



## SERMON RESPONSE

July 5, 2020

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There is something very mysterious in that we follow an all powerful, all knowing, all good God who at the same time allows Himself to be limited by the limitations of His creation. For example, we can quench the Spirit of God (*1 Thess. 5:19*), we can show little faith and limit His work (*Matthew 13:58*); and we can have prayers that God desires to answer, but we have not had the faith to ask them (*James 4:2-3*). This is an incredible mystery that I have a difficult time wrapping my mind around at times, but I see it again and again on the pages of scripture. The invitation remains really clear, though: God wants to give us more of Himself, of His power, of His wisdom if we are simply willing to walk with Him more closely. *Ephesians 3:20* says it this way: "Now all glory to God, who is able through His mighty power at work within us to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." As I said this weekend, there are things that God longs to do that are not done simply because we have not asked.

- **What are the big prayers that God has placed on your heart that you are scared to even pray because they feel too big for God?**
- **What holds us back from praying these "big prayers" to God?**
- **What does it tell you about God's character and nature that He desires to give us more of Himself if we are simply willing to ask and walk with Him closely?**

This weekend I shared that the way we think about God effects how we pray to God. If we believe that God is angry, judgmental, cruel and apathetic, we will pray very different prayers than if we believe that God is Holy, personal, loving, rich in mercy and abounding in love. One of the ways that we can diagnose our thoughts about God is to do an honest assessment of our prayers and move backwards. I am willing to bet that although you might confess with your mouth that God is great, your prayer life tells a different story about what you really believe. If you find your prayer life small, pray today that God would increase your perspective of who He is, or devote yourself to read the book of John and focus on the bigness of God on its pages.

- **Write down three adjectives describing your prayer life, and then sit with them for a moment. What does your prayer life say about how you think about God?**
- **When you think about God, what comes into your mind?  
What are the first characteristics and attributes of God that you think about?  
Which of these are true and which of these may be things that actually aren't true about God?**
- **How may God desire to "increase your perspective" of who He is this week?  
What are ways that God may be trying to do that in your life?**