

THINGS THAT ARE “EXCEEDING”

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The Bible writers used precise language to convey the truths of God. This is because these truths are not expressed in “words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches” (1 Cor. 2:13).

One of those words is “exceeding.” It is a translation of the Greek word *hyperballo* which literally means “to throw beyond.” The idea is to excel, exceed, surpass, or transcend. If you used to be able to throw a ball thirty yards, and now you can throw it sixty yards, you have greatly “exceeded” in your throwing ability. The apostle Paul liked using this word. Notice those things he said were “exceeding.”

THE POWER OF GOD. “And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power” (Eph. 1:19). God’s power is exceedingly great, illustrated by His creative work, miracles, providential care, and, most importantly, in raising Jesus from the dead and exalting Him above all things (vv. 20-23). This exceeding great power has now provided our salvation in Christ.

THE GRACE OF GOD. “That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:7). “By their prayer for you who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you” (2 Cor. 9:14). While our sin is exceedingly terrible, the grace of God is exceedingly greater to save us from our sins.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST. “To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge” (Eph. 3:19). Our word is here translated “passes” or “surpasses.” The love of Christ in all its manifold expressions far surpasses the human ability alone to discover and comprehend. Only by divine revelation can we hope to grasp a measure of its fullness and joy.

OUR FUTURE GLORY. “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Cor. 4:17). Because of what God has done for us in Christ, we have great hope in His promise of an exceeding and eternal glory beyond this life. We must remember that what we endure in this life is nothing compared to our eternal reward. Paul wrote, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18)

God and His works exceed all our expectations and desires (Eph. 3:20). Let us strive to not only meet our spiritual goals but exceed them to the glory of God!