

Weekly Devotional - THE POWER OF GOD TO BELIEVERS IN JESUS CHRIST 4-11-18

Ephesians 1:19,20 says, “And what is the exceeding greatness of HIS power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of HIS mighty power, which HE wrought in CHRIST, when HE raised HIM from the dead....”

The power of GOD raised JESUS from the dead! Here's some exciting news! GOD has blessed us, believers, with that same power. The word “exceeding” is the Greek word “huperballo,” a compound of the words “huper” and “ballo”. The word huper describes something that is above and beyond anything else. The word “ballo” means to throw or to hurl. Together the two words depict an archer who overshoots his goal. He put so much energy into it that when he pulls back on his bow and releases his arrow, he overshoots, overreaches, suppasses, and eclipses his goal.

The word “greatness” is the Greek word “megethos”, a form of mega, meaning great. However, as megethos, this word would be better translated vast. This means that the power is boundless, immense, limitless, measureless, and vast. One could say that it is so mighty that it is simply beyond human ability to measure.

The word “power” is from the well-known Greek word “dunamis”, which describes power or ability. But very often in Classical Greek and in the Old Testament Septuagint, the word dunamis was also used to depict the assembled forces of an army whose combined strength enabled them to achieve unrivaled victories. These troops were so strong that they simply could not be resisted. Also, in Classical Greek and in the Septuagint, the word dunamis can also describe the power that is inherent in a certain aspect of nature. For example, the power in a hurricane would be described as dunamis power, because it is a power so mighty that it is impossible to resist or impossible to defeat.

So, when the apostle Paul used these three words to describe the power of GOD that works in us; huperballo, megethos, and dunamis, he was piling image on top of image to show how overshooting and irresistible is the power that works in us who believe. This power is so mighty it can neither be measured nor resisted. There is simply no human power in existence to compare to it! (see “The Exceeding Greatness of His Power to Us Who Believe,” Sparkling Gems II, Rick Renner, April 7, 2018)

You are of GOD, little children, and have overcome them, because HE who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. [1 John 4:4] No power has ever equaled or rivaled the power that was required for CHRIST’S resurrection. It was the greatest manifestation of power that the universe has ever witnessed. It literally seized JESUS from death’s grip, raised HIM back into HIS Body, and then continued to lift HIM up through demonic principalities, powers, might, and dominion until HE was seated at HIS Throne at the Right Hand of the FATHER. No power in hell or on earth, and no principality or power in the heavens, was able to resist this demonstration of divine energy.

GOD has placed the power of HIS SON’S resurrection in us! It is a power that utterly eclipses any other power. It is full, boundless, measureless energy — so mighty that no evil power can resist it. And to think GOD has made it available to those who believe!

In Gen. 2:7, GOD breathed HIS own breath of life into man. The breath of GOD is the life and power of GOD, given to man to animate him. The Hebrew word for “spirit” is “ruach”, which means “wind, breath, air, spirit.” The Life of GOD is eternal and, therefore, the immaterial part of man was designed to live eternally. The only question is where we will live. The word soul” in Hebrew is “nephesh”, meaning “an animated, breathing,

conscious, and living being.” GOD is the Source of life, and HE, directly, placed life within man. This breath of life is seen again in John 20:22, as JESUS imparts new life to HIS Disciples. JESUS promised the SPIRIT'S indwelling presence to HIS disciples in Acts 1:8 when HE said, "But you shall receive power when the HOLY SPIRIT has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to ME in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of GOD and not of us. [2 Corinthians 4:7]

May we always have a mind through which CHRIST thinks; a heart through which CHRIST loves; a voice through which CHRIST speaks; a hand through which CHRIST helps; and be a vessel through which CHRIST lives!

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