

## **Cliff's Notes**

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*"God is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us." Eph. 3:20*

The verse begins with, "God is able." Do you see God as able? Able to change your situation? Able to provide for your needs? Able to change your disposition? Able to change the way you are? How "able" is God in your life? The Bible says that He is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think. Really? Beyond all that we ask or think? Can God really do that in my life? I believe He is able but can He be "able" for me? What's the catch? Read the rest of the verse: "...according to the power that works within us." What power? The power of God's Holy Spirit inside of every Christian! The truth is this, God wants to do so much more with you and in you than He has ever done before. Your greatest days of ministry for the sake of Christ are before you. Your greatest days of impact for the Kingdom are in your future, not your past! He wants you to start today on the road to "dependence." He is able to change your situation. He is able to change your circumstances. He is able to change you. God is able!

Are you seeking God today? I mean really seeking God. I said to our church staff this week, "I believe that when I stand before our people on Sunday morning I will be standing in front of some of the best Christian people I have ever known. They are hard working, faithful servants of God. I think they all believe God can do anything. I think we all believe God can do anything. But I am concerned that while we believe 'God can' we must move to a higher plane so we can know 'God will.'" There is a vast difference in believing and knowing. There is a great difference in knowing God can and knowing God will. I want us to be people who know, not only that God can do something but that He will do it! God has not changed and He is still able! Our greatest days for God are just ahead!

Pastor Cliff

## **The Top 5 Reasons To Study The Bible**

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*by Josh Jenkins*

It will make you a strong Christian. Spiritual strength brings many benefits both inside and outside of the church. People who have spiritual strength understand leadership, ethics, and they make good choices. These people are highly valued as business people, moms and dads, community leaders, politicians, and more. Making good decisions will help lead you to a life with many blessings.

It reminds you of salvation. The Bible teaches that after you experience salvation, you can't lose it. Even if you really mess up, God still calls you His child. Reading the Bible reminds us that God accepts and loves us, even though we sin.

It gives us confidence. God makes a lot of good promises for our life. One of my favorite promises is in Jeremiah 29:11 which says: "I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." It's exciting to know that God is planning something great for our lives. Reading His Word helps us understand His plan.

It produces joy and peace. Sometimes life is tough. Reading the Bible helps us feel joy and peace during the roughest storms of life. It reminds us of God's promises.

It guides our decisions. Those who study the Bible make excellent decisions and become strong leaders.



## **COMING JUNE 22-25**

"Boomerang Express" is the theme for this year's Vacation Bible School. It is scheduled for June 22-25, 9:00 AM-noon. This is one of the greatest outreach events geared for children. We are in need of several volunteers to help us minister to the children that God will bring our way. Please sign-up at the information table in the back of the worship room on Sunday or call the church office (750-4673) if you would be willing to help.

# ***Eleven Truths about Lifestyle Worship***

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*by Lewis Clark*

Truth #8:

Worshiping God leads to ultimate fulfillment; worshiping anything other than God is idolatry.

The Psalm boldly declared: “You will show me the path of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with You forever”. (Psalm 16:11) The theologian Augustine wisely observed: “You have made us for Yourself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You.”

Have you ever walked into the building on Sunday restless? I venture to say that we all have brought a little baggage to the throne of Christ on any given Sunday morning. How about the other days of the week? For that matter, is our worship limited to only singing a song or during a time of prayer?

In this high-tech world of attempting to stay connected with everything, every day, every hour, every minute, it is easy to become out of balance and lose sight of our lives through the eyes of Christ. Think of how much we are missing out! Would we rather choose to set our minds on the things above? (Colossians 3)

I challenge and encourage each of us to embrace the Psalmist’s words. Christ wants us to “run after His commands, for they will set us free” (Psalm 119:32) and embrace the “path”, the “presence”, and the “pleasures” of our relationship with Him! (Psalm 16:11) It’s personal and it’s real. It’s worship at its highest level. It’s a state of holiness that will cause you to be “intoxicated” with His Spirit! God will enable you to be an instrument of peace that will in turn change others as well. I know. He changed me!

This month we will be introducing contemporary, upbeat worship songs with a balance of some old standards that we not only love to sing, but have a message of love and hope in Christ. Let’s strive to live the words of our worship songs. That will be the ultimate fulfillment to our lives as we bring glory and honor to Him!

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## ***Children’s Corner***

*by Kerry Gobel*

Sunday, June 7, an exciting new class in the New Hope Children’s Program will kick-off. The new class, called Disciples in Action, is for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls. The class will include:

- Worshiping and singing praises to God in the first part of the adult worship service.
- Learning God’s Word during class time Bible lessons and group discussions.
- Each week, applying to their lives, personal truths and lessons learned.

The summer study of Genesis will be for those students who just completed 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

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## ***Important Events***

### ⇒ ***Children’s Day***

Sunday, May 3, we will honor our children and express our appreciation to all the volunteers who work each week to care for and teach our children during our worship time. The children in our NRG class will be singing for us. Come early for the best seats in the house!

### ⇒ ***B.A.S.E. 301***

If you have completed B.A.S.E. 101 and 201, then you are ready to advance to the next step. B.A.S.E. 301 will be offered May 3 at the RAC, 3:30 PM–5:30 PM. This class is taught by Josh Jenkins. Please sign up in advance for all B.A.S.E. classes.

### ⇒ ***Ironmen’s Meeting***

Thursday, May 7, all men are invited to a Men’s Bible Study, 6:00 AM at the RAC. Coffee and a light breakfast will be served.

### ⇒ ***Mother’s Day***

Sunday, May 10

### ⇒ ***Graduate’s Day***

Sunday, May 17 we will recognize our graduates during our worship service.

### ⇒ ***Mother/Daughter Luncheon***

All ladies are invited to come to the RAC for lunch on Sunday, May 17 immediately following church. You will enjoy the food, fellowship and entertainment by Trish Morris. This event is for all women and girls. You can purchase tickets at the women’s table on Sundays or at the church office, 1003 Century St. The cost is \$5.00.

### ⇒ ***B.A.S.E. 101***

Sunday, May 17 we will offer B.A.S.E. 101 at the RAC from 3:30 PM-5:30 PM. This class is designed to tell you everything about our church, our beliefs and our priorities. Each participant receives a binder that serves as a church handbook. Completion of this class is required for church membership. Please sign up at the information table on Sunday morning or online at [www.newhopefellowship.com](http://www.newhopefellowship.com).

### ⇒ ***Women of Hope Craft Day***

All ladies are invited to enjoy a day of fellowship while making beautiful mosaic crafts. Mary Albright will be our craft instructor. Please sign up in advance for this class at the women’s table on Sunday. Plan now to join us Saturday, May 30, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. This class concludes on Monday, June 1, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM.

### ⇒ ***Baptism Service***

Sunday, May 31, we will baptize during our morning worship. If you would like to be baptized, please contact the church office and someone will be happy to share with you about baptism and the details of that morning.