

## **MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE ?     Dr. Brian Krum**

Why do we pray?

Who do we pray to? Does God hear? Does he answer?

How often do we pray?

What do we pray for? Help? Success? Health? A job? .....?

Ephesians 3.14-21

Why does Paul pray?

What does he consider to be most important for us to realise?

How great is God, according to Paul's prayer?

Is this how you feel about God?

Paul kneels before his Father. How do you find it easiest/best to pray?

Kneeling? Standing? Walking? Lying prone? Sitting?.....?

More important than our position is our attitude. Is it surrender? Control?

Humility? Pride?.....?

As we kneel, we are not in control. But after all, how much of our lives can we control? Not very much. Good things can happen when God is in control.

Some people don't like the idea of 'control'. What do you think?

God can energise us as we focus on him. As we trust in him and let him be in control.

When we don't know how to pray in a situation, we need to trust him, because He knows the outcome of every circumstance. He does great things as we allow him to. Yes, we are the ones who stop him from working, often. We need to trust and love God, and let him be the one who moves in our life But is this too scary?

When we trust him, his love can move in our lives, towards those we meet, to our family, our neighbours.

Matthew 5.40. What does Jesus say our attitude towards those who want to take stuff from us should be? Would you be able to do this? (Most of us would find this very difficult, but some do it)

2 Corinthians 9.7 – what kind of giver does God love?

As we give, we let God deal with the situation. As we kneel before God, in trust and dependence on him, his energy will fill us. God's glorious riches can strengthen us with power through his Spirit – so Christ can dwell in our hearts through faith.

What does it mean to let Christ dwell in us? To dwell is to settle down, to live, not move from this place. For Christ to dwell, live, settle down in us, what would we have to do?

As Christ dwells in us he gives us courage, love, ideas, enthusiasm – whatever we need as we need it.

God can do immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine – how? His power in us enables him to do this.

Has he done more than you can ask or imagine for you? Do you believe that this is what he wants to do? He did it for Paul – think over some of the things God did for Paul. Do you think Paul had expected so much from God?

The more we let God do great things, the more we look forward to even more. God can do more than we imagine, but do we expect him to? Are our ideas and expectations kept in bounds by what we think is possible? Or will we let him do immeasurably more than we could think or imagine?

How sad it would be if God had great things in mind for us, and we simply didn't believe or trust him to do them.

But as we do let him do what he wants to do in our lives, his glory can shine out through us, through the church, in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever Amen