

Series: "Ephesians"

"A Prayer For Power!"

Ephesians 1:19-23

March 2, 2008

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We are continuing our topic of PRAYER today as we make our way through the book of Ephesians on our Sunday mornings here at Bethany Evangelical Free Church.

SLIDE –



Can't make it to church on Sunday morning?

Now you can watch the service on the CW, Channel 15, at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday!!!

Let me just take a moment and thank so many of you who have taken the time to catch me and let me know that you listen to our T.V. ministry on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on the CW channel here locally. I have been stopped in the community by folks who have seen the program and mention they are watching our program; I have had folks attend church and let me know they had seen us on T.V. so came to check us out; as well as many of you right from our church who have let me know that when you are ill at home and have not been able to come to church that you watch the program! That is just wonderful and we are glad it is happening. Many may not know this but the entire T.V. ministry is being underwritten by one family here at Bethany who has had it on their hearts to do to this for some time. We are grateful to them for this...but let me just say...**if you are watching us at home we would love to hear from you.** Right about HERE on the bottom of your screen is any combination of our e-mail address or our web site or our phone number and we would love just to know that you have watched our service and they have blessed your spiritual life. Would you e-mail us or phone us or log on to our web site and let us know? We would appreciate it.

SLIDE – Pg. 1156

Take your Bibles, please and open them to the New Testament book of Ephesians 1. If you didn't bring your Bible with you today I would encourage you to reach forward and grab that burgundy colored Bible and turn to page 1156. (1st Service – Video Café –

Raise hands for a Bible and someone will come by and hand you one! Keep it up!)

So far in our study of Ephesians we have discovered in the first 14 verses "How Spiritually RICH We Become The Second We Trust Christ As Our Personal Savior!" We see that we have been chosen; adopted; graced; redeemed; forgiven; predestined; saved; sealed; and secured! Wow!

Now as we get into Chapter 1:15 it begins with the words...

"For THIS reason..."

I.e. - Knowing the fact that we receive all these spiritual riches/ these blessings as we have called them;
- Having gained the HEAD knowledge that we are RICH 'in Christ';

Now it is time to gain the HEART awareness of what it all means! SO...God is not content to leave us with merely the facts that teach us;

He also wants those facts to so COME ALIVE in our hearts that they change us daily/impact us as we go to work/get us to live for Him amidst our community!

So the Apostle Paul prays a prayer for each one of us seated here today and all the saints down through the ages and the saints in the future...asking God to show us what HE (God) has in mind for us to live like day after day by understanding these 'riches'. Here is his prayer...

SLIDE – vv.15-19a

For this reason, ever since I heard about...

your faith in the Lord Jesus
and your love for all the saints,

I have not stopped giving thanks for you, †

‡remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, So that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know:

1. the hope to which He has called you,
2. the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and
3. His incomparably great power for us who believe.

And not missing a beat he describes this POWER to us...

SLIDE – v. 19

...and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength...

Stop there!

What is it that intrigues us about power when it comes to the spiritual life? I don't know. I just know it does. And it is going to intrigue you even more after I show you what I'm about to show you! I've called it...

SLIDE – Six Words Worth Looking At

Now I usually don't go to the extent I'm going to go to here today in describing six words in our text...but you are going to be blessed by the end of this so hang with me please!

SLIDE –

1. "Incomparably" (*hyper ballo*) - to throw beyond

We get our English word "hyperbole" from it which means to exaggerate/overstate to prove a point! The Encarta Dictionary says it is a "deliberate and obvious exaggeration used for effect".

ILL - A mile-high ice cream cone!

Carol - you look like a million bucks today!

Here Christ's power is said to be "incomparably"...

SLIDE –

2. "Great" (*megathos*) - great in size; strong

Here he is obviously referring to Christ's power as 'mega'!

SLIDE –

3. "Power" (*dunamis*) - active power

We get our English word "dynamic" or "dynamite" from it! It has the idea of 'alive' power.

SLIDE –

4. "Working" (*energeia*) - supernatural energy/power

Obviously we get our English word "energy" from it! The reason it is supernatural power is because when the word is used in the Bible it is always correlated with the supernatural. I'll show you this in a minute.

SLIDE –

5. "Mighty" (*ischus*) - inner power

Mark 12:30 that says, "love the Lord with all your heart; soul; mind; and strength (ischus - inner power; might; conquering power).

And our sixth word is...

SLIDE –

6. "Strength" (*kratos*) - ruling power

We get our word "aristo-crat" from it. To rule over!

Okay, okay...do you think he made his point? Ha! Ha!

The real question is **did we get the point?**

Look at it one more time...

SLIDE – v. 19

...and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength...

It is active; supernatural; inner; and ruling power!

God wants you and me to get a taste of the POWER that is working in us as a Christian. Now I think right here God knew we really wouldn't quite get it...even though He outdid Himself in the stacking of the synonyms!

So in case we miss it He comes blasting through the orbit like a rocket returning from outer space with...

SLIDE – Four Pictures Worth Drawing For Us

READ vv. 20-23

Did you see the pictures...that display His power?

SLIDE –

- He raised Him from the dead (v. 20)
- He seated Him at His right hand (v.20)
- He put all things in subjection under His feet (v. 22)
- Gave Him as head over all things for the church (v. 22)

Let's look at them briefly...

- V. 20 - "exerted" - *energeia* - supernatural power!

God used 'supernatural power' to raise Christ from the dead!

We don't fully understand what kind of power this takes. Let's see YOU or ME do it! It is something WE can NOT do!

It takes 'supernatural power' to raise someone from the dead.

But that is not all...

- V. 20 God Seated Christ at His Right Hand

...and He did it with His power!!!

“at the right hand of God” more than likely symbolizes the authority Christ has over...v. 21 (demonic forces). They are nothing for Christ! And should be nothing for us who are ‘in Christ’!

- V. 22 - God placed all things in subjection under His feet

...and He did it with His power!!!

All the things Christ had been a part of on the earth He is now an authority over. “All things...”

- Present & future
- On earth and under the earth and over the earth
- Visible & invisible

Jesus Christ bows to no one and all bow to Him!

- V. 22 God placed Him as head over all things for the church.

Now, the church is US! People! We...have the authority/power that Christ had!

What a tremendous thought...because I am ‘in Christ’ I can know the kind of authority over these things that Jesus Christ Himself had.

The Father gave Him the power and now He gives it to us who are in Christ!

APPL - What is this power? Is it power to raise the dead? NO...the power USED to raise the dead. Because we have such great power doesn’t mean we do the same THINGS Christ did. It just means we have the same ‘strength’ of power that Christ had. Okay...to do what?

I ran through all the verses that had the word power in them and this is what I came up with that we can do with Christ’s power living within us. Are you ready?

SLIDE – POWER TO...

To witness - Acts 1:8

For unity - John 17:11

To heal sickness and disease - Acts 3:12; 4:7, 28

To do ‘Signs & wonders’ - Acts 6:8

When people get saved - Romans 1:16; Ephesians 3:7

Patience - Romans 9:22

Joy, peace, hope - Romans 15:13

Endure suffering - II Corinthians 4:7

Demolish strongholds - II Corinthians 10:4

Emotional strength - Ephesians 3:16

To do His will - Philippians 2:13

Endurance & patience - Colossians 1:11

Fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. - II Thessalonians 1:11

Shield - I Peter 1:5

Basically we are being told that...

SLIDE – II Peter 1:3

His divine power has given us everything we need to cope with life and to become a godly person through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.

God wants us to know that EVERYTHING is within His power! Why? So we will relax and let Him live His life through us! If we grasped this we would fear...nothing...that comes at us! Not sickness; heartache; turmoil; people; not even death! He has the power to remove it; release it; revive it if He so saw fit!

I want to close with two quick applications to remind us...

SLIDE – Two Applications To Remind Us

...that knowing this power and seeing this power is mixed with a prayer. Why do I remind us of that? Because I think many of us miss the “POWER” of God because we fail to pray and we fail to pray correctly! Let me show you...

SLIDE –

- **Elijah - James 5:17-18**

- A loved one’s heart is hardened against the Lord. Only God can break that hard heart. Pray!
- You or someone you know has a degenerative disease. The doctors have done everything they can do. Pray!
- Your child is not walking with the Lord. Pray!
- Your spouse is not saved. Pray!
- Your husband/wife doesn’t treat you like they should. Pray!

One more example...

SLIDE – 1

- **Widow - Luke 18:1-8**

SLIDE – 2

SLIDE – 3

SLIDE – E. M. Bounds wrote,
What the Church needs today is not more machinery, not new organizations or novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use—men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men—men of prayer. (*Power Through Prayer* - E.M. Bounds p. 12.)

SLIDE – Prayer

ILL -

Just before WWII in the town of Itasca, Texas, a school fire tragically took the lives of 263 children. When the war ended, the town began to expand and eventually built a brand new school facility, which featured the finest sprinkler system known at the time. The community was very proud of the new school with the latest sprinkler system. This would insure the safety of the students. Never again, would Itasca experience another deadly fire.

This town in Texas continued to grow, and seven years later, it was necessary to put an addition on the school. When the builders added the new wing, they discovered something. They discovered that the anti-fire sprinkler system...**had never been connected!**

PRAY...

Earnestly
Regularly

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