

"As the hart panteth  
after the water brooks . . ."

# in the QUIET place

a personal message

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RECENTLY WHEN our baby was eating her supper eagerly, I said to my wife, "Look how she's gobbling it up." My wife corrected me. "No, the baby is gobbling it *down*."

I'm really not sure whether you gobble something up or down, but both my wife and I were trying to express the unusually eager manner in which our baby was taking her food. In order to intensify the meaning of "gobble" we had added the "up" and "down."

The Greek language of the New Testament uses this same method. When it became desirable to intensify the meaning of a word, the Greeks added a preposition to the front of the word. Such a prefix is added, for instance, to the verb "abound" in Romans 5:20: "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." The *abound* is something like the word *gobble* in that both words are rather intensive in themselves. But when something is added they become even more meaningful.

Can you imagine what happens to a word when two prefixes are added? If, as in Romans 5:20, a single prefix changes the meaning to "much more abound," how can we properly translate a word that is doubly compounded—especially if the root word were that word *abound*? It would mean "much, much more abound," or "super, super-abound"—an overwhelming abundance.

*This is exactly the way God's power to answer prayer is described!*

You know the verse: "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20). The phrase "exceeding abun-

dantly" is a double compound of the root "abound." God is able to do much, much more, or super, superabundantly above what we can ask or think!

Think of all the things you could ask God. I am sure you could write down a very long list. Now add to this list all the things you might *think* to ask God about, though for one reason or another you might not ask Him. This would be a much longer list. But the Bible declares that God is able to do above all the things on that long list. Whatever the problem that faces you, whatever the question, whatever the request, whatever the cry of the heart, God's power super, superabounds when we ask Him to undertake for us.

As if this were not enough, the verse takes us one step further. Actually, it says: "Now unto Him that is able to do *above* all things—certainly, super, superabundantly above all that we ask or think." It is not only that God is able to do much, much more than we ask or think, but God is able to do above all that anyone knows.

The all-powerful God whom we know through Jesus Christ is able to do beyond anything we can know, and this is why He can do exceeding abundantly above anything His finite children can ask or think.

No more reassuring words could have been written to encourage our prayer life. Do not limit God, for He is the One who "is able to do beyond all things; superabundantly beyond and over and above those things that we are asking for ourselves and considering" (Wuest's Expanded Translation).

