



S.O.A.P. Bible Studies



Pastor Melvin Silas
THE GREAT I AM FAITH CENTER

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NKJV) Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

There is a lot in this verse for us to investigate. When examining anything, we need to take in everything around it. This means that we need to carefully look at everything in it and around it.

We all have learned that from watching crime investigation movies such as: **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation** and **NCIS (Naval Criminal Investigative Service)**

S.O.A.P. BIBLE STUDY (Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer)

How To Use the SOAP Bible Study Method?

The S.O.A.P. acronym stands for SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION, AND PRAYER. It's a simple and powerful tool for understanding God's word and getting closer to Him.

By following these four steps, you can learn more about the Bible on a daily basis.

1. Scripture

The first step of the SOAP Bible study method is picking a passage of scripture that you want to study. It could be a Bible verse or a particular passage. This simple method also works in conjunction with topical study. **The important thing is to choose something that speaks to you and you'd like to explore more. I like to take bite-sized chunks of the Bible so I usually choose one Bible passage that speaks to me that day.**

Once you have your selected a passage or verse of scripture, write it down and read it multiple times to get familiar with it. Pay attention to any words or phrases that catch your eye or seem intriguing. This step

helps you truly grasp the passage before moving on to the next part of the study.

2. Observation

Now that you've chosen your Scripture passage, it's time to dive into observation. This step involves closely examining the text, looking at what is around it, and asking questions to better understand it. Look for key themes, repeated words, and patterns in the passage.

Evaluate the context in which it was written and who the author was addressing. Take notes as you go, jotting down any insights or observations you discover.

Consider keeping a SOAP journal to help keep you on track. This second step helps you dig deeper into the text and understand the multiple facets of God's word.

3. Application

Once you have observed the passage, it's time to move on to application. **Take what you've learned from the Scripture or passage and apply it to your own life.** Look at how the passage relates to your current situation or challenges.

How can you apply its teachings in your daily life? This step involves making the Scripture relevant and useful in your circumstances and allowing the Word of God to speak to you and work in your heart.

4. Prayer

The last step of the SOAP Bible study method is prayer. Once you've observed and applied the Scripture, take a moment to pray and reflect on what you've learned. Thank God for His word, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you apply it to your life.

Never take content out of context.

We use words and phrases to convey our thoughts and ideas when we communicate. However, sometimes, these words or phrases can be taken

out of their original context, leading to confusion or misunderstanding. The phrase **“take out of context”** refers to the act of removing a statement from its original setting, which can alter its meaning.

Okay, let's put this to work.

Main Scripture Step 1

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NKJV) Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Now, to get a really good look at what is being said here, we need to do Step 2

Step 2 Observation (Looking at what's around it)

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NKJV) For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height-- ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Our passage of scripture here ends with a prayer prayed by Paul.

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NKJV) Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NKJV) For this reason, I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

For this reason, I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

1. For this reason (You would have to read **Ephesians 3:1-13 to find out the reason he was reading for to me sake you can do this on your own**)
2. That He (God) would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man. Paul also mentioned this in **Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**
3. Paul is praying for them to be
 - A. to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man
 - B. that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith
 - C. they be rooted and grounded in love
 - D. they understand the deepness of god's love for them
 - E. They they be filled with the fullness of God

NOW, WE COME TO THE SCRIPTURE THAT WE STARTED FROM THE MEANING OF EPHESIANS 3:20

We are going to break this verse down into three separate sections. This will help us better see what the meaning of Ephesians 3:20 is communicating to us today.

NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE

Paul starts off this verse with a powerful statement: God is able. In the previous verses, Paul talks about God's power and love.

He's encouraging his readers to be rooted in God's Word so that they can experience the life that God intended for them.

In Ephesians 3:20, Paul used a unique term to express God's superabundant ability to work beyond our prayers, thoughts, and even dreams.

Now, he's saying that God is able. This life, this faith, is possible. Not because we are good enough or can earn it, but because God is able.

So what can God do? Paul's about to give that answer.

TO DO IMMEASURABLY MORE THAN ALL WE ASK OR IMAGINE

Not only can God do what we ask, he can do MORE than we ask. But not only that, Paul takes it a step further to show God's incredible power. He can do more than we can imagine. In other words, we can't even comprehend God's strength.

ACCORDING TO HIS POWER THAT IS AT WORK WITHIN US

Paul is making clear here that all of this is not by our power, but God's. On our own we are incapable of making meaningful changes in our lives.

But with God's power that lives in us we can do more than we can even imagine. This is an important concept for followers of Jesus to grasp.

We must rely on God's power instead of trying to rely on ourselves. This means seeking God's strength when facing challenging situations, walking through a storm, or dealing with sin. Or living out our calling.

HOW TO APPLY EPHESIANS 3:20 TO YOUR LIFE

What does it mean that God is able to do more than we ask? Now that we've examined Ephesians 3:20, I want to end by giving you two ways to live this verse out.

1. PRAY BOLD PRAYERS

Remember **Ephesians 3:20** is a prayer that Paul recorded for the church in Ephesus. So it makes sense that one of the best ways we can apply this verse is by praying boldly.

Now that's not to say we shouldn't pray small prayers; God wants to hear all our requests. But the message of **Ephesians 3:20** is that God can do all we ask and more than we can imagine. So don't limit your prayers, pray big prayers.

This doesn't mean that God will answer all our prayers as we want and when we want.

Sometimes God doesn't give us what we want, rather he gives us what we need.

Regardless, our time spent connecting with God will grow our lives and our faith.

2. RELY ON GOD'S POWER

Paul makes abundantly clear in this verse that we do all this by God's power. For Christians to fully step into the life that God has for them, they need to rely on God.

That means we regularly connect with God through prayer and studying his Word. And that **we are obedient** to what he says rather than listening to what the world says is best.

Relying on God is something every follower of Jesus is called to do.