

Above All That We Can Imagine

“Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Ephesians 3:20)

I used to think that “Homecoming Sunday” was one of the greatest days of my life. Besides seeing people that I didn’t see very often, and hearing the best singing this side of heaven, I enjoyed the most wonderful food ever cooked. My favorite foods were Momma’s sweet potatoes and deviled eggs, Sister Della Gosnell’s fried chicken and macaroni and cheese, and Sister Louise Thompson’s pound cake.

The men put up makeshift tables out beside the church. Then the women, who had cooked most of Saturday, spread all their special dishes on the table. There was plenty for everyone, and usually we took home a few of Momma’s leftovers. When Brother J. T. Gosnell rang the church bell, it was time to go back in the church to hear the singing and a sermon from a visiting preacher. In my memory, it was above all that could be imagined.

In the Scriptures there are many illustrations of the phrase, “exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.” For instance, Ruth enjoyed great bounty from the hands and heart of Boaz. And when Jesus miraculously fed the multitude, it was far beyond anyone’s expectations. My favorite illustration of this statement is the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15, a story intertwined in these devotional thoughts.

Our heavenly Father does “above” all that we can imagine! When we come home to God, we are affectionately received! No doubt, the prodigal thought that his father would not even want to see him. But before he saw his father, his father saw him. And before he got to the father, the father ran to meet him. Also, before he could fall at the father’s feet to confess his wrongs, the father had fallen on his neck to kiss him.

Our heavenly Father does “abundantly above” all that we can imagine! When we come home to God we are overwhelmingly received! What the prodigal’s father did for him was bigger than his wildest dreams. He had thought about the servant’s garb, but he wore the “best robe.” He had thought about the bare feet of the servants, but he got the shoes of sonship. He thought he would be marked with the servants, but he received the family signet ring.

Our heavenly Father does “exceeding abundantly above” all that we can imagine! When we come home to God, we are lavishly received! Not only was the prodigal welcomed, but welcomed with a celebration! Not only was a meal prepared, but the fatted calf was killed! Not only was a feast enjoyed, but enjoyed with music and dancing! Oh, dear friend, if you are away from God, come home today to His love and experience above all that you can imagine.