

Prayer does change things—
superabundantly.

NEVER A POWER BLACKOUT

BY CHARLES C. RYRIE

WATCHING ONE OF our children, who was then just a baby, eagerly eating her supper, I said to my wife, "Look how she's gobbling that food up!"

"You're right," replied my wife. "Only I think it is more accurate to say she's gobbling it down."

I'm not really sure whether people gobble food up or down. Perhaps both. But what my wife and I were trying to express was the eager manner in which our daughter was eating. "Gobble" itself is a vivid word. Adding the "up" or "down" makes it even more expressive.

The original language in which the New Testament was written also has a way of intensifying the meaning of a word by adding a prefix to it. The

apostle Paul did this when he wrote in *Romans* 5:20: "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." The word "abound"—like "gobble"—is vivid in itself, but when intensified, it becomes even more meaningful. Sin is ugly, rampant, devastating. But the grace of Jesus Christ superabounds to the one who will receive His gift of forgiveness.

Can you imagine what would happen to the meaning of a word to which *two* prefixes were added? Especially if that word were the same one—abound? It would mean "much, much more abound" or "super, super-abound." An overwhelming abundance.

This is exactly the way the Bible describes God's power to answer prayer!

"Now unto Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (*Ephesians 3:20*). "Exceeding abundantly" is a double compound of the word "abound." Our God is able to do much, much more, or super, superabundantly above what we ask or think!

Whatever the problem that faces you, or whatever the question that perplexes you, or whatever be the cry of your heart, God's power super, superabounds when we come to Him in prayer and ask Him to help us.

But we must come to Him without ulterior motives, for God will not let His unlimited power be used to satisfy our whims or selfish desires. No one can take away one bit of God's inestimable power from Him, but anyone can limit its use in his or her life by selfishness.

Prayer does change things because the one to whom we pray is able to do superabundantly above all that we could ask or think.

Let's practice gobbling up (or is it down?) some of that power.



ONE MAN

A man who had got himself into a precarious state of mind because of his conviction that one person—and himself in particular—was of little consequence in the world, took a trip by sea in the hope of ridding himself of his frustration.

One dark evening at sea, shortly after he had gone to bed, he heard the cry "Man overboard!". He was in his pajamas, he could not swim or man a lifeboat; what could he do? He reached for his flashlight and directed its beam from the porthole upon the sea. The light fell upon the man in the water, to whom a life preserver was then quickly thrown, and a life was saved.

The next day the man who beamed the flashlight through the porthole said, "Now I realize that every man can throw a little light into the dark parts of the world."

RALPH L. WOODS