

## Why So Many Superlatives?

---

by Wayne Goff

The New Testament seemingly is full of superlatives. For example, Paul wrote in Ephesians 3:20 “*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.*” Really? “*Exceedingly abundantly*”? Isn’t that a little much? Well, that all depends on your concept of God. If your concept of God is rooted in the Bible’s revelation of Him, then no, that’s not a little much! In fact, even that superlative only scratches the surface of God’s power, might and ability. Friend, what is **your** concept of God?

God revealed His desire to help us *beyond our wildest expectations* in order that we might develop **the deepest trust and confidence in Him**, which in turn would lead to our eternal salvation. Absolute trust and confidence in God is essential to our faith. After all, didn’t Jesus, the Good Shepherd, promise in John 10:10 that “... *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*” (“*Abundantly*” comes from the same Greek word in both references). The kind of life Jesus promises to those who love Him with all their heart, soul, mind and strength is a life that far exceeds anything they could have otherwise. Isn’t that what you want? If so, then trust and obey Jesus!

While on earth, Jesus calmed the winds and waves on a tempestuous Galilee, which caused those who saw it to be “*greatly amazed ... **beyond measure,***” (Mk. 6:51, same word). God is a God of immeasurable wisdom, power and ability, so superlatives are the best way to describe Him.

“*Awesome*” is a word that often describes God in the Bible. Unfortunately the word has been marginalized from being over used to describe things that are not actually awesome. When God appeared to Jacob in a dream, he awoke and exclaimed, “*How **awesome** is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!*” (Gen. 28:17). The place was awesome because God was there! Israel was told to put their trust in God because “...*the Lord your God, the great and **awesome** God, is among you*” (Deuteronomy 7:21; see also Deut. 10:17; 28:58; Nehemiah 1:5; Ps. 47:2; etc.). “*Awesome*” means “to fear, to revere; to cause to be afraid or full of dread.” This describes Jacob’s thoughts perfectly. One does not come into the presence of God and think anything else! “***Holy and Reverend (Awesome) is His Name!***” (Psalm 111:9).

The salvation procured for us through His mercy, by “*the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit*” has been “*poured out on us **abundantly** through Jesus Christ our Savior*” (Titus 3:5-6). God saves us in a way that exceeds the need, but He desires to leave no doubt!

God determined to show “***more abundantly*** to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.” (Hebrews 6:17-18). God leaves no room for doubt in the work that He does to us and for us. If there is any doubt, it resides solely in our inability to believe in an Awesome God! What should be the reaction of sinful man? “*Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, **for He will abundantly pardon***” (Isaiah 55:7). You cannot ask for more than that!

350502