

ENLARGEMENT

2 COR 6:11 O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged.

2 COR 6:12 Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels.

2 COR 6:13 Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto *my* children,) **be ye also enlarged.**

Paul lived and walked in the enlargement of the Holy Spirit. His spirit (inner man) was enlarged of God. His deepest burden was that all believers live a life of enlargement.

Paul saw God's people in Corinth as limited and cramped (restricted) in their ability to release the Spirit. Paul desired that these believers flow in the divine life of the Holy Spirit, however the river of God in the Corinthian Church had obviously been reduced to a trickle.

2 COR 6:10 As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, **yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.**

The Gk. Word for "possessing" is "katecho". It means "to hold down".

The Gk. Word for "all things" is "pas". It means all, any, whole, as many as, thoroughly, whatsoever.

Paul lived in and experienced the **river of God.**

"yet making many rich" i.e. spiritually rich.

Paul could truthfully say, "possessing all things"

Paul's leadership did not limit them; they limited themselves – they restricted (cramped) their own spiritual growth.

Take note of Paul's words. "ye are straitened in your own bowels." (v.12)

The Gk. Word for "ye are straightened" is "stenochoreo". It means to hem in closely;
cramp: distress, straiten.

2 COR 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Eph 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

Eph 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

Eph 3:18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

Eph 3:19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, **that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.**

Eph 3:20 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,**

Enlargement: by exercise

Paul monitored his spiritual strength as an athlete would progressively test his physical strength for the big event. In this way he never offended or grieved God, by overstating his ability. He increased himself daily to become one of most powerful Apostles of his time. He maintained this level of ministry until he was martyred.

ACT 24:16 And herein do **I exercise myself**, to have always a conscience **void of offence toward God**, and *toward* men.

The Gk. Word for “exercise” is “asko”. It means to elaborate; train, strive, exercise.

HEB 10:12-22

The new covenant (v.16), dealt with sin forever (v.17). This enables a pure consciousness towards God (v.22). With this knowledge of perfection we have boldness to fellowship with God Himself (v.19). There can be no thought of partial separation; a cloudy conscience limiting God’s power and presence. Christ became our advocate and cancelled all sin forever. God has not only provided a better covenant, but a permanent perfection “In Christ”.

EZE 21:27 **I will overturn, overturn, overturn**, it: and it shall be no *more*, until he come whose right it is; and **I will give it him**.

The Heb. word for “overturner” is “avvah”. It means overthrower.

God is the “overturner” or overthrower.

He has the right to give honour and position to whom He will.

Enlargement: by humility

1 KIN 17:3 **Get thee hence**, and turn thee eastward, and **hide thyself by the brook Cherith**, that *is* before Jordan.

God said to Elijah “**get thee hence!**” It is not clear why God took Elijah away from the public eye; some scholars say, to prevent exposure to the dangers of pride. Whatever the spiritual reasons for this interlude of rest from ministry, there was no change in his effectiveness as a prophet. He still has future work to do. (Luk 1:17)

God said “**Turn eastward to the brook Cherith**” a tributary of the Jordan River. Jordan represents the place where “flesh “dies.

“Hide thyself”. This was a spiritual commandment or directive. God cannot give His divine authority, unless we hide our “flesh”.

Paul said, “lest I should be exalted above measure”.

Paul had concerns, which he happily shared with many.

Lest the “I” in me – the ego – the “self” part of man should be elevated to a place where God will no longer allow His river of revelation to flow in the dimension that He allowed in times past.

To serve God in our own strength is “iniquity.” Consecrated Christians are confronted with that inner conviction of the Spirit “Hide thyself.”

Enlargement: by paying the price

LUK 14:28 "For which of you, intending to build a tower, **sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost**, whether he have *sufficient* to finish it? "

MK 8:34 And when he had called the people *unto him* with his disciples also, he said unto them, "**Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**" ³⁵"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but **whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospels, the same shall save it.**" ³⁶"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? "

2 SAM 24:24 And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy *it* of thee at a price: **neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing.** So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

King David had the favour and position to accept the gift of land. Kings in that era often received gifts. However, David wanted to purchase the land outright, because the land would be used to offer sacrifices to the Lord. (2Sam 24:18-25)

In the third chapter of Philippians Paul shares his desperation to pay the spiritual price that God demanded.

Phl 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those **I counted loss** for Christ. ⁸ Yea doubtless, and **I count all things *but* loss** for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, **that I may win Christ,**

Phl 3:10 **That I may know him,** and the power of his resurrection, **and the fellowship of his sufferings,** being made conformable unto his death;

Phil 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind*, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for **the prize of the high calling** of God in Christ Jesus.

The Greek word for “I countered” (v.7) is “hegemai”. It means to deem, consider: account, esteem, govern, judge, have rule over, support, think.

The Greek word for “loss” (v.7) is “zemia”. It means detriment: damage, loss.

Most people know about the prices of a loaf of bread, or a liter of milk. However, when it comes to Christian living, it seems that many cannot comprehend the content of this epistle. Phrases like; “I countered loss for Christ”, “I count all things but loss”, “I have suffered the loss of all things”, “count them but dung”, “the fellowship of His sufferings”, “prize of the high calling”. It could seem to some, that Paul had lost touch with reality. However, I believe that the “call to ministry” holds the key to the understanding of this chapter.

The Greek word for “calling” is “klesis”. It means an invitation, calling. God “invites” us to follow him in ministry.

Luk 5:11 And when they had brought their ships to land, **they forsook all, and followed him.**

Payment must be made for an effective ministry!

Enlargement: by ministerial humility.

Paul was not motivated by the glamour of apostolic ministry or the limelight of larger meetings. He did not think he was a wonderful orator. (1 Cor 2:1)
He gave all honour to God for all his ministerial gifts and abilities.

1Cor 2:4 And my speech and my preaching *was not with enticing words* of man's wisdom, but **in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:**

1Cor 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

MK 9:9 And as they came down from the mountain, **he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen**, till the Son of man were risen from the dead.

ACT 3:12 And when Peter saw *it*, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or **why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?**

Enlargement: by comprehension.

EPH 3:18 **May be able to comprehend** with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, **that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.**

Paul had a vision to apprehend the heavenly realm and be filled with the fullness of God. He desired the Ephesians to apprehend the same vision.

2 COR 2:14 Now thanks *be* unto God, which always **causeth us to triumph in Christ**, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. ¹⁵**For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ**, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

ROM 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? **If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?** 32He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also **freely give us all things?**

Once we believe that God is truly directing our movements, we can begin to believe that we are conquerors in His service.

ROM 8:37 Nay, in all these things **we are more than conquerors** through him that loved us.

Walking in enlargement is often just being mindful of the heavenly realm.

HEB 11:16 But now **they desire a better *country***, that is, **an heavenly**: wherefore **God is not ashamed to be called their God**: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Once God reveals to His dedicated ministers the better “heavenly” pathway all other paths look unappealing.

HEB 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* **he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

HEB 11:26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for **he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.**

It is imperative that we believe that God will reward us. God will reward us for our ministerial work. God is our righteous paymaster; if we sow to the heavenly realm, we will reap a heavenly reward.

1COR 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, **he shall receive a reward.**

Moses had a wonderful future. As an infant he was adopted into Pharoah's household. He lived in one of the richest palaces of time. One can only imagine what wealth he had at his disposal. However, when a person is destined for "spiritual royalty" that person cannot co-exist with worldly (pharaohs) men. (Exo 2:15) The Bible says that Moses did not fear Pharoah (Heb 11:24-27) He feared God. He esteemed the heavenly riches of Christ far above the earthy riches of Egypt. His fear of God drove him to make a very unusual decision.