

The Power You Need Right Now

Everything about the gospel and the kingdom of God has to do with power!

1 Thessalonians 1:5 – *For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in **power**, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance...*

1 Corinthians 4:20 - *For the kingdom of God is not in word but in **power**.*

With that in mind, we will be looking today at a few passages from the book of Ephesians. We will read two prayers that the Apostle Paul constantly prayed for them. In both prayers, he asks God to give them a revelation of the greatness of the power of God.

Central text: Ephesians 1:15-22

Ephesians 3:14-16, 20-21 - *¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,*

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, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.

From our central text today, let us unpack 1:19

Ephesians 1:19-21 - *and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*

1. The exceeding greatness of His power

Verse 19 AMPC (Amplified Bible) - *And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength*

This passage shows us that His power...

a) Exceeded the power of death

There is no denying the inescapable power of death. Here's how the Bible describes its power: Firstly, 1 Corinthians 15:55 says that death has a *sting* – something that painfully pierces the souls of men. Secondly, we read in Psalms 18:

Psalms 18:4-5 NIV - *The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. 5 The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me.*

This prophetic psalm shows the power of such cords. They dragged even Jesus to its depths, However, a power greater than those chains raised Jesus up and broke all its entanglement. The power of God exceeded the power of the grave. *Death was swallowed up in victory* (1 Corinthians 15:54)

1 Corinthians 15:55 -*“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”*

b) Exceeded the power of satan

Hebrews 2:14b – *that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil*

Jesus went to the lowest parts of the earth, but the devil couldn't keep Him there. Jesus destroyed its power. Jesus came back with the keys of death and hell (Revelation 1:18)

c) We see the exceeding greatness of His power in

- **what Jesus was raised *from* (the dead)**
- **what Jesus was raised *against* (the devil)**
- **what Jesus was raised *to*: To be seated above all principality and power and might and dominion!**

Let us continue to unpack **Ephesians 1:19**: *and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe,*

2. It is power toward us who believe

All this power that exceeded death and satan is toward us, it is for us, who believe!

Ephesians 2:4-7 - *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, **made us alive together** with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and **raised us up together**, and **made us sit together** in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

Alive together, raised together, seated together! Positioned together above all our enemies.

The power of Jesus flows into the church: *“as He is, so are we in this world”* (**1 John 4:17**).

That is why Paul prayed that the Christians in Ephesus would be strengthened with this power in the inner man. It is a power that clothes us, strengthen us and that also

keeps us sane (**2 Timothy 1:7** - *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind*).

One more thought from **Ephesians 1:19**

*and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the **working** of His mighty power which He **worked** in Christ*

3. It is a power that works!

This power works: it worked against death, and it worked against satan.

This power works in real-life situations: it works against cancer, it works against poverty, it works against depression, it works against addiction, it works against curses and the occult. It works!

Ephesians 3:20-21 - *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, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever*

This power works in mind-blowing ways. The greater our revelation of this power the more it works. This is the power you need right now!

It worked for Lazarus, it worked for Jesus, it worked for Paul. Paul had a revelation of the exceeding greatness of this power that raises the dead because he himself was left for dead in Lystra (Acts 14). He was dumped outside the city. However, other believers stood around him and dared to believe the power of God and he was raised back to life and entered the same city he had been ejected out a few hours before.

This power works!

The prayer Paul prayed regularly for the Ephesians, also prayed for the Colossians:

Colossians 1:9-11 *⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ **strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power**, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;*

Now look at Verse **29**: *To this end I also labour, striving according to **His working which works** in me mightily.*

This power works!

The word 'working' in the Greek is the word 'energeia'. That is the root word for 'energy' in English. That is another word to describe the power of God.

Paul said that God's energy, God's power worked in him mightily. This power works!

It is the power you need right now.