

IMMEASURABLY MORE: MOVING PAST THE SAFETY OF SMALL EXPECTATIONS

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"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him."

— 1 Corinthians 2:9

Immeasurably More: Moving Past the Safety of Small Expectations

We have a habit of building fences around our faith. Think back to the last time life knocked the wind out of you—a sudden diagnosis, a lingering financial strain, a broken relationship, or a dream that crumbled into dust. In those moments, survival mode kicks in.

To protect ourselves from future heartbreak, we start praying "safe" prayers. We trim down our expectations to a size that feels manageable, asking God for just enough grace to survive the day, just enough strength to pull through, or just enough hope to keep from throwing in the towel.

We treat God like a cautious lender, careful not to ask for too much lest we deplete His resources or face the sting of disappointment. But when we shrink our prayers to fit our fears, we miss the heart of who God actually is.

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."

— Isaiah 55:8–9

What is the boldest prayer you could possibly utter today? What is the most incredible, breathtaking restoration you could dare to imagine for your life, your family, or your community? Hold that thought in your mind. Now, realize this: God can top it.

The Promise of Divine Overflow

The Apostle Paul knew what it felt like to be constrained by circumstances. Writing from a prison cell, facing physical limitation and uncertain tomorrows, he didn't offer a lukewarm, cautious prayer. Instead, he wrote a declaration that shatters our small expectations:

"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..."

— Ephesians 3:20

Notice the depth of Paul's language. God isn't just capable of meeting our expectations; He operates in the realm of *immeasurably more*. Those quiet dreams you carry in the hidden corners of your heart? God placed them there. That persistent ache for restoration in a world that feels thoroughly broken? He gave you that longing. The deepest, unspoken needs of your soul are neither silly nor secret to Him.

"Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act."

— Psalm 37:4–5

God knows how to fulfill those longings—not always in the ways or timelines we demand, but in ways that vastly exceed what human vision can fathom.

The Power Inside the Vessel

While it's thrilling to contemplate a God of endless abundance, Paul includes a detail we often overlook: this vast power works *within us*. God doesn't usually bypass humanity to display His wonder; He chooses to work through fragile, imperfect people. The Creator of the cosmos has invited you directly into His redemptive work. So, what does our partnership in this promise actually look like in daily life?

- **We surrender the glory back to Him.** We acknowledge that our best efforts and holy desires don't originate from our own willpower, but from His active grace inside us. *"For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose."* — **Philippians 2:13**
 - **We submit to His grander blueprint.** It's all His power and His plan, yet He invites us to participate. He isn't searching for flawless vessels or spiritual superheroes; He simply seeks willing hearts ready to say "yes." *"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"* — **Isaiah 6:8**
- **We trust Him with the unknown middle.** When the path ahead is foggy, we can rest knowing that He remains good, righteous, and unwavering. We don't need to hold all the answers when we are held by the One who holds the universe. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."* — **Proverbs 3:5–6**

Stepping Into the "More"

Take a step back from the ledger of your life today. Stop calculating what is possible based merely on your resources, your past failures, or your current constraints. Open your hands, lift your eyes, and pray the bold prayer anyway. God is not overwhelmed by the size of your ask, nor is He limited by the scope of your imagination. Step forward in faith, trusting that the God who lives within you is ready to do what only He can do.

Further Scripture to Anchor Your Heart

- **Jeremiah 33:3** — *"Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."*
- **Matthew 19:26** — *"Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'"*
- **Romans 8:28** — *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."*

The Christian life was never meant to be lived by human determination alone. Every page of Scripture reminds us that God's power shines brightest when we reach the end of ourselves. So don't fear your limitations—bring them to the One whose grace is sufficient and whose strength is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).