

The Power of God through Faith

June 6th & 7th, 2015

Ephesians 1:19-20

As we read these verses in Ephesians, we certainly see that there is an “...*immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe....*” If we are serious about studying the Word of God and desire to apply every declaration from His Word to our daily life, we have the responsibility to ask ourselves if this immeasurable greatness of His power is a reality in our lives.

Throughout the Scriptures we are able to identify great power in the individuals and groups that God used. Many of them, in difficult times, were pressed to depend entirely on God experiencing supernatural power that enabled them to accomplish God’s purpose. What was their secret?

A Call to Believe

Is God able? Is He willing? Do we trust Him?

- ❖ We read in Ephesians that the greatness of God’s power toward us is not according to the working of our great faith, but according to the working of His great might.

Romans 12:3 “For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”

- ❖ To make sure that we understand what kind of power he is talking about, Paul says that this power is the same power that was at work when Christ was raised from the dead and God literally seated Him at the right hand of the Father in Heaven.

f This places Jesus... “far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.” Ephesians 1:21

f Jesus Himself said... “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me...” Matthew 28:18

- ❖ With this faith that comes from the confidence of God’s authority and power, not from ourselves or our ability to believe, we are going to grow in our dependency on God. God always gets the glory!

“...toward us who believe...”

- ❖ God, in His greatness and under His authority, for His own reason has chosen to use men and women in the accomplishing of His eternal purposes.
- ❖ As He is using us, the power of God is entrusted to us, and with this power there is a great deal of privilege and responsibility. Therefore, if God is going to use us, we need to be the right instrument that He requires so that we can be used according to His purpose.

A Call to Die

“...the immeasurable greatness of His power... that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead...”

- ❖ The greatest manifestation of power from God throughout the New Testament is always in reference to the resurrection of Christ.

John 12:23 “And Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.’”

Philippians 3:10 “That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death,”

Romans 1:4 “...And [Jesus] was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, ...”

Romans 8:11 “If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

Colossians 2:12 “having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

- ❖ According to all these Scriptures, it is necessary for us to die in order to experience His power.

God shapes us through suffering.

- ❖ The promise of the power of God belongs to the weak.

2 Corinthians 13:4 “For He was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but in dealing with you we will live with Him by the power of God.”

- ❖ God prepares those whom He uses.

2 Corinthians 4:7-12 “But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.”

God deserves the glory!

- ❖ When we experience the power of God and become partakers in His ministry, it is not for self-preservation or self-recognition but it is for the glory of God.
- ❖ If God is going to use us, He will entrust us with His power. Yet it is vital for us to understand that if He bestows His power on us, it is because we are ready to give Him the glory in every aspect where He is using us.
- ❖ God, if you want glory for your Name, here I am, use me!

The example of surrendering to God and receiving power from God in the life of Paul

📖 *Acts 9:15-16*

Colossians 1:29 “Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.”

📖 *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

1 Corinthians 15:10 “But by the grace of God I am what I am, ...”

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