

Beyond Comprehension

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Please refer to chapter 13 in the *Extraordinary* book, along with session 8 of the teaching series.

“Grace, though it’s freely given, can only be accessed through faith, and we tap into its riches through believing. If you can settle this truth in your heart and mind, you’ll avoid being misled by *inaccurate feelings*, *contrary circumstances*, or lies of the enemy. ...Our entire walk, from the day we come into God’s family until we behold Him face to face, **is all about believing His Word** over what we *see*, *hear*, or *experience*.”

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from chapter 13

1. As a believer, your life is founded on faith from start to finish. Indeed, God’s Word clearly states that the just and righteous shall live *by faith* (see Hebrews 10:38).

- a. How does your faith help you keep God’s commands without becoming burdened by them (see 1 John 5:3-4)?

Heaven’s

APPEAL

This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by **faith**. As the Scriptures say, “It is *through faith* that a righteous person has life.”

—Romans 1:17 NLT

2. We see in Scripture that as *faith* and *humility* go hand in hand, so do *unbelief* and *pride*. Actually, unbelief is pride and disobedience in disguise—it’s what kept the Israelites from entering the Promised Land.

Check out the story of the 12 spies and how God dealt with Israel's unbelief in Numbers 13 and 14.

- a. What did the 10 spies who gave a negative report base their calculations of taking the land on? What did Joshua and Caleb base their calculations on?

Check out Jeremiah 17:7-8 to see what the rich reward is for those who trust God.

- b. Due to unbelief, Israel wandered 40 years in the wilderness. But what happened to the 10 men who turned the people against Moses? (See Numbers 14:36-38.)

- c. Have you been living more in faith and humility, or in unbelief and pride? What fruit from your life proves that?

UNBELIEF

In Scripture, when the word *unbelief* is used, it almost always means "disobedient." Both words, *unbelief* and *disobedient*, are taken from the Greek word *apeitheia*. This word communicates "the condition of being unpersuadable"; it also means "obstinacy and obstinate rejection of the will of God, hence *disobedience*."²

Voice of the Ages

"*Pride renders faith impossible. ...Is it any wonder that our faith is so feeble when pride still reigns so much, and we have scarce learned even to long or pray for humility as the most needful and blessed part of salvation? ...It is the humility that brings a soul to be nothing before God that also removes every hindrance to faith...*"

—Andrew Murray¹

3. The Israelites who left Egypt believed in God, but they *lacked faith* in Him to fulfill His promise to bring them into the Promised Land. As a result, they died in their unbelief—they fell far short of the destiny God had planned for them.

- a. When we choose *not* to believe God's Word, what are we actually communicating to God in our hearts? What does the example of Israel's unbelief and God's response speak to you?

4. The longer you look at something, the bigger it becomes. So instead of focusing on your problems and magnifying them, God wants us to focus on and magnify *Him*. This means exalting and praising Him for His awesomeness and celebrating the wonderful things He's already done.

- a. How big is God in your eyes? Read these passages and describe any new insights the Holy Spirit reveals to you about the immensity of our Maker.

Nehemiah 9:6-7 • Psalm 95:3-6; 104 • Hebrews 1:3; 11:3

- b. Take a moment and write a paragraph of personal praise to the Lord who loves you.

Check out Psalm 29:2; 57:5; 145.

“If we *believe* we are no different than those who haven't been liberated by the grace of God, we'll live as they do—in the ordinary. We'll live the way we were trained, captives of this world's system. However, if we allow the **Word of God** to change how we see ourselves, and we *truly believe it in our hearts*, then we'll begin to live like heaven's royalty—the realm of the extraordinary!”

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from chapter 13

Heaven's

APPEAL

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, *making wise* the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, *giving joy* to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, *giving light* to the eyes.

—Psalm 19:7-8 NIV

5. As we learned previously, *faith has a language*: It is bold, confident and absent of doubt, indecisiveness, and uncertainty. Words of faith are not based on head knowledge, but on *heart* revelation of God's Word and the truth of who you are in Him.

- a. *Get quiet before the Lord* and take a few moments to examine your thought life and the words you speak about your-

self and your circumstances. Are you thinking and speaking the language of faith or fear?

- b. **Check out** these passages and describe what they say about your true identity:

1 Peter 2:9 • Romans 8:16-17 • Galatians 4:4-7

- c. **Ponder these promises** and explain why you need to live your life looking through *the lens of God's Word* instead of focusing on circumstances.

Psalm 119:89,152 • Matthew 5:18; 24:35

FASCINATING FACT: THE ULTIMATE RULER

The Bible, meaning "The Book," contains two portions: the Old Testament, which the early Christians claimed—along with the Jews—and the New Testament, which the early Christians produced in spite of the Jews. The Old Testament *promised*; the New Testament *fulfilled*.

The word for the special place these books occupy is *canon*. This term

from the Greek language originally meant “a measuring rod” or “ruler.” It was a standard for judging something straight. So this idea transferred to a list of books that constituted the standard or “rule,” for believers.³ It was agreed that these books were “God-breathed” and contain the authority of God. Each have a self-evidencing quality—they have always exercised, and continue to exercise, an unparalleled power to change the lives of men.⁴ For Christians, they have become the **ruler** by which a believer determines how his life measures up to the Master, Jesus Christ.

According to noted historian Josephus, the compilation of Old Testament books is believed to have been done by Ezra around 450 B.C.⁵ The books that make up the New Testament today were chosen for the fundamental reason that they were written by an apostle, or at least by a man who had direct contact with the circle of the apostles. It was both the councils in North Africa at Hippo (393 A.D.) and at Carthage (397 A.D.) that formally ratified and published the list of the 27 books of the New Testament as we know them today.⁶

6. Next to the *Word of God* is the unsurpassed supremacy of the **name of Jesus**. Indeed, there is inherent, empowering grace *through faith* in His name! Read John 14:13-14; 15:7-8 and Philippians 2:9-10 and write what these scriptures speak to your heart.

POWER

The noun form of the word “power” in Greek is *dunamis*. Its universal meaning is “**inherent power, strength and ability residing in a thing** by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth.”⁸

Voice of the Ages

“The possibilities involved in [Jesus’] name are beyond our understanding. When Jesus says, **whatever you ask the Father in my name**, He is giving us a signed check on the resources of heaven, and asking us to fill it in. What a privilege.

If you are in need of healing, begin a study of the resources of Jesus, in order to obtain a measure of the wealth which that name holds for you today. It is yours to use today. Jesus said so. Only believe and begin to use His name in prayer today.”

—T.L. Osborn⁷

[word in brackets added for clarity]

7. According to Ephesians 1:19, there is *unlimited*, immeasurable *power* in us who *believe*, or have *faith*, in the completed work of Christ. *Meditate on the message* of these eye-opening truths. Let them really sink into your soul and spirit.

For out of His **fullness** (abundance) *we have all received* [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favor upon favor and gift [heaped] upon gift.

—John 1:16 AMP

And God has put all things under the authority of Christ, and he gave him this authority for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is **filled by Christ**, who fills everything everywhere with his presence.

—Ephesians 1:22-23 NLT

For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature]. And you are in Him, made full and having come to **fullness** of life [*in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and reach full spiritual stature*]...

—Colossians 2:9-10 AMP

- a. What is the Holy Spirit revealing to you about the *fullness* of Christ in you?

- b. Why do you think the enemy is afraid of you finding this out?

- c. Read Romans 8:11 and write what it speaks to your heart:

“We should be the people the world is seeking to learn from. We should be the ones *influencing* the world because the One who created the gorgeous Rocky Mountains, paints the beautiful sunsets, and created the wonderful sea creatures *lives on the inside of us!*”

JOHN BEVERE

adapted from session 8

APPEAL

...All who receive God's abundant grace and are freely put right with him will *rule in life* through Christ.

—Romans 5:17 TEV

8. As a son or daughter of the Great Creator, God has positioned you to *rule in life* and be an *influencer of righteousness*—He has empowered you with His grace and given you gifts to make an eternal difference in the lives of others.

- a. What is your God-defined *sphere of influence* that He has given you? How are you using your influence to bring the reality of His kingdom to others?

- b. Name one obvious way you can know for certain that you're influencing people in an extraordinary way. (See page 143 in the book.) In light of this, who do you know you are influencing?

- c. *Get quiet before the Lord.* Ask Him to show you some new, creative ways to indelibly impact others for Him using your gifts. Write what He reveals.

9. If the *fullness* of God has been given to us in the form of grace, why are so many Christians *not* enjoying an overcoming, godly life? Why are we not the wisest and most creative people on earth, healing the sick, and freeing the captives? Because we need a deeper revelation of God's amazing power available to us through faith.

Meditate on the message of Ephesians 3:20, asking the Holy Spirit to deposit the power and reality of it in your heart:

Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work *within us*, is *able* to [carry out His purpose and] *do superabundantly*, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [**infinitely beyond** our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]—to Him be glory...

—Amplified

[includes part of Ephesians 3:21]

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.

—The Message

Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work *within us* is *able* to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—**infinitely beyond** our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.

—The Living Bible

- a. What new understanding is the Holy Spirit showing you about His power?

- b. Describe one of your “highest” desires, hopes, or dreams. Have you ever *dared* to ask God for it? If not, why? How does your new insight of this verse change things?

“You are an heir of the King of the universe! You are one of a royal company of people. You are set apart as God’s ruling class of sons and daughters. We must know this and believe it in our hearts, for it’s only then that we access the power of the divine nature and bring glory to our Father in heaven. **It’s all about believing the truth** about ourselves; for if we do not believe, we do not have access to the amazing provision of the grace of God.”

JOHN BEVERE

adapted from chapter 13

10. God says that He’s **ABLE** to do *superabundantly, infinitely beyond* all that you could dare ask or think, but if we don’t see evidence of this type of power operating in our lives, there is a good chance that we are *limiting* God in some way. (See pages 146 in the book.)

- a. What limits the power of God working in and through you—what determines the size of your “container” or capacity to house God’s power?

- b. What has kept you from praying, imagining and believing God for more?

- c. To a great degree, what have you potentially been more influenced and motivated by?

11. People in the early church didn't struggle to believe they had God's power working in and through them because Jesus had been their role model. They had seen firsthand what He could do and didn't have the *experiences* of others to discourage their faith.

Heaven's

APPEAL

Last of all I want to remind you that your strength must come from the Lord's mighty power *within you*.

—Ephesians 6:10 TLB

- a. How has the enemy fought tirelessly to hold back the truth of God's grace from being taught in the church today? (See page 146 in the book.)

- b. What *excuses* for the power of God not manifesting today have you believed? Are they scriptural?

- c. *Get quiet before the Lord.* Ask Him, "Lord, have I bought into any unscriptural teachings or theories that are robbing me of faith? If so, what are they?" Write what He reveals.

Heaven's

APPEAL

Don't let others *spoil your faith* and *joy* with their *philosophies*, their wrong and shallow answers built on men's thoughts and ideas, instead of on what Christ has said.

—Colossians 2:8 TLB

12. If the enemy can keep you bound to the memories and feelings of a *former experience* instead of focusing on the truth of God's Word, he can effectively stop you from growing into a powerful and productive believer.

- a. What former experience(s) comes to mind that is hindering you from truly believing God's Word, and consequently, keeping your faith from growing?

- b. Is there a disappointing experience of a *family member* or *close friend* that you have allowed to supersede the truth and stifle the growth of your faith? If so, what is it?

Surrender these situations to God in prayer. Pour your heart out to Him—ask Him to heal the hurts and disappointments and remove the fears you are dealing with. If you have been struggling to understand why something happened, ask Him for grace to enable your mind to rest and trust Him.

Voice
of the Ages

"If I construct my faith on my *experience*, I produce that most unscriptural type, an isolated life, my eyes fixed on my own whiteness. ...Measure every type of experience by our Lord Himself. We cannot do anything pleasing to God unless we deliberately build on the presupposition [faith] of the Atonement."⁹

If your faith is in *experiences*, anything that happens is likely to upset that faith; but nothing can ever upset God or the almighty Reality of Redemption; base your faith on that, and you are as eternally secure as God. When once you get into personal contact with Jesus Christ, you will never be moved again."¹⁰

—Oswald Chambers

[word in brackets added for clarity]

UNVEIL YOUR HERO

A professional surfer turns his travel opportunities into mission trips as he reaches out to the poor and downtrodden and visits the sick.

Light is being spread in our world by Toby...

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the bottom line

God's grace is His power. It is accessed through the "pipeline" of our faith and works within us to do exceedingly above and beyond all that we could dare to ask or think. Through faith, we not only access the grace to be saved, but also to walk in holiness, manifest His kingdom, and secure every promise that is ours through Christ.

REPROGRAM Your Hard Drive

...If you *abide* in **My word** [hold fast to My teachings and live in accordance with them], you are truly My disciples. And you will know the Truth, and *the Truth will set you free*.

—John 8:31-32 AMP

Is your life *busy*? Most of us are being pulled in more directions than we would like, trying to juggle work, relationships, bill paying, housekeeping, grocery shopping, car repairs, and everything else under the sun. Finding time to feed our spirits the nourishment of Scripture is definitely a challenge, but it's a challenge we can and *must* overcome by the grace of God.

The moment you repent of your sin and invite Christ into your life, you are saved and rescued from the devil's dominion. But while your spirit is immediately made alive and new, your thinking still needs work—in some cases, *a lot of work*.

Think about it. Your mind is the birth place of every action you make. Proverbs 23:7 says, "For as [a man] thinks in his heart, so is he..." (AMP, words in brackets added for clarity). If your *actions* are not in line with God's Word, it is because your *thinking* is not in line with God's Word. This is why reprogramming is critical.

John G. Lake, renowned minister of healing to Africa and abroad during the early 1900s, said...

"If there is any particular area where as a rule Christians are weak, it is in the *consecration of their minds*. Christians seem to feel as if they are not to exercise any control over the mind, so it seems to run at random, just like the mind of the world.

Real Christianity is marked by the pureness, the holiness of the thoughts of man; and if the kind of Christianity you have does not produce in your mind real holiness, real purity, real sweetness, real truth, then it is a poor brand. **Change it** right away.

There is relief for the unsanctified mind. Submit your mind to the Lord Jesus Christ to be remolded by the Holy Spirit, so that it becomes the *pure channel* of a holy nature."¹¹

Realize that reprogramming the hard drive of your mind with the truth of God's Word is *not* optional—it's *mandatory*. Only God's Word in the hands of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you, has the inherent power to change your life—nothing else.

“God's Word is not merely letters on paper...it's alive. Believe and draw near, for it longs to dance in your heart and whisper to you in the night.”

LISA BEVERE¹²

Read the following passages and write how you are stirred by them:

Psalm 119:11 • 2 Timothy 3:16 • Romans 12:2 • Ephesians 4:23-24 •
Joshua 1:8 • Colossians 3:16

Reading the Word is wonderful. But to really build your faith and begin thinking like Jesus thinks, *meditation* is the key. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you revelation knowledge, and think about and allow God's *principles* and *promises* to be the new lens in which you operate from.

Remember, *grace* is God's power to live like Jesus and be fruitful. The only way to access grace is through the *pipeline of faith*, and building the pipeline of "...faith comes from listening to the Good News—the Good News about Christ" (Romans 10:17 TLB).

It's time to examine your fields! (Refer to the graph on page 153 of the book.) What aspects of your life are not connected to the "water" of God's grace? In other words, what areas of the Word do you have a hard time believing? Is it healing? Walking in holiness? Tithing and giving offerings? Overcoming fear? Receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Trusting God for protection and provision? Whatever you struggle to believe is the area where your pipeline of faith needs to be built!

THE LORD IS SHOWING ME I NEED TO BUILD A "PIPELINE" OF FAITH IN THESE AREAS:

"We must realize the value of **God's Word** and the value of quiet meditation in the Word. The most deeply spiritual men and women I know give time to meditation in the Word of God. You cannot develop spiritual wisdom without meditation. ...Take time to meditate in God's Word. Shut yourself in alone with your own spirit, with the world shut out. Begin by taking 10 or 15 minutes daily for meditation; that isn't much. Begin the development of your own spirit. Begin—and then it will grow. *Begin taking time.*"

—Kenneth Hagin¹³

One by one, begin a systematic study of these topics. All you need is a good Bible concordance, like *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, one or more understandable version of the Bible, a notebook and a pen. The Holy Spirit is your Teacher who permanently abides within you. Invite Him in at the onset of every study and watch how His Word comes alive like never before!

FOR FURTHER STUDY

BEWARE OF PRIDE

Psalm 10:2; 119:21
Proverbs 11:2; 16:18; 21:4
Proverbs 3:7; 26:12
Isaiah 5:21; Romans 12:16

BE A GODLY INFLUENCE

Matthew 5:13-16
1 Timothy 4:12
Titus 2:7

POWER IN JESUS' NAME

Mark 16:17; Luke 24:47
John 15:16; 20:31

Acts 3:16; 4:12; 16:18
James 5:14; 1 John 5:14-15

Journal

Your Journey

Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and *supply what is lacking in your faith.*

—1 Thessalonians 3:10 NIV

EYE-OPENERS

Are you becoming more firmly established in the faith? Pause for a moment and revisit some of the eye-opening truths the Holy Spirit has made real to you; write what He brings to mind.

REVOLUTIONARY YOU

How is the Lord stirring you to search and study His Word more? Is He prompting you to build new *pipelines* of faith to access His grace? Ask Him to show you a plan of how to fulfill this.


PRAYER FOR REVELATION

Lord, may the eyes of my heart be flooded with light, so that I can know and understand the hope to which You have called me and how rich is Your glorious inheritance in the saints, Your set-apart ones. Help me to know and understand in my heart and by personal experience the immeasurable, unlimited and surpassing greatness of Your power in and for me, as demonstrated in the working of Your mighty strength, which You exerted in Christ when You raised Him from the dead. Thank You, Lord...in Jesus' name, Amen.

[based on Ephesians 1:18-20 AMP]

NOTES

1. Andrew Murray, *Humility* (Fort Washington, PA: CLC Publications, 1997) pp. 73-74.
2. Adapted from *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary – New Testament Words*, W. E. Vine (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc. 1996) pp. 61, 173, 649.
3. Adapted from Bruce L. Shelly, *Church History in Plain Language* (Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, Inc.) pp. 73-74.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 76.
5. Adapted from *Halley's Bible Handbook* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1965) p. 405.
6. See note 3, pp. 77, 83.
7. T.L. Osborn, *Healing the Sick* (Tulsa OK: Harrison House, 1992) p. 30.
8. *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, Joseph H. Thayer (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House Company, 1977) p. 159.
9. Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest* (Uhrichsville, OH: Barbour Publishing, Inc., MCMXCVII) p. 283.
10. *Ibid.*, p. 338.
11. Dr. John G. Lake, *Spiritual Hunger, The God-Men and Other Sermons* (Dallas, TX: Christ for the Nations, Inc. 1979) pp. 45-46.
12. Lisa Bevere, *Kissed the Girls and Made Them Cry* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2002) p. 139.
13. Kenneth E. Hagin, *Exceedingly Growing Faith* (Tulsa, OK: Rhema Bible Church, 2006) pp. 59, 61.



...The earnest (heartfelt,
continued) prayer of a
righteous man makes
tremendous power
available [dynamic
in its working].

—James 5:16 AMP

xtraordinary