

IMMEASURABLY MORE

THOUGHTS FROM MAJOR PAMELA PINKSEN

READ EPHESIANS 3:14-21

One day when our son was about two or three, he really wanted some Teddy Graham cookies as a snack. I allowed him to put his little hand in the bag to grab some, but when he retracted it, he had retrieved only one piece, which he tightly gripped within his tiny little fist. Those cookies are very small and I knew that one was not enough for him. However, in my attempt to give him more, I could not convince him to open his hand in order for me to do so. He was so afraid of losing what he had, he limited himself from having even more.

One of the troubling mindsets perpetuated in the world today is that of scarcity. The belief that there is simply “not enough” to go around fuels an urgency to behave in ways that lead to unfortunate consequences. It leaves us grabbing, clutching, and hoarding such things as wealth, power, possessions, notoriety with devastating effects upon us, others and our planet. In addition, a personal sense of insecurity can render us unable to be generous with praise, mercy, forgiveness, kindness and love, all of which are shared less and less in our day. Out of anxiety and fear, our individual worlds can get smaller and smaller, as we cling to the “little” we have and limit ourselves from all the “more” there is to experience.

As imagebearers and citizens of God’s Kingdom however, we are to operate in ways that represent the God we serve - for ours is a God of abundant generosity and unlimited resources. Ours is a God of immeasurably more. This was the desire of Paul’s heart when he wrote the words captured in the letter to the church at Ephesus. The portion of scripture above is filled with words that point to the expansiveness of God, ie. “every family in heaven and on earth,” “riches,” “extravagant dimensions of His love” (MSG), “surpasses knowledge,” “be filled with all the fullness,” and “abundantly far more.”

There is no scarcity with God. And as children of God, we are invited into this expansiveness, to experience the extravagance of love that will fill us up and allow us to “live full lives, full in the fullness of God” (MSG). That fullness of life is for the blessing of the world. Often times we may feel small – a “little light” shining in the darkness – our “little” offering in the face of great need. Yet, there is plenty of everything with God. Just like I had an entire bag full of cookies ready to pour out to my little boy, God has riches in all things we would need to be participants in His mission in the world. Our “little” can be “more” with God, if only we would open ourselves up to receive it.

Paul finishes this prayer by using the words “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than we can either ask or imagine...” So often we have stopped there when reciting this verse. But that’s not the fullness of what it says. It ends with the words “according to your power within us.” We need not engage in Mission with small prayers and small expectations. Our faith, though little at times, is in a big God. Our impact on this world can be as large as His power within us. Our abundant generosity and love can reflect our generous and loving Father.

SO LET'S RIGHTSIZE OUR PRAYERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHO OUR GOD IS, OPEN OURSELVES UP TO BOTH RECEIVE FROM HIM AND GIVE TO OTHERS AND 'ASK THE LORD WHO DOES IMMEASUREABLY MORE TO DO MORE, SO MUCH MORE, WITH ME.'