

Metro Men's meeting
August 12, 2017
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God is always more!

Now to Him who can do exceedingly (immeasurably) more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus, both now and forever more! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

John 16: 12-14, "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear..."

Exodus 24 – top of the mountain experience (reading from a book)

My experience with the Florida Keys – God is always more as He invites me into explorations with Him

Lobstering – Uncle John invited me into a new level of adventure

30 yrs pass – I've seen quite a bit. → Pictures

4 years ago – found my first empty conch shell. Conchs are illegal when live.

This year, found two empty conch shells on the same reef as previous.

Then found three more beautiful, full sized conchs. Stopped picking up the immature conchs because we found so many. Also found a helmet shell – apex of our shell finds.

3 red grouper within one hour; Bone fish while bottom fishing; Limited out on Yellowtail snapper; Biggest mangrove snappers yet ... and Jonathan caught more than his Dad, yeah!!!

When you think you've experienced about as much as there is, God raises the bar.

Multiplying bread (okay, our Hebrew ancestors ate manna in the wilderness)

to walking on water (hum, ancestors walked through the water but not on it.)

Job 9:8 – He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea.

Does God care about conch shells and yellowtail snapper? Maybe, perhaps a little on the overall scale of things. Does God care about you and me? Yes, a thousand times Yes. Therefore, if it's important to me, it's important to God.

Those who are married, are there things your wife cares about for which you don't give a rip? Of course, yet because you position yourself to make those things important, she loves you even more for it. If you catch this, you win ... I mean win in all ways. ☺

Please realize that the ratio of my delights and desires to God's Fathering and fulfilling is not 1:1. He doesn't grant everything I want 100%; conversely, and let's

avoid small level thinking, He wants to bless us WAAAAAYYYY more than we can imagine.

Blessings sometimes = bounty; they often = spiritual abundance.

God gives us the Law. It points to Him but does not empower us to walk that road. God gives us Jesus to show the way. Jesus, while God, was still constrained to a human experience – He limited himself to not be in all places at all times.

The Father then pours out the Spirit. Jesus baptizes us in fire. Now, the Spirit can be all places at all times in us. He elevates and expands the manifestation of His Presence.

God adds to the church: addition becomes multiplication, linear to exponential

Acts 2:41 – and 3000 men were added to the church

Acts 4:4 – and the number of men increased to 5000

Acts 6:7 – the number of disciples multiplied (KJV), increased rapidly (NIV), multiplied greatly (ESV), got bigger-er (Alabamian version)

To be true to the text, chapter 6 is right before Stephen's martyrdom and the dispersion of the church (Acts 7 and 8). The persecution lead to even more growth.

God is always more. Mindset is important, perhaps vital.

The kingdom of God is perhaps best demonstrated on earth in the minds of men and women. How we think about God determines the measure of His revealed Presence. So, it's pretty important to think high thoughts of God.

As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. Prov 23:7

Since you're raised with Christ, set your heart and mind on things above. Col. 3:1-4

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2

Having done all, press on! Phil. 3:12-14

Think about these things. Phil. 4: 4-8

Your attitude determines your altitude.

It is vital for growth to have a divinely restored and inspired imagination.

Imagination requires us to look and think; Restoration requires will and action.

So, what are you looking at, dwelling on, pondering? When's the last time you had a deep thought? Then, did you act on it, or at least make plans around your thought?

Example#1 – Heaven, Randy Alcorn

Marriage in Heaven? No, we'll be like the angels. I think this means in context that we'll have gender but not be sexually intimate. Hum...okay.

Jesus says: "I go to prepare a place for us." John 14:2 "In my Father's house are many rooms..."

If I'm married to Leigh Ann here on earth, do I honestly think I'll be staying in one room or house while she'll be staying in another, perhaps in Christ's Condos across Sapphire Way on the other side of Glass Lake Circle?

Hum...if there's a chance that I might spend even more time with her in heaven, loving on Christ, friends, and each other, how does that affect the here and now?!! A lot!!!

Jack Reilly – I get to date the daughter of the King.

Example #2: Jesus – Creator. John 1: 1-4, 12, 14

The creator was born into a carpenter's family. What do earthly carpenters do? They create. THE Creator was born into a creator's family. Do we get that?!! This reality on earth positions us for the next reality, or the greater reality of heaven.

Question #1

God's call on your life – what is it? Are you doing it? (You do, in fact, get partial credit for trying.) What do you imagine doing with God's help? (Yep, write it down.)

Many of us had dreams that we put on the shelf. We got to a certain place in our walk with God where we said, "This is sufficient. If this is as far as I go, I'm satisfied." We may have tried and got burned. Or, we're just tired. We can still see the top of the mountain – we're just not training or pushing to make the ascent. We've plateaued. The younger ones are looking for mentors to lead 'cause they don't know the way.

Plateau –

- A. An area of relatively level high ground.
- B. A state of little or no change following a period of activity or progress.

My definition

- C. A place in which to acclimatize to altitude in preparation for the ascent up Everest

Question #2 - Have you peaked, plateau'd, or are you pushing for His Presence. Where have you relied on your own strength and not asked God for more?

Many do not feel worthy for an increased measure of His Presence. To be clear, we're not! On the contrary, we're made worthy because of the atonement of Christ. His work ushers us into the Throne room. His atonement enables our at-one-ment...becoming one with God. The mangrove sacrificial leaf example.

Let's go back to the beginning of our time today.

God is always more than we can think or imagine.

There are principles in the earth and principles in heaven.

Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Come! Thy Kingdom. Be done! Thy will.

The law of sowing and reaping: you reap what you sow, 30/60/100 fold, Parable of the talents: invest 2 talents, reap 4; invest 5, reap 10. This is true.

Then there is the law of inheritance. When we're grafted into the family of Jesus as his brothers (John 20:17, "...go and tell my brothers" that I'm risen), we then get to inherit what Jesus died to purchase.

We pay nothing and get everything. Jesus paid it all, and gets "... the joy set before him..." Phil. 2: 3-12

Imitation – law of sowing and reaping

Impartation – we get the Kingdom while Jesus paid everything.

Both laws are true; one is true-er 😊 Leprosy OT vs NT example

Question #3

If we could order up new manna in our lives from heaven's menu, what would we select? Where does your supernatural gaze stray when you survey all heaven has to offer? If your desires were completely pure at this moment, what would you want?

Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive and go do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive - Howard Thurman