

Beyond: From Then to Now

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Ephesians 3:20-21

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,
²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?
2. Have you ever experienced anything so amazing in your life that it surpassed your expectations, so much so that you couldn't have even imagined it beforehand? What was it, and how did it impact your life and your expectations moving forward?
3. The word "Now" is a beautiful and challenging word in this passage. As Christians, we can easily lose sight of how God is present with us and for us in the moment. Where can you affirm God's presence in your life, right **now**?
4. This passage is a kind of prayer for the Church. What is your prayer for the Church in the 21st century—both the local church and the wider Body of Christ?
5. This sermon series and theme, "Beyond," come from The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) gathering for the **General Assembly** in July. The General Assembly is when the denomination does the worshipful work of authorizing leaders, passing resolutions, and developing denominational direction. You can learn more about the General Assembly at ga.disciples.org or from the QR code below. There are a number of resolutions up for vote, including one that renames "Sense-of-the-Assembly" resolutions to "Statements of Witness" and another called *Resolution Concerning Disability Justice and Inclusion in all Ministries within the Christian Church*. Read these and reflect on/discuss them.



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