

EPHESIANS 1:19-21 THE EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF GOD'S POWER

We are about to enter the sublimest chambers of the palace where the exceeding riches of God's grace are stored.. Paul is ready to tell us about the exceeding greatness of the power which God is exercising in believers.

Paul is praying that they may advance into the depths of understanding and knowledge and comprehension of the Christian life.

It is God's great plan that we be conformed to the image of His Son. That is the ultimate hope of His calling, the eternal destiny and glory of the believer fulfilled in the coming kingdom. The fullness of that hope will be experienced when we receive the supreme riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. This is too magnificent for words. But we believers are to begin to understand the marvelous magnitude of the blessings of salvation. We have it all now and we will have it throughout eternity.

Paul wants us to know the character of the inheritance to which we are going.

We need to see more and more of what lies ahead of us. We are to have a glimpse of it like Moses did at Mt. Nebo. We are given a glimpse of the transcendent glory. Contemplation of glory is the highway to holiness. We are here on earth, but we need to keep in mind the joy of the glory that awaits. Col 3:2—Set your affections on things above... Meditate upon the glory which He has prepared for us.

Jesus greatest prayer for us was that we would see Him as He is in His glory-Jn 17:24
We shall be perfect without blemish.

Paul is not so much praying that they would get more power, but that they would know the power of God. The object is to give assurance and certainty in order that they would have confidence. Paul is emphasizing the power of God in them rather than the power which God gives to the saints.

1. THE GREATNESS OF THE POWER

A. SALVATION IS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE POWER OF GOD

Salvation is the result of God's power at work-in me and through me.

Preaching is of no value unless it is the demonstration of the Spirit and power.

Romans 1:16, 1 Thess 1:5, Eph 2:10, Phil 1:6,2:13, Col 1:29, 2 Cor 5:17,
Eph 2:1

It takes the power of God to make a Christian.

B. SUPERLATIVES

It isn't enough for him simply to refer to God's *'power'*, so he refers to the "*greatness*" of God's *'power'*. Nor is it enough for him to refer to the greatness of God's power, so he refers to the "*surpassing*" greatness of God's power! The best part is that this power is not an abstract energy or a theoretical assertion of what God *can* do but a declaration of what God *actually does* "*toward (or unto) us*

Exceeding (Huperballon) a throwing beyond, beyond measure—surpassing

It surpasses our power of comprehension.

Power (Dunamis)--dynamite

Working (Energiea)—efficacious, to be operative

Strength (Kratos)—might—a strength that overcomes, conquers

Might (Ischus)—endowed power or ability

Paul is saying that the eternal might and strength of God's power is exerting itself in us and overcoming all obstacles and resistances.

The energy of the strength of the might of God's power our minds boggle and reel at the stupendous magnificence and the majesty of it all. ML Jones

C. HOW WE CAME TO BELIEVE--ACCORDING TO HIS POWER

Meaning: in consequence of, by virtue of, on account of

Eph 1:5, 7, 9, 11, 3:7, 10, 20, Phil 1:19, 3:20-21, 4:19

Paul is talking about the Christian life from beginning to end and saying that we should know the exceeding greatness of God's power to us, from the moment we believe in Christ. Our very believing is the result of the power of God. It is God's power in us.

D. ILLUSTRATION OF HIS POWER

He helps us with an illustration It is not creation he uses, or the Flood, or Sodom and Gomorrah, or the dividing of the Red Sea. The resurrection of Christ from the dead is proof positive and absolute, that even the last enemy has been defeated.

Resurrection—The Proof

God gave us this public demonstration and manifestation that the last enemy Has been conquered.

Acts 2:24, 1 Cor 15:55-57

2. BEING AWARE OF THE POWER OF GOD

We often fail to realize the greatness of the salvation into which we have been brought.

We lose the sense of wonder. We should be amazed at ourselves as we see what God has done in us.

A. LIGHTS IN THE WORLD

Phil 2:15

B. IS IT REALLY TRUE OF ME?

Eph 3:20, 2 Cor 5:1-5, Phil 2:13, 3:10, Heb 13:20-21, 1 Pet 1:3-5

We have been made, fashioned, formed by God, by the power of God for this destiny

C. WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

1. The enemies that are against us

Worldliness

Flesh

Physical conditions

Habits

Devil

2. We are called to keep the commandments of God

In light of all this assurance, how can a Christian feel insecure, forsaken, or powerless.