

## The Immeasurable Greatness of His Power Toward Us

March 10, 2019

### Ephesians 1:15-23 ESV

15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,

16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him,

- wisdom (*sophia* - broad & full intelligence, skill in the management of affairs, acquired by acuteness & experience, knowledge & practice of the requisites for godliness)
- revelation (*apokalypsis* - laying bare, disclosure of truth, manifestation, appearing)

18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might

20 that 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 rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,

23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

## The Immeasurable Greatness of His Power Toward Us

*Romans 8:11 ESV*

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.

*Galatians 2:20 ESV*

20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

## The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation

*John 6:44 ESV*

44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.

- draws (*helko* - to draw by inward power, to drag off, lead, impel)

*“People don't ask questions about spiritual matters unless God is at work in their lives. When you see someone seeking God or asking questions about Christianity, you are witnessing God at work.”*

— Henry T. Blackaby, *Experiencing God*

*1 Corinthians 2:14 ESV*

*14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

- *discerned (anakrinō - investigate, examine, scrutinize, determine, discern)*

*1 Corinthians 2:8-10 ESV*

*8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*

*9 But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"--*

*10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.*

- *revealed (apokalyptō - to take off the cover, uncover, lay bare, disclose, make known, make manifest, reveal)*

*2 Peter 1:2-4 ESV*

*2 May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*

*3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,*

- *knowledge (epignōsis - precise & correct knowledge, full discernment, to know thoroughly, to recognize by sight & hearing)*

*4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*

*John 17:3 ESV*

*3 And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

- *know (ginosko - Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse, to know by experience, come to know, understand)*

*2 Corinthians 3:7-11 ESV*

*7 Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end,*

*8 will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory?*

*9 For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory.*

*10 Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that*

surpasses it.

11 For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV

18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Ephesians 3:14-21 ESV

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,

15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love,  
18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

19 and to know (ginosko) the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge (gnosis), that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 7:21-23 ESV

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

- Prayer, Bible study, good works and even obedience, are meaningless, of no avail and are actually dangerous, unless we are truly knowing God in intimacy and honesty.

**There are two extremes in the Christian walk, both equally as dangerous:**

- to be enslaved to feelings and emotions, which can be very fickle and deceiving.
- to be stoic, refusing all experiential sensation.
- Do you expose your heart to Him openly and honestly, talking to Him about your fears, failures, sins, desires, frustrations, stress, insecurities, doubts?

1 John 1:7 ESV

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

*"There is no secret of my heart which I would not pour into [the Lord's] ear. There is no wish that might be deemed foolish or ambitious by others, which I would not communicate to him." —Charles Spurgeon*

*"The most holy and necessary practice in our spiritual life is the presence of God. That means finding constant pleasure in his divine company, speaking humbly and lovingly with Him in all seasons, at any moment, without limiting the conversation in any way. This is especially important in times of temptation, sorrow, separation from God, and even in times of unfaithfulness and sin."*

—Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God, Essential Practices for the Spiritual Life*

- **Do you sense and experience His presence, strength and power within you?**

*Mark 5:30 ESV*

*30 And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?"*

*Luke 8:27-37 ESV*

*27 When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs.*

*28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me."*

*29 For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.)*

*30 Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him.*

*31 And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.*

*32 Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission.*

*33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.*

*34 When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country.*

*35 Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.*

*36 And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed.*

*37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.*

*"The continuous and unembarrassed interchange of love and thought between God and the soul of the redeemed man is the throbbing heart of New Testament religion. This intercourse between God and the soul is known to us in conscious personal awareness...It is conscious: it does not stay below the threshold of consciousness and work there unknown to the soul...but comes within the field of awareness where the man can know it as he knows any other fact of experience."*

—A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*, "The Glorious Pursuit"

- **Do you hear or sense His inner voice speaking to you?**

James 1:5 ESV

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Isaiah 30:20-21 ESV

20 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher.

21 And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

"If anything is clear from reading Scripture, this fact is apparent: God speaks to His people. At the beginning of the Bible, we find Him speaking to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. He conversed with Abraham and the other patriarchs. He spoke to the judges, kings, and prophets. God was in Christ Jesus speaking to the disciples. God communicated with the early church, and as the biblical record comes to a close, God spoke to John on the Isle of Patmos. God speaks to His people, and you can anticipate that He will communicate with you, too."  
— Henry T. Blackaby, Experiencing God

- **When you repent, do you feel the hurt, the offense, the betrayal to His heart? Do you linger with Him until you know communication and communion is restored?**

Luke 22:61-62 ESV

61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."

62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

Psalms 51:4 ESV

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

- **Do you quiet yourself in His presence, allowing the nearness of His Presence to satisfy, calm, fill and possess and you, bringing inner joy, fulfillment and peace?**

Psalms 16:11 ESV

11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalms 36:8-9 ESV

8 They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

"God's command to 'pray without ceasing' is founded on the necessity we have of His grace to preserve the life of God in the soul, which can no more subsist one moment without it, than the body can without air."  
—John Wesley, How to Pray, p.91.