

## **Knowing God's Power**

### **Ephesians 1:19-23**

(NKJV) 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 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. 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

We have cut into this passage and must go back to the middle of verse 18, “that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,”

So the apostle Paul wants us to know what is the exceeding greatness of His power.

John Phillips in his commentary talks about the greatness of the power of God.

“We see something of the surpassing greatness of God's power when we turn our giant telescopes toward the sky. Our sun for instance is rated a star of only the fifth magnitude. It shines with a mild, yellow light and is 100,000 times less luminous than its brightest neighbor. Nevertheless the sun evokes our awe. It is 864,000 miles in diameter, consists of some 335 quadrillion cubic miles of violently hot gases, and weighs more than 2 octillion tons. It orbits the center of our galaxy, the Milky Way, once every 200 million years.

“With the naked eye we can see only about 7,000 stars. The Milky Way, however, contains about 100 billion orbiting stars and is 100,000 light-years in diameter—an inconceivable 600 million billion miles of stars!

“Astronomer Edwin Hubble calculated that there are as many galaxies outside the Milky Way as there are stars in it. Since the galaxies are moving farther and farther away from earth, the entire visible universe is expanding in every direction. The distance between the Milky Way and Hydra—a group of distant galaxies that are "as thick as raisins" and some 2.7 billion light-years away—is increasing at a speed of 38,000 miles per second. The Hydra galaxies are receding, in other words, at one-fifth the speed of light. Such is the exceeding greatness of God's power in the macrouniverse.

“We see something of that power, too, in the microuniverse. Atoms are less than one-millionth of the thickness of a human hair. In the nucleus of the atom, numerous protons and neutrons are packed together in an inconceivably small space. Each proton and neutron consists of three even smaller particles called quarks. If a hydrogen atom were four miles in diameter, the nucleus would only be the size of a tennis ball! The remainder of the atom is mostly empty space in which electrons travel around the nucleus, making billions of trips each millionth of a second. Their incredible speed makes the atom behave as though it were solid. Facts such as these make our minds reel, but such is the exceeding greatness of God's power.

We see the exceeding greatness of His power skyward and earthward. In the redemptive process

we see the exceeding greatness of His power "us-ward." It took as much power to effect our redemption as it did to effect creation. **To create, God only had to speak. To redeem, He had to suffer.**

*The John Phillips Commentary Series – Exploring Ephesians: An Expository Commentary.*

Paul used four nearly synonymous Greek words to express God's comprehensive power. Each word, by itself, has a slightly different focus: (1) "power" (*dunamis*) means capability or potential; (2) "working" (*energeian*) means effective or active power; (3) "mighty" (or "might," *kratous*) means a force that overcomes resistance (this word is used only of God, never of believers); and (4) "strength" (*ischuos*) refers to bodily or muscular strength in humans; inherent, vital power in God. Taken together, the four words exhibit God's all-inclusive power. *Life Application Bible Commentary – Ephesians.*

- I. To know what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe
  - A. All around us we see the power of a wise and intelligent creator.
  - B. But there is another power toward or to us who believe.
    1. In chapter 2 we find it is the power to quicken a soul that is dead in trespasses and sin, bound to Satan and under his power.
      - a. Eph 2:5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
    2. That those eyes that were blinded by Satan might see the glory of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
    3. That He would impart to us a new nature, by the Holy Spirit that is God in us.
      - a. Col 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
  - C. The idea of toward us is the idea that power that exercises that will develop us and eventually bring us to heaven.
- II. According to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead
  - A. What kind of power, resurrection power.
    1. When the world was created that took great power.
    2. When God brought the children of Israel up out of Egypt, He did it by His mighty power.
    3. But the saints will for ever sing praises to the great power of God that

raised Jesus from the dead.

4. Because it is that same power that will someday quicken our mortal bodies.
5. Ro 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

III. And seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion,

- A. "The same mighty power that raised Christ from the tomb would now raise Him to the heavenly throne. He stood there for a moment on Olivet to say a final fond farewell to those He had come to redeem, to look one last time into the faces of Peter, James, John, Thomas, Matthew, Philip, Andrew, Nathanael, and the rest of the disciples. He gazed one last time into the face of His beloved mother who now had joined the ranks of His own. Then raising His hands He summoned the angel escort and slowly rose toward the sky. The clouds wrapped around Him, the earth receded, the starry hosts rolled past in grand array, Heaven's gates appeared, and in He went. Amid the hallelujahs of Heaven He made His way along the streets of gold, across the crystal stream, and up to the very throne of God. Then in a battle-scarred body of transfigured human clay, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high." John Phillips Commentary Series, The - The John Phillips Commentary Series – Exploring Ephesians: An Expository Commentary

IV. And every name that is named,

- A. Philippians 2:9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

V. Not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

VI. And He put all things under His feet,

VII. And gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

- A. Which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Just before World War II in the town of Itasca, Texas, a school fire took the lives of 263 children. There was scarcely a family in town which was not touched by this horrifying tragedy. During the war Itasca remained without school facilities. But when the war ended, the town, like many others, began to expand and in fact built a new school which featured what was called "the finest sprinkler system in the world." Civic pride ran high. Honor students were selected to guide citizens and visitors on tours of the new facility to show them the finest, most advanced sprinkler system technology could supply and money could buy. Never again would Itasca be visited by such a tragedy. With the postwar boom the town continued to grow, and seven years later it was

necessary to enlarge the school - and in adding the new wing it was discovered that the sprinkler system had never been connected.

Preaching the Word - Preaching the Word – Ephesians: The Mystery of the Body of Christ.

So it is with many Christians. The mighty power of God is like not connected. They do not understand the working of God's mighty power to convert and to bring them along to heaven.