

# The Divine Contrast: Understanding God's Magnitude and Our Calling

There's a profound truth that often escapes our daily consciousness: the God we serve is infinitely greater than we can comprehend, yet He chooses to work through us. This divine paradox should simultaneously humble us and embolden us for the extraordinary calling placed on our lives.

## Beyond Our Wildest Imagination

Ephesians 3:20-21 presents us with a staggering reality: "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than we can 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. Amen."

Let those words sink in. *Far more abundantly*. The original language uses words that speak of overflowing, of things we cannot contain. It's exceedingly, abundantly, beyond all things we can ask or imagine. Not just meeting our expectations—shattering them entirely.

But here's the mystery that should leave us awestruck: God doesn't need us to accomplish His purposes. He could do everything without us. Yet He deliberately chooses to work *through* us. Not because we're capable, but because He is God, and Jesus has paid it all.

## The Power Within

The power at work within believers isn't human determination or willpower—it's the Holy Spirit Himself. This changes everything about how we approach our faith and calling. When we read about doing "more than we can ask or think," we often drift into a dreamy state, imagining our personal aspirations being fulfilled. But the Greek word used here speaks

of something far more concrete: perceiving with the mind, understanding, pondering, and considering things.

It's about realizing what God has actually said in His Word. There's a guarantee you can count on: when you return to Scripture, your jaw will drop again. You'll discover something you didn't see before. God will speak to you through the same passage in new ways because of its unfathomable depth.

This is the journey of faith—having the eyes of our hearts enlightened so we may know the hope to which we've been called and the riches of His glorious inheritance.

## **The Church: God's Chosen Vessel**

God's glory manifests fully only in the context of the church. Why? Because each of us carries only part of the picture. When we operate independently, we limit what the world sees of God. But when we work together—when people who seemingly have nothing in common unite because of Christ—suddenly the world witnesses more of God's character.

The diversity of the body of Christ isn't accidental. When a mature believer partners with a younger one, when people from different backgrounds collaborate in ministry, when those with different gifts serve side by side, it demonstrates something supernatural. It shows that God is real and at work.

## **The Great Invitation**

Matthew 28:18-20 contains what's often called the Great Commission, but we might better understand it as the Great Invitation. Jesus declares, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Notice the progression: Jesus has all authority, so He invites us to *go*. There's something transformative about stepping out of our comfort zones. Perhaps it's because when we go, we're forced to depend on God rather than our own resources and familiarity.

The call is to "all nations"—the Greek word *ethnos*, meaning cultural groups. This isn't just about geography; it's about crossing cultural boundaries. Even within our own countries, we're surrounded by different cultural groups. And as citizens of heaven, even our own culture isn't truly ours—we belong to God's kingdom first.

The promise that accompanies this invitation? "I am with you always." Jesus doesn't send us out alone. He goes with us.

## **Abiding in the Vine**

Jesus uses powerful imagery in John 15:5: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me and I in them will produce much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing."

Consider what happens when you separate a branch from a vine. It becomes nothing but a dead stick. Yet how often do we attempt to serve God in our own strength, relying on our own abilities? God never called us to operate independently.

The call is big—overwhelmingly big—on purpose. We were never meant to fulfill it on our own. We're knit into Christ, the eternal King, so that we can accomplish anything He calls us to do.

The fruit we produce demonstrates that we're truly in Christ. This fruit isn't just about ministry accomplishments—it's about eternal impact. It's about planting churches, making disciples, and seeing lives transformed across generations. It's fruit that lasts into eternity.

## **The Supremacy of Christ**

Colossians 1:15-22 provides a breathtaking portrait of who Jesus is:

He is the image of the invisible God. All things were created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is the head of the church, the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have supremacy.

This is the God we serve. The Creator of all things. The Redeemer of mankind. Victorious upon His throne. He was, He is, He will always be.

Why does this matter so much? Because if we don't continually lift our eyes to see Him as He truly is, we'll inevitably reduce Him to something more like us. Throughout history, false religions have created gods that resemble humanity—gods who respond and react like we do. But the God of all creation is infinitely above us.

## **Walking in the Call**

Here's the liberating truth: it's not about the size of your platform or the distance you travel. It's about what God has called *you* to do and whether you're walking in that calling.

Some are called to cross oceans. Others are called to cross the street to their neighbor's house. Both are fulfilling God's purposes when they're walking in obedience to His specific call on their lives. The person who faithfully ministers next door, fully satisfied because it's exactly what God called them to, is just as successful in God's eyes as the one serving on another continent.

The question isn't "What great thing can I do for God?" The question is "What has God called me to do, and am I doing it with Him?"

## **The Divine Contrast**

This brings us full circle to the divine contrast: the overwhelming greatness of God set against our human limitations. We deserve punishment, yet we receive grace. We are insufficient, yet He is all-sufficient. We are weak, yet He is powerful.

This contrast should never stop overwhelming us. When we truly grasp how big God is and then realize He came and walked among us, took our sin upon Himself, bore our punishment, and died our death—it should humble us to our core.

And that humbled place? That's exactly where God can use us most powerfully.

We don't need to help God. We don't need to bring Him our wisdom. He is fully sufficient. He chooses to use us, but He remains completely capable on His own. Understanding this removes the burden and pressure we often place on ourselves.

When a child is told to do something alone, fear and doubt may paralyze them. But when that same child knows a loving, powerful parent is right there with them, everything changes. Not because of who the child is, but because of who is with them.

## **Moving Forward**

This is the God we worship. This is the God we trust. This is the God who has chosen to work through and with us. Let this truth stir your faith. Let your vision of God's calling be enlarged.

Don't wait for Sunday to encounter God again. Tomorrow morning—today—open your Bible, read, pray, talk with Him, and listen. He's speaking, and He wants you to hear.

The magnitude of God's call matches the magnitude of who He is. And because He is with us, we can walk confidently into everything He's prepared for us to do. Not in our strength, but in His. Not for our glory, but for His. Not alone, but abiding in the vine, producing fruit that will last for generations and into eternity.