



Sermon – November 11, 2018
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Verses Covered

Ephesians 1:19 & 20
2 Corinthians 12:8
John 1:5

So while you were praying, there was no pulpit here. And it suddenly appeared. Well you know. The power of a music guy's prayer. It's amazing. Ephesians chapter 1. I officiated the funeral Friday for one of our members who died pretty suddenly last week. And his wife was sharing with me an interesting thing that he did every morning. She said, he had a laminated prayer list. And when he would get in the shower, he would hold that prayer list and walk down it praying for the names on the list. We're in one of two prayers that Paul's going to make in the book of Ephesians. Now obviously Paul thought that if he prayed this, it would impact this church. So our prayer does have enormous power. It's imperative, if you're a parent, that you're going to pray these two prayers for your children. You don't get to pray your list. We talked about this. You go into the throne room, you listen to Him and you pray His list. You have to know what He wants and you have to verbally utter those prayers.

Now we have one clear prayer part here. It's in four parts. One prayer. Remember we're in a chess game. The influence of Satan on the other side versus God's influence through us. It's not God against Satan. It's those mutual influences moving back and forth on the chess board. Now the benefit, chapter 1, verse 3 through 14, was how God put you in the position of being OK with Him. And now we're looking at one of the benefits of being in that position which is I can pray His list and alter things in this world. That's what He promises in 1 John 5. So inside this list, these benefits that I have, the first thing he says is, "I want you to pray that you have a spirit of wisdom and revelation." That is, wisdom, all the chess pieces need to have this same character of God in them. But then revelation is where that piece is moved on the board. So I need to be the correct piece in the correct place. That's what happens if a spirit of wisdom and revelation is in. So you pray for your children to be the right piece in the right place. Second thing we pray, we looked at last week, is He wants what coming at the end of the game, eternity, to be so strong in my soul that even if it is difficult where He places me on this board, that I will stay. Even if it means I go to Burma, I'm there 12 years, I have 18 converts, my wife dies, my child dies. Even with all that, I will stay because I know God's going to honor my yielding to Him in this world.

And then we come to the third thing he prays for. Simple sentence. Four different Greek words for power. Each of them have a distinct direction and flavor inside this text. So we're going to walk through this. Listen carefully to exactly what he prays. I want the eyes of your heart and light. And then he says, I want you to know, here's the third thing I want you to know.

¹⁹what is the casting beyond

You're going to see various translation of surpassing, immeasurable, literally the Greek is to throw it past your ability to see. He says

¹⁹this casting beyond greatness of His *dynameōs*, of His power, unto us who believe.

Now there's the first thing he wants us to know. He wants us to understand that God's power, his *dunamis*, we get the word dynamite, dynamic, dynamo, we get those words from this particular Greek word, that His power is beyond our ability to measure and understand. And the other thing is, it is beyond any other power on the other side of the board. The power of Jesus in you, now listen, is beyond the power of anybody else on the other side on the board. It's way beyond. And when Jesus was in Galilee, in a 10 city area and He's right by the sea. And He walks by and there's a guy there that is literally just the town crazy guy. I mean he lives in the tombs. He's unclothed. He cuts himself with stones. He howls at the night. They've been so terrified of him, they've tried to get him down, they chain him and he breaks the chains. And so when Jesus comes by, he speaks to Jesus and Jesus asks him, "What's your name?" He says, "My name is Legion." Now a Roman Legion, this is going to be a little difficult, but a Roman Legion had 5,000 men. There are 5,000 demons in this man. 5,000. So you would think if there's any man that's unafraid of this Jesus, it would be this guy. 5,000 demons. And what do they do? Do they mock Jesus? Do they laugh at Him? Do they say, "Who do You think You are?" No. Their first thing is, I love this, "Please don't torment us." They're terrified. "Please don't send us to the place before our time." And then they say, "Please let us just go into the pigs." And Jesus goes, "OK." They run into the pigs, go into the sea. Our Israel guide tells us, "It's the first time in the Bible you ever hear of deviled ham." So at any rate, need a little drum roll there. But at any rate, they're terrified because the power that is in you, which is Jesus in you, which is the Holy Spirit in you, that power in you is way beyond anything in anybody else. I don't care how the elections turn out. The power of those that despise our Lord does not match the power of us that love our Lord. So I don't care. We're going to understand we're in a chess game, not to win elections, but to show people who Jesus is, to bring them to Christ, and to disciple them further. That is our calling. And the power available to you is beyond the power that they possess.

Now listen to what he says. Listen to this.

I want you to know the surpassing, His surpassing power, unto us who believe.

So it's limited to believers. Now here's what he says.

Based on the energizing of the might that comes from His inherent strength.

Now that's the best translation I can give you from the Greek. Here's the first thing he says. This power needs to be energized. According to the energy, that's where we get the word, it's a Greek word, *energōs*, we get the word energy from it. And the idea in that word is that this power needs to be, now listen, needs to be released in your life. It's not automatic. It has to be released. Well how is it released? Look at 2 Corinthians, like two books over, chapter 12. Paul has a thorn in his flesh. It is driving him crazy. He begs God three times, a man who has seen miracles, and he begs God three times, "Please take it out." And God says, "No." Now listen to what he says. 2 Corinthians chapter 12, verse 8. Now listen.

⁸Because of this I asked the Lord three times that He might remove it from me. ⁹But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, my *dynamēōs*, first word we looked at.

It's not my fault. It's not my fault. See when you talk about demons, you're inhabiting their land which is every sound system in America. If it's not pigs, it's sound systems. That's where they go to live. I'm going here. My power.... You guys didn't do that intentionally, did you? I mean, that's, because that's stinking funny. My power, it's going to be hard to get this back. Let me walk.

My power is perfected in weakness. Which you're demonstrating in me now. That the power of Christ might settle upon me.

Now listen to what Paul says. It's not in your strength that the power of God is released in your life. If you're gifted, you're talented, you've been immensely blessed, it will be very difficult for the power of God to be released in you because you tend to think of your giftedness as what it is to be spiritual. No, no, no, no, no. Spiritual is not your giftedness nor your talents nor how good looking you are; not how smart you are. Spirituality is based on how weak you are. That's why he works with Simon Peter. He broke him. I mean Simon Peter grew up as a fisherman. He's a tough guy. These guys didn't rod and reel fish. They took a net, chunked it in there, and then they pulled that net up with the fish. This dude is cut. He is strong. He can do anything. And sure enough when Jesus gets him, that's his first thing. He thinks he can do anything. Jesus is out there walking on the water. He says, "Hey, Lord. Can I come?" Jesus said, "Sure." He starts walking out there, looks at the waves, sinks, Jesus pulls him in, breaks him. He realized he can't do it without Jesus. But then they're in Caesarea Philippi, "Who do men say I am?" Peter: "You're the Christ. Son of the living God." "Blessed are you. My Father revealed that to you. It's a great thing." Four minutes later, He's telling them that what this means is that, "I'm the Christ. The Son of the living God." Is that I'm going to be rejected by the chief priest and elders. I'm going to die and I'm going to come out of the grave three days later. And Peter jumps into His face and says, "No. You're not." And Jesus breaks him again and says, "Get behind me Satan. You do not desire what God desires." And then sure enough, last night of His life, right, He tells the boys, "Listen, scripture's going to be fulfilled tonight." Which is the shepherd's going to be struck. You guys are going to leave. Peter says, "I don't care what anybody else does. I will not leave You." What does he do? Curses Him so badly that when he finishes the last curse word he uttered, all the people there ignore him because they realize nobody that followed Jesus would have cursed Him the way he did. So it's, he fails. Now Jesus then meets with him at the Sea of Galilee. Reinstates him basically. And so he waits for the Holy Spirit before he preaches his first sermon. And when he preaches his first sermon, in the power of the Holy Spirit, 3,000 people are saved.

Peter would never have waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit. He would have said, "I'm gifted, I'm strong, I'm tough, I can handle this, I can deal with this." He never would have waited for the Holy Spirit. The only thing that made him wait was his weakness. You cannot release the power of God as long as you think you can live a Christian life. And I'm going to tell you something. If you really examine this book, really, there's some things you can do without the Holy Spirit. You can come to church without the Holy Spirit. You can get in the car, you can put your family in, come to church without the Holy Spirit. But you can't now fight without the Holy Spirit. Because that's our best fight is on the way to church. And you can't really worship when you get here without the power of the Holy Spirit. So you've got to come to a place where you understand your weakness and your need of His power because it's at that point, Paul says, that that power is then released in your life. So you have a power greater than anybody else on the chess board, but it has to be released.

Now what does it do? Look at this. He says,

[Which is energized of the might of His strength](#)

Third Greek word there is *kratous*, it is a Greek word that means to overcome obstacles. Now here's what's going to happen. If you have a spirit of revelation and they work out in your life, and you are the right piece in the right place, your understanding of eternity holds you no matter what happens. Listen, when you're the right piece in the right place, the enemy's going to come and put obstacles in your life. That is his agenda. Now if he doesn't put obstacles in your life, it's because you're where he wants you to be. But if you're doing exactly what Jesus wants you to do, he is going to place obstacles in your life. But that's OK. Because one of the words is that He gives me the power to overcome those obstacles. If you're a parent, one of the biggest obstacles he will put in your life is he will make you believe that you are failing. I mean that's a great thing that he does. He's gifted at that. And the kids don't help. I remember Stephen when he was young, he and his mother went to the mall. And this is when Michael Jordan was playing basketball. And so he found some Jordans. And he asked us can we buy Jordans. I said, "We're not paying \$150 bucks boy. What is wrong with you?" "We'll pay \$30, you can get the rest. You get the rest, they're yours." Well he found some Jordans on sale at the mall for \$40. So he comes up to his mom and says, "I got some Jordans. \$40. Will you buy them?" So Peg looks at them and she says, "Son, they're a half-size too small." "Yeah, but they're on sale." "They're a half-size too small." "But they're on sale." "Son your feet don't get smaller the older you get. They get longer. Hence they're too small." "But they're on sale." When she came home and told me that, I said, "This is great. We're going to save money on college because he ain't going." I mean kids will wear you out. I get it. And the enemy will come along to you and he will say to you that you're failing. And that you're not doing it right and you made a mistake and they're going to turn it back. He will absolutely put an obstacle in your life that you are just the worst parent in the world. That's the point at which His power will be released in your life through two things. You will rely on Him and you will believe in Him. Let me tell you something. Now listen to me carefully if you're a parent here today. God gave you, now listen to me, His child for you to train. Those children are not yours. They are His. They are on loan to you to train. To train for what? So they'll be the right piece in the right place in the game. You are to train them for that. God thus chose you for this particular child of His for you to train to be the right piece in the right place. So you can understand two things. You weak in that? Absolutely. There is no parent in the world

that has the strength and the ability to be the perfect parent and raise their kid the perfect way. But you have a power source that overcomes obstacles and you can be sure that that power will react in your life because those aren't your kids, those are His and He wants them trained way more than you do. And in time, my son came to understand that his feet would not fit that small shoe. So even that can be fixed. But I want you to understand. You can trust God's power and you can believe it's effective. Do not let the enemy's obstacle of you being a failure ruin your training of your children. You trust in His power and you trust that those are His and He gave them to you for a purpose.

Now look at what he says.

[His *dynameōs* into all of us who believe based on being released in a power that overcomes obstacles that is out of His strength.](#)

Last Greek word, *ischyos*, literally means strength that is inherent. God's strength is what? It's two things. It's always available because the Holy Spirit's always in you. Saul, king in the Old Testament, lost that power because the Holy Spirit left him. The Holy Spirit never leaves you. He permanently indwells you. So you always have the power. And I lost Isaiah 40. It says, God never grows tired, He never grows weary. There's never going to be a day when you look at Him and rely on Him for His power that He says, "You know what, had a lot of prayer requests yesterday. I'm tired today." You're not going to get that. His power's always available and it never weakens and it's always more than what's on the other side of the game. You say, "Does it really work in this world? Look at what he says, verse 20.

[²⁰which He energized in the Messiah when He raised Him from the dead and He sat Him at His right hand in the heavenlies.](#)

Does it work? Oh, yeah! I love this verse. You stay where you are, but I love this verse in John chapter 1. Listen to what he writes. He says that Jesus Christ,

[⁵The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness could not comprehend it.](#)

There's darkness in our world. There's a darkness in our day. Your kids and you are facing a darkness in this country we've never really faced like we are now. It's always been cold before, but it's far more over today. And I get that. But this power overcame the darkness that thought it had destroyed Jesus Christ. He overcame that darkness because the one thing we couldn't fix, He fixed for us. His power, bigger than death, energized the body of Jesus. It overcame the obstacle of the tomb because of the inherent strength of God and the reason you have any hope at all is because the power that is available to you out of your prayer is what brought Jesus Christ out of the grave and put Him on the right hand of the heavenlies. Nothing can touch that power and it is yours.

Let's pray.

Father, You stun us with Your truth. It is amazing what you offer us. Father for those in this room today that have come in here, they've just been struggling, let them know, Father, they're right

where they need to be because they're weak and that's when you release Your power. And let them know, Father, that whatever they're struggling with, You have their hand and their heart. Carry them. Bless them. And Father make a difference because of Your word in our lives. In Jesus Christ name.