



Volume 7, No. 2, February, 2019



More About Jesus

*More about Jesus would I know,
More of His grace to others show;
More of His saving fullness see,
More of His love who died for me.*

*More about Jesus let me learn,
More of His holy will discern;
Spirit of God, my teacher be,
Showing the things of Christ to me.*

*More about Jesus in His Word,
Holding communion with my Lord;
Hearing His voice in ev'ry line,
Making each faithful saying mine.*

*More about Jesus on His throne,
Riches in glory all His own;
More of His kingdom's sure increase;
More of His coming, Prince of peace*

Chorus:

*More, more about Jesus,
More, more about Jesus;
More of His saving fullness see,
More of His love who died for me.*

WORDS: Eliza E. Hewitt (w 1887)
MUSIC: John R. Sweeney (w. 1887)



Immeasurably More

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21.

You know, people can and do think of and accomplish a lot of things – amazing things.

A Leonardo da Vinci can possess the engineering skill to re-route a river and also the artistic ability to paint the most famous enigmatic face of all time.

A Bill Gates can envision and create a software giant that affects the lives of most people on earth.

A Jeff Bezos can take an online bookstore and transform it into the world's largest online sales company that changes the way we all shop, send gifts, and even watch movies.

A Shakespeare and a Dickens can create a host of unique, lifelike, memorable characters and use them to people convoluted plots, and all in the most beautiful language.

And even the most ordinary of us can have dreams for our lives and take action to realize those dreams.

But no one of us, no matter how brilliant or accomplished or determined, can have any effect at all on our greatest problems. Living here, surrounded by our own accomplishments and those of the countless others who have gone before us, we should recognize, nevertheless, that we need someone who can do "immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine." And we will never find that Someone among our peers.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8.

So, what then can God do that is more than we can ask or imagine? How are His thoughts higher than our thoughts and His ways than our ways? What can He do that is more than anyone has ever accomplished? What is it He can do for us that we cannot do for ourselves?

Only God could conceive of and create all that there is. *He set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved. You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At your rebuke they fled; at the sound of your thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place that you appointed for them. You set a boundary that they may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. Psalm 104:5-9.*

Only God could deal with humankind's problem of sin and death. *You know that He appeared to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin. I John 3:5.*

Only God could change people completely, in spite of the old adage that "people never change." *We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life... We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. Romans 6:4,6*

Only God could give His Spirit to live in us, growing the fruit of that Spirit in our lives. *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23.*

And only God could plan and make the way for a glorious, unfathomable life to come for His children. *Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure. I John 3:2-3.*

Only God can do immeasurably more.

Ina McKune, Rolla, MO



Much More

My friend Rhonda and her husband were moving from California to Memphis, Tennessee. They needed to sell their house, although the housing market was down. Since, they had added a large addition for the purpose of having Bible study, Rhonda began praying that a

Christian couple would buy the house. Caring about her neighbors, Rhonda wanted Christians to influence them.

Few people came to look at the house. The housing market was down. None of those who came made offers.

Finally, a Chinese couple came with their realtor to look at the house. Spending a long time considering every room, the husband and wife talked back and forth in Chinese. Rhonda understood none of the conversation, yet it was obvious they were interested. Assuming this family was Buddhist, Rhonda was disappointed. Irritated, she lamented, "OK God, if you want Buddhists to buy this house it's your business."

Finally, the woman came over to Rhonda. "Can I ask you a question?"

"Sure."

"Are you by any chance Christian?"

Surprised, Rhonda answered, "Yes, we are Christians."

The woman continued, "We are Christians, too. We have been praying that we could find a house with a large room where we could have Bible study."

What are you praying? He is able to do much more!

Sally Shank, Oklahoma City, OK



Immeasurably More

When I spent a week at Casa de Esperanza in Mexico, one of the things we did with the children was to pack bags with potatoes, rice, and beans and go out into the community to share our blessings. These were children who could not be taken care of by their parents, or who had no family to take care of them.

When we took that little bag of food up to one of the houses, I realized the house had no windows or doors. A blanket was hung over the doorway to afford a little bit of privacy. The people inside the house were so grateful to receive that food, and the children with me were all smiles as they helped others. Not only did the children with me feel blessed that they could share, but it made me realize just what I have that I sadly take for granted most of the time.

I watched, as you probably did, when Hurricane Harvey hit south Texas. People's homes were destroyed by the winds and the waters. They lost everything they owned. Did it make you stop and think about all that you have

around you? The overwhelming sentiment, however, was, “My family is safe and that is all that matters.”

God blesses us, immeasurably more than we can think or imagine! I don’t want to dismiss the physical ways God has blessed us; but even if we didn’t have a possession to our names, we would still be very blessed.

When the lame man’s friends lowered him from the roof into the presence of Jesus, they were hoping for a miracle cure. The first thing Jesus said to the man was, “Your sins are forgiven.” Then He told him to take up his bed and walk. Jesus always has His priorities straight. It’s not health or wealth that is the most important thing – it is being right with God.

God blessed us by sending His very own Son to take our place on that cross. Yes, every single one of us has sinned and deserves to die. But who would ever have thought that God would send the very best, even His own Son, to die in our place?

As a new year begins and we look ahead with hope and promise, let’s not dwell on what we can “get,” but focus on the spiritual blessings we have received in Christ Jesus. As we talk with our friends and neighbors, let’s share the good news that we have been blessed, immeasurably more than we could think or imagine.

Lorna Smith, Lubbock, Texas



More

More is a word we hear often in our society. People want more money, more time, more things. We want our children to achieve more. When we go out to eat, we get more food. I knew a little boy who, after opening and exclaiming over numerous Christmas presents, looked around and said, “Is that all? Aren’t there more?”

As I considered this topic, I wondered, can we be rich in “more-ness?” Consider the fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22: *But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

Also, the Apostle Peter wrote in 2 Peter 1:5-11 about the Christian graces for each of our lives: *⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with **love**.*

⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter pointed out the results for those who lack these qualities.

2 Peter 1:9-11: *⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers¹ be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Love is the bookend in the above passages. It is first in one list and last in the other, but both of these apostolic writers, Peter and Paul, saw it as very important and both included it. With this being February, which is sometimes referred to as the month of love, let us consider love.

The word, “love” in various forms appears 235 times in the New Testament. It is in all but one of the New Testament books (ESV). Some examples are:

- Matthew 5:44: But I say to you, **Love** your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
- Matthew 22:37, 39: And he said to him, “You shall **love** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And a second is like it: You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself.
- Luke 7:47b: But he who is forgiven little, **loves** little.”
- John 3:16: “For God so **loved** the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
- John 13:34-35: A new commandment I give to you, that you **love** one another: just as I have **loved** you, you also are to **love** one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have **love** for one another.”
- John 15:9: As the Father has **loved** me, so have I **loved** you. Abide in my **love**.
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7: ⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

- 1 Corinthians 13:13: So now faith, hope, and **love** abide, these three; but the greatest of these is **love**.
- 1 Corinthians 16:14: Let all that you do be done in **love**.
- Philippians 1:9: And it is my prayer that your **love** may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment.
- Colossians 3:14: And above all these put on **love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
- 1 John 3:18: Little children, let us not **love** in word or talk but in deed and in truth.
- 1 John 4:7: Beloved, let us **love** one another, for **love** is from God, and whoever **loves** has been born of God and knows God.
- 1 John 4:19: We **love** because he first **loved** us.
- 1 John 5:2: By this we know that we **love** the children of God, when we **love** God and obey his commandments.

This year of 2019 is still fairly “new” at this point, so may we all “grow more” in all these graces, especially in love for our God, for our Christian family, and for His church.

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, Missouri

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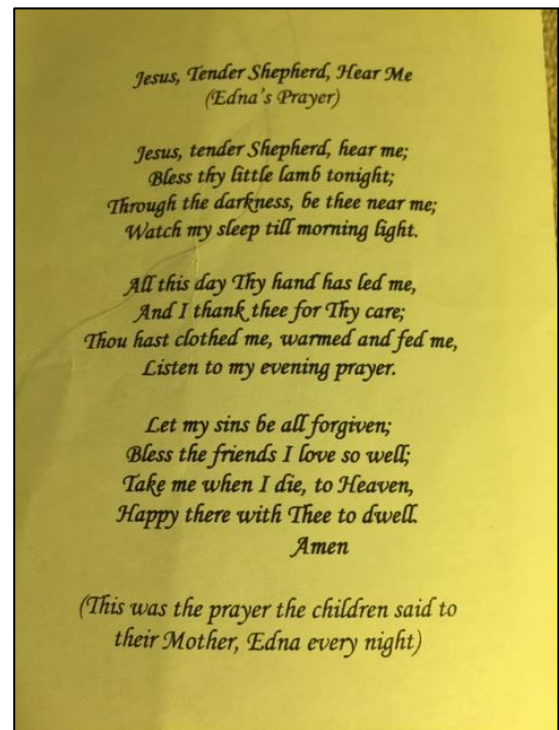
More Love to Thee, O Christ

*More love to Thee, O Christ,
More love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make,
On bended knee;
This is my earnest plea,
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee! More love to Thee.*

*Once earthly joy I craved,
Sought peace and rest;
Now Thee alone I seek,
Give what is best;
This all my prayer shall be,
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More Love to Thee! More love to Thee.*

*Then shall my latest breath
Whisper Thy praise;
This be the parting cry
My heart shall raise,
This still its prayer shall be,
More love, O Christ, to Thee!
More love to Thee.*

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The above poem was passed along to me by Darline Webber. Her mother died when she was very small, but this is a poem she remembers reciting each night before her mother passed away.

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Sunrise
The Newsletter For Women By Christian Women

Sunrise is a monthly newsletter written and/or assembled by members of the Rolla Church of Christ. Sunrise is printed and distributed (primarily via email) to individuals and congregations around the country. All previous issues can be accessed by going to <http://www.seekgrowserveLove.org>. Click on the Resources tab, then on Sunrise Newsletter. You will find the current issue plus all previous issues.

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