing to do with what God wanted and how it would glorify Him). Which can be our go-to response.

But one day my mom told me "don't forsake the journey Alyse, God has you and He's got this situation". And I had to remind myself that He can pull me right out at the snap of His fingers just like



that or He will be right there with me in the burning fire or when my boat is being tossed by the waves.

Just like in Luke 8, Jesus is in the boat with his disciples while a storm is raging. And while they are panicking Jesus calms the storms, but the real takeaway is that even while he's right there with us we will still have to face the storms, the battles, the trials and tribulations. The testings of our faith, become the testimonies for his glory.

That is the God we serve, our God is not limited by our weaknesses, our doubts, or the size of our challenges. He is abundantly capable, infinitely powerful, and perfectly faithful. Corinthians 12:19 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Now you may be thinking, man this story sounds like a losing battle "like wait... did she finish college, did she make it? Did she become a nurse?" man

where's the hope? but like we say in my generation "let me cook, its about to get good".

So I will spoil the end I did graduate and got my nursing license. Woohoo. But let me say this, nursing is my job, it is not my identity. I realized that after the battles I had faced and the grueling journey, being a nurse or getting to graduate was not the end result as to why God allowed me to face the trials that I did at that time.

Instead God allowed what He did so that I can recognize who God is in my life and see another side of Him I had yet too. There were places that God wanted to reach in my heart that He couldn't get to if I wasn't being pressed.

I was shown where I would be without Him, no where, and who I am in Him so that I may share and boast in what God did for me, all for His glory.

Alright, Amen, if the worship team can up. Sermon complete God bless you all we can all go home.

Buzzer sound... you thought that was going to be the quickest sermon of your life. Now let's buckle up.

But the first thing to recognize (you can write this down for your notes)

The Temptation to Quit will come...

Life throws many curveballs. We face trials that test our patience, setbacks that shatter our plans, and moments of despair that make us question everything (similar to what I shared).

Perhaps you've been pursuing a dream God placed in your heart, and the progress is painstakingly slow. Maybe you're battling a chronic illness, and the hope for healing seems to dim with each passing day. Or maybe you feel the walls are closing in around you and the strain feels unbearable. In these moments, the whisper of "just give up" can become a roar.

It's a natural human response to want to escape pain, to avoid further disappointment, and to find the path of least resistance. But as believers, we are called to something greater than mere survival; we

are called to perseverance, to push through and rely on our faith in God.

We tend to forget the God that we serve and know to be true. Boxing Him in our own human capabilities or what I really should say is our incapacabilities.

Now remember I mentioned my love song from Jesus, well i'm going to read to you the first set of lyrics...

Song lyric: When did I start to forget, All of the great things You did? When did I throw away faith for the impossible? How did I start to believe you weren't sufficient for me? Why do I talk myself out of seeing miracles? ← This is what we do.

Matthew 14:22-33 "Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

So here's the instant replay: When Jesus comes down from the mountain, He goes out to the disciples on the boat, who think he's a ghost. But after he reveals himself, Peter somewhat dares Jesus, like if this is really you, call me out. Jesus calls him out, and Peter walks on water, but when he sees the storm around him, he gets scared, sinks and cries out to the Lord.

Do you realize church that we do the same thing as Peter? We love to ask God to move us, do more in our lives, do more that we can ask, think or imagine but when He does and things get rocky, or our normal routine changes. Things become a lot more scary and because it's not what we thought it was going to be, we chicken out, and cry out for God. And most of the time we cry out for God to save us, get us out of it not to bring us through it.

But then we have the perfect example, through Jesus, of what it looks like to push and persevere through.

Our God sent his Son, Jesus who knew the mission He had to complete. Bring salvation to the world, and to do this, he had to take on all the sins of the world and die on a cross. But he knew the end, that wasn't a surprise. But, the biggest challenge that Jesus was going to face was something he had never faced before...being separated from the Father.

It says in Luke 22:44 "And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground."

You know I looked sweating blood up and its a real thing called Hematohidrosis which is a condition in which blood vessels that feed the sweat glands rupture, causing them to exude blood; it occurs under conditions of extreme physical or emotional stress; Fear and intense mental contemplation are the most frequent causes. - National institute of

Health; Doesn't that sound familiar? Jesus was under extreme physical and emotional stress, under heavy contemplation.

But Jesus still pushed through despite knowing He was going to face true separation from the Father (Matthew 26:39)"Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Those words right there he said "Yet not as I will, but as you will." is why we have salvation today. That was Jesus's ultimate goal on his journey.

Church, we can't lose focus of our ultimate goal. Spreading the gospel and sharing in our faith to bring glory to God.

We don't face these battles or have testimonies just cause. But instead we need to recognize God allows these battles for us to experience him in new ways and test our own faith. How do you know how much faith is in the tank if it's not tested?



So, how do we fight against this temptation to not throw the journey away, and miss what God is doing in and through our lives...

We do this by remembering God's Ability is Immeasurably more..

Why should we not forsake the journey? Because of who God is. He is not a God who starts something and leaves it unfinished. He is not a God who promises and then fails to deliver.

Point 1: God's ability is immeasurably more...than we ask...

Right, so "more than we ask", what's that?... It's the scope of our prayers.

Our prayers can be limited by our understanding. We don't always know what to pray or what's the right thing to pray for.

Romans 8:26-27 says: "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who

searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

Our prayers can often be shaped by what we've seen or experienced, right? What we know, or what seems "realistic." But God says in...

Isaiah 55:8-9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

But in Joshua chapter 10, we get an awesome example of what happens when we recognize God's ability is immeasurably more than we ask and what a bold, God-sized prayer looks like.

For some background info, the people of Israel have been freed from Egypt, making their long journey to the promised land, battling giants, having the walls of Jericho come down and now they find themselves in a treaty with the Gibeonites. Who is like your God

is awesome, we wanna hang with you guys. This angers the surrounding 5 Amorite kings, so they decide to attack the city of Gibeon. Now the Gibeonites send for help to Joshua, who comes with his boys and they get the jump on the Amorite armies. Starting in verse 11-14.

11 As they fled before Israel on the road down from Beth Horon to Azekah, the Lord hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites.

12 On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel:

“Sun, stand still over Gibeon,  
and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.”

13 So the sun stood still,  
and the moon stopped,  
till the nation avenged itself on its enemies,

as it is written in the Book of Jashar.

The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. 14 There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a human being. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel!

Now if you do your research there's a lot of stories about calendars missing a day, or some guy at nasa proving the missing time from this day but none of that matters. Because we have the truth right here, "Now the sun stood still, and the moon stopped for about a full day"!

Joshua prayed such a bold prayer that only God could fulfil, and the Lord granted him this request.

This tells us that God's supernatural power was at play. He broke all the laws of nature. Everything He did in a miraculous way broke what we would call the laws of repeatable, observable, science, physics, and chemistry.

I got so excited when I read this because I've had a Joshua chapter 10 moment. It was the last day of the semester, the stormy clouds had lifted, and the sun was coming out. Final grades were being put in, and graduation was 3 days away. I was passing by the skin of my teeth and I was thanking the Lord every day that I was through. Or so I thought...

Something told me to check my grades. And I was checking my grades and I saw I was missing an exam for one of my classes, and it was marked with a zero, and it brought my grade down about a couple points below passing. I started to freak out, I called my mom because that's what we kids do, we call our parents in a crisis (who, unbeknownst to me, was out shopping for my surprise graduation party, with the knowledge that I was going to graduate). So, she imparts her wisdom, which is to email my professors, thanks, mom.

If only, we would run to Christ during our crisis right away, like how I called my mom.

So I listened and emailed my professors and by God's mercy they told me I have until 5 o'clock

before they put my final grades in and it was 4 o'clock now. So I started rushing home, and guess where I found myself...on the cross bronx in traffic praying for God to make way for me to have enough time to take the test.

But let me tell you, time slowed down but the traffic moved. I made it home, parked my car, flung open my laptop, took the test, passed it, and guess what? My grade went up 1%. And you may be thinking, 1%, what is that going to do? It went 1% over the passing grade...I did it, I had passed all my classes. I was graduating.

Church, not only did God give me enough time to take my exam but He by him moving in the small, in the 1%, in the faith of a mustard seed, it made a huge impact. That 1% was the deciding factor on whether I was going to graduate or not. And nothing about that can I claim because God's ability is immeasurably more than we ask.

Point 2: God's Ability is Immeasurably More...Than We Imagine (The Power of Our Thoughts)

Our minds, while creative, are finite. We tend to see things at face value. And we can struggle to conceive of truly unprecedented solutions or blessings.

Imagine trying to explain Wi-Fi to someone in the 1800s. Or in my case trying to teach my little sister how to read or do math problems. I'm like how did I learn this? You know she's reading and I tell her to sound her words out but when she does, that's not the way the word is pronounced. So of course, I just tell her what the word is like "onomatopoeia," or "their, there, and they're". Then we wonder why people say English is the hardest language.

And we see this face value thinking in the bible right? In Matthew 14, 5 loaves and 2 fish feed like maybe 5 people in my mind and that's being generous. That's as far as my imagination goes but the bible says starting in Matthew 14: 17-21

17 "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

18 “Bring them here to me,” he said. 19 And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. 20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. Not only did God feed the 5,000 but he had extra left over. Or in Exodus 14, the Israelites are running from the Egyptians and God commands Moses to split the red sea. There goes that immeasurably more than what could be imagined.

But you know when our imaginations aren't limited?... in our fears and doubts. We start overthinking, we start spiraling. I can attest to that, I mentioned earlier I was struggling mentally, and a lot of people wouldn't have known. My friends didn't know, my extended family didn't know. Anytime they would ask me about school and graduation I would just



side-step the conversation. Meanwhile, like I said, my mom is planning this surprise party that they are all invited to, holding on to her faith and the promise that God had given her that He would see me through.

When our imagination is running wild, and not fixed on the Lord, we have to take that thought and make it obedient to God, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.

How do we do that? We recognize the lie and call it out, and then replace it with the truth.

2 Corinthians 1:20, God's promises are "Yes and Amen".

Ephesians 3:20-21, God is able to do more than can I ask or imagine.

Hebrew 13:5, my God said He would never leave or forsake me.

John 16:33, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (ESV).

Last point for your notes, God's power is at work within us...

God's power is not just "out there," but "at work within us." This is through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The same power that raised Christ from the dead lives in believers (Romans 8:11).

This is not our power, but God's power through us. This power enables us to live a life pleasing to God, to overcome sin, and to fulfill His calling.

Jomaris said it last week, we are empowered for purpose, on purpose.

And church, the power that is at work within us, is not just for us, it's for all the people that surround us. For our families and friends, for our coworkers, or for that neighbor that kind of gets on your nerves. It's for our brothers and sisters in Christ, who may be in a battle, may be on a rough journey and are trying to stay afloat. We want to be like Aaron and Hur. Exodus 17:11-12 "As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he

lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset.”

Lifting our hands is a sign of surrender. Letting go and letting God is not as fun or cute as it is on a shirt or a coffee mug when we are actually in constant surrender. It can be hard, and taxing. That's why we aren't meant to walk this life alone, and God empowers us so we can empower others.

During my journey, it was through the faith of people like my parents, my pastors, through people like sister Adrienne, Cathy, and Felicia who helped to uplift my arms when I couldn't. On the journey when your arms slowly start to come down you need your brothers and sisters in Christ to be there beside you helping to uplift those arms, so you can continue to persevere through.

If the worship team can come up...

Church the Bible is filled with individuals who faced immense challenges but did not forsake their journey because they trusted in God's ability.

- **Moses:** Called to lead a rebellious nation through a wilderness for 40 years, facing constant complaints and opposition. Yet, he persevered, leaning on God's power.
- **Joseph:** Betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, falsely accused, and imprisoned. Yet, he held onto the dream God gave him, and God used his journey for a greater purpose.
- **Paul:** Endured countless persecutions, shipwrecks, beatings, and imprisonments, yet he never ceased to preach the gospel, declaring that God's grace was sufficient.

These individuals understood that their strength was limited, but God's was not. They kept their eyes on the one who is more than able.

So we always end our service with the question  
“What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?”

I would like to pray for 3 groups of people, the first being...

If you find yourself in a season where the temptation to throw it all away seems like the best solution? Maybe your boat is being tossed in the waves, maybe you asked God to take you out on the waters and because your eyes are now on the storm around you, you find yourself sinking. And you need God to move in the immeasurably more.

(Pray briefly for God to move in the immeasurably more; offer to go prayer team for more prayer)

My second group is for those who find themselves on the mountain, the boat is steady and your faith is abounding. Be the Aarons and Hur's for those around you. (Pray briefly that they would be Aarons and Hur's, and that they would hold onto this truth when the journey gets hard; offer to go to prayer team for more prayer)

And my last group, with every head bowed and eyes closed I want to speak to those who are walking the

journey without Christ. Maybe you know about Jesus but never asked him to be your Lord and Savior. I want you to know this journey with Christ offers a peace that surpasses all understanding, a strength to face life's storms, and a joy that is eternal. It's a path of transformation, guided by His unwavering love and unfailing grace.  
(pray sinners prayer)

If you accepted Christ today, we celebrate with all of heaven and welcome you to the family. Please stop by the prayer table, we would love to pray and talk with you about your next steps.

Remember Church, God is able to carry you, able to strengthen you, able to heal you, able to restore you, and able to bring to completion the good work He has begun in you. Keep your eyes on Him, for He is your strength, your hope, and your deliverer. He is more than able to see you through to the victorious end. So, don't forsake the journey! God bless you!