



EPHESIANS 3:20

# STOP SHRINKING & START BELIEVING!

Dr. Darryl T. Canady

Rodman Street Church

9.7.25

# **STOP SHRINKING AND START BELIEVING!**

## **EPHESIANS 3:20**

**DR. DARRYL T. CANADY**

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**Title: Stop Shrinking and Start Believing: Unleashing God's Limitless Power**

**Sermon Summary:** In this powerful message, we're challenged to 'stop shrinking and start believing.' The central scripture, Ephesians 3:20, reminds us that God is 'able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.' This sermon challenges believers to stop limiting themselves and their faith, and instead to embrace the limitless power of God. The pastor encourages the congregation to dream big, pray boldly, and trust in God's ability to work miracles. The message focuses on recognizing God as the source of all power, understanding the magnitude of His capabilities, and realizing that God shares His power with believers to accomplish His purposes.

We're encouraged to break free from the 'cage of comfort' and venture into the 'wilderness of possibility.' This journey requires us to tap into the divine power already within us, a power that often lies dormant because we limit ourselves. The message draws fascinating parallels between our spiritual growth and a baby leaving the womb - both require stepping into the unknown to fully realize our potential. As we reflect on this, let's consider: Are we living up to God's vision for us, or are we shrinking our dreams to fit our own limited perspective?

## **Chapters**

### **Chapter 1: The Source of Our Power**

Introducing the concept of stopping shrinking and starting to believe in God's power.

### **Chapter 2: The Size of God's Power**

Exploring the magnitude of God's power and how it exceeds our expectations.

### **Chapter 3: Sharing God's Power**

Discussing how God shares His power with us and calls us to use it.

#### **Key Points:**

- God is the source of our power, not our own abilities or resources
- The size of God's power far exceeds what we can ask or imagine
- God shares His power with believers to work through them
- We must stop shrinking our faith and start believing in God's promises
- Our prayers and vision should match the greatness of God
- The community of hope is called to think bigger and act bolder in faith
- God's supply is always greater than our need
- We insult God when we limit Him with small requests or dreams

### **Scripture Reference:**

- Ephesians 3:20 - "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us"

### **Stories:**

- The pastor shares a personal anecdote about confronting discrimination at work and standing up for himself
- He mentions the story of Barack Obama becoming the first Black president of the United States
- The sermon includes references to Kamala Harris becoming the first Black woman vice president and Ketanji Brown Jackson becoming a Supreme Court justice
- The pastor tells a story about how he met his wife at a club, illustrating the importance of pursuing what you want
- He uses the analogy of driving behind someone who is riding their brakes to encourage the congregation to "take your foot off the brake and put the accelerator" in their faith

**Here are the scripture references explicitly mentioned or alluded to in the sermon, along with some relevant verses that align with the main themes:**

### **Explicitly mentioned:**

1. Ephesians 3:20 (This is the main verse for the sermon)
2. Romans 4:21
3. 2 Corinthians 9:8
4. Philippians 3:21
5. 2 Timothy 1:12
6. Hebrews 7:25
7. Jude 1:24

**Alluded to:**

1. Genesis 6-9 (Noah's ark story)
2. Isaiah 54:17 ("No weapon formed against you shall prosper")

**Relevant verses that align with the sermon's themes:**

1. Matthew 17:20 - "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."
2. Mark 9:23 - "'If you can?'" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."
3. Luke 1:37 - "For no word from God will ever fail."
4. Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

5. Jeremiah 32:27 - "I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?"
6. Job 42:2 - "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted."
7. Romans 8:31 - "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"
8. 2 Corinthians 5:7 - "For we live by faith, not by sight."
9. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."
10. Psalm 37:4 - "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

These verses support the sermon's main themes of having faith in God's power, believing in the impossible, and trusting in God's ability to exceed our expectations.

### **SERMON QUOTES:**

Stop shrinking and start believing. Stop shrinking your prayers and start believing His promises. Stop shrinking your dreams and start believing His destiny.

God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask, think, or imagine.

If the vision don't scare you, it's too small. If you ain't scared, I'm scared as hell, but I still believe.

Today's accomplishments were yesterday's impossibilities.

You got to stop shrinking back in fear and start believing forward in faith.

The community of hope is not limited by what you can see. It is fueled by what we believe.

God works in our lives as big as our faith will allow him to.

God ain't going to give you a dream and then say you can do it without Him. God wants to be in the plan.

No matter what the challenges we face, God is still God.

God's supply is greater than your need. God's power is bigger than our budget. Bigger than our buildings. Bigger than our battles.

See, you got to understand that if God said you're supposed to be there, you're supposed to be there.

The I am will always determine the I can. God always matches the dream to the dreamer.



**KEEP  
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**Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from the transcription:**

### **Day 1: Unlimited Power of God**

**Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21**

**Devotional:** Today's passage reminds us of the limitless power of God. Just as the sermon emphasized "God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think," we're called to expand our faith and expectations. Reflect on areas in your life where you might be limiting God. Are there dreams or prayers you've been hesitant to bring before Him? Remember, God's supply is greater than your need. Take time to pray boldly today, asking God to stretch your faith and vision to match His unlimited power.

### **Day 2: Stepping Out of Comfort**

**Reading: Joshua 1:1-9**

**Devotional:** The sermon challenged us to "stop shrinking and start believing." Today's reading shows Joshua being called to lead Israel into the Promised Land - a daunting task that required great faith. Like Joshua, we're often called to step out of our "comfort cages" into the "wilderness of possibility." What comfort zones is God asking you to



leave? Remember, just as God promised Joshua, He promises us His presence and strength. Take a step of faith today, trusting that God is with you.

### **Day 3: The Source of Our Power**

#### **Reading: Acts 1:1-8**

**Devotional:** The sermon emphasized that God is the source of our power, not our own abilities or resources. In Acts 1:8, Jesus promises the Holy Spirit as the source of power for His disciples. This power isn't just for personal benefit, but to be witnesses for Christ. Reflect on how you're relying on God's power in your life. Are you trying to accomplish things in your own strength? Ask God to fill you afresh with His Holy Spirit today, empowering you to be His witness in your sphere of influence.

### **Day 4: Believing for the Impossible**

#### **Reading: Mark 9:14-29**

**Devotional:** "If the vision doesn't scare you, it's too small," the sermon declared. In today's reading, we see Jesus challenging a father to believe for the impossible healing of his son. Jesus states, "All things are possible for one who believes." What impossible situations are you facing? Like the father in the story, we may find ourselves saying, "I believe; help my unbelief!" Bring your "impossible" situations to God today, asking Him to strengthen your faith and do what only He can do.

## **Day 5: Community of Hope**

**Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

**Devotional:** The sermon spoke of the "Community of Hope" and how God multiplies His power through our unity. Today's passage reminds us that we are all part of the body of Christ, each with unique gifts and roles. How are you using your gifts to build up the body of Christ? Reflect on ways you can contribute to your church community this week. Remember, we are stronger together, and God works powerfully through our unity. Pray for your church leaders and fellow believers today, asking God to use you to bring hope and encouragement to others.

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**Small Group Guide: "Stop Shrinking and Start Believing"**

**Key Scripture: Ephesians 3:20**

### **Opening Prayer:**

Lord, help us to stop shrinking and start believing in Your limitless power. Open our hearts and minds to Your message and guide our discussion. Amen.

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. God is the source of our power, not our own abilities or resources.
2. God's power is limitless and exceeds anything we can ask or imagine.
3. God shares His power with us to use for His purposes and the community.
4. We often limit ourselves and God by thinking too small or being afraid to ask for big things.
5. The Community of Hope is called to believe in God's vision beyond our current circumstances.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. The pastor says, "Shrinking is when we pray tiny prayers that don't match the size of our God." How have you found yourself praying "tiny prayers" recently? What might it look like to pray bigger prayers?
2. Reflect on the statement: "If people were to judge you by your prayers, how great would God look to them?" How does this challenge your prayer life?
3. The sermon mentions "comfort cages" that can hold us back. What are some "comfort cages" in your life that might be limiting your faith or vision?

4. How does the idea that "God's supply is greater than your need" challenge or encourage you in your current situation?
5. The pastor emphasizes that God has already put power within us. What gifts or abilities do you have that you might not be fully utilizing for God's purposes?
6. Discuss the statement: "If the vision doesn't scare you, it's too small." How does this apply to your personal life or our church community?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. This week, challenge yourself to pray for something that seems impossible without God's intervention.
2. Identify one "comfort cage" in your life and take a small step to move beyond it this week.
3. Reflect on your gifts and abilities. Choose one way you can use them more fully to serve God and others in the coming month.
4. Participate in Operation Inasmuch or another community service opportunity to put faith into action.

5. Memorize Ephesians 3:20 as a reminder of God's limitless power working in and through you.

### **Closing Prayer:**

God, help us to stop shrinking and start believing in Your immeasurable power. Give us the courage to dream big, pray boldly, and act in faith. Use us to build Your Community of Hope. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **ADDITIONAL STUDY QUESTIONS:**

1. How might our lives and communities change if we truly believed in God's limitless power as described in Ephesians 3:20?
2. In what ways have you been 'shrinking' in your faith or dreams, and how can you start believing for bigger things?
3. How does the concept of 'getting out of the cage and into the wilderness' apply to your spiritual journey?
4. What does it mean to pray with 'Abrahamic faith,' and how can we cultivate this kind of bold trust in God?

5. How can we balance ambitious vision with practical action in our personal lives and in our church community?
6. In what areas of your life or ministry do you need to 'stop shrinking and start believing'?
7. How does the idea that 'God's supply is greater than your need' challenge or encourage you in your current circumstances?
8. What might it look like to truly activate the power God has already placed within us, as individuals and as a church?
9. How can we foster a culture of unity and shared purpose in our community of faith to see God's power multiplied?
10. In what ways can we demonstrate that 'God is still God' in the face of personal and societal challenges?