

I. Scripture/Introduction

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV) – *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,*

Ephesians 3:20 (HCSB) – *Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us*

- A. Paul reminds us that God is able to do exceedingly above all that we ask or think – *imagine*.**
- B. It is according to the power that works in us.**
- C. There is power in us!**
- D. What we receive from the Lord will be connected to the power in us.**
- E. According to -denotes the distribution or intensity.**
- F. The power is in us – but he is only able to work according to the power that is working in us.**
 - 1. There is power connected to my house.**
 - 2. The power only works to the level – by which my house is connected – or prepared for its working. *breakers – outlets – connections***
 - 3. The power source is STRONG – but if my connection is weak – or filled with short circuits – the working of the power for me will be limited.**
 - 4. According English trans – depending on how – depending on if.**
 - 5. The same Greek word used in Matthew 9:29 – when Jesus said to the two blind men – “According to your faith – be it unto you.”**
It is also the same Greek word used by Jesus – in Matthew 16:27 that

states when the son of man shall come in the glory of His father – with his angels and then He shall reward every man according to His works.

ACCORDING DENOTES – something left to us.

6. The power is within us – but its working in us – depends upon us. *Its not working the same for everybody.*
7. What must we do for our connection to the power within us to work at its fullness?

II. Understanding the power that is within.

A. **Ephesians 1:15-23 (NKJV)** – ¹⁵*Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,* ¹⁶*do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:* ¹⁷*that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,* ¹⁸*the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,* ¹⁹*and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power* ²⁰*which 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 principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.* ²²*And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,* ²³*which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

1. This is a prayer – the Apostle Paul’s prayer for the church.

- a. How does he pray?
- b. He prays for them to receive wisdom and revelation.
- c. That their understanding would be enlightened.
- d. Enlightened = to give someone greater knowledge and understanding. To open someone’s eyes.

2. Paul's prayer was that the church of Ephesus would increase in understanding, that their eyes would be open even more than they had been.

- a. No matter how much we know about God, there is MORE to understand and receive.
- b. He desired that they know more about the HOPE/Expectations now that they were saved.
- c. He desired that they would know more about the richness of their inheritance received as children of God.
- d. He desired that they would come to a greater understanding of the working of His mighty power within them.
- e. One of the things that Paul prayed was that the church would come to a greater understanding of the MIGHTY WORKING POWER that was now available within the lives of every believer.
 - He is praying for their revelation of this.
 - In chapter three He reveals why:
If they do not understand the greatness of the power that is now working within – “According to the Power that works within us” – What God will do through them – will be hindered or limited.
- f. Paul would pray for us at GFC today – that we would have a greater understanding of POWER that works within us – so we would not be limited or hindered in receiving everything that God wants to do in our lives.

3. How great is this power that works within us?

It is revealed in Ephesians 1:19-23 NKJV

Ephesians 1:19-23 (NKJV) – ¹⁹and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, **according to the working of His mighty power** ²⁰**which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead** and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. ²²And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

- a. The power that works in us is comparable first to the power that raised Christ from the dead.
How great is the power that will raise the dead?
- b. It is comparable to the power that seated Christ in heavenly places FAR above all principality and POWER and MIGHT and DOMINION and EVERY NAME – named, not only in this age but in the age to come.
- c. It is comparable to the power that put all things under His feet.
- d. This is the power that works in us!
I am more powerful than you think – You are more powerful than you think – IF THIS POWER IS AT WORK IN YOU.
- e. Don't underestimate the power that is at work in you!
- f. If THIS power that was able to raise Jesus from the dead, THIS POWER is able to work in me to do/perform whatever is needed in my life.
- g. **Romans 8:11 (NKJV)** – *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you*
- h. **1 John 4:4 (KJV)** – *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because **greater is he that is in you**, than he that is in the world*
1 John 4:4 (CEV) – *Children, you belong to God, and you have defeated these enemies. God's Spirit is in you and is more powerful than the one who is in the world*
- i. This is what Paul was speaking of when he prayed that we would have a greater revelation of the power that works within us. IT IS THE SAME MIGHTY POWER THAT RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD! AND IT IS GREATER THAN ANY OTHER POWER EVER KNOWN! – ITS IN ME!

B. Greater understanding of the power

1. Power – g1411

- a. *Strength and ability*
- b. *Power for the supernatural*
- c. *Moral power – excellence of soul*

- d. *The power of influence*
- e. *Refers to the power or resources of an army – from numbers*
- f. *Power resting upon armies – forces – or a host*
- g. REMEMBER – in the O.T. there are numerous examples of how God's people overcame despite great numbers/forces/hosts/military weaponry.

2. Examples of g1411

- a. In Mark 5:30 – Virtue for the woman with the issue of blood
- b. In Mark 14 – Jesus sitting on the right and of power and authority
- c. Luke 4:14 – Jesus returned in the POWER of the Spirit
- d. Luke 4:36 – what word is this with authority and POWER
- e. Luke 5:17 – The power of the Lord was present to heal
- f. Luke 6:19 Power went out and healed them all
- g. Luke 9 – He gave power to the 12

3. Luke 10:19 (KJV) – ***Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you***

- a. Jesus said, “I give you Power that supersedes all the Power of the enemy.”
- b. The power that I give you is so great – the power of your enemy is no match for it.
- c. This is the power that Paul was speaking of that works in us.

4. Power – g1849

- a. Liberty and freedom
- b. Physical and mental power
- c. The ability or strength
- d. The power of authority or right
- e. The power of rule or government
- f. The power of him who commands or wills
- g. A power that MUST be submitted to
- h. A power that MUST be obeyed
- i. The power of judicial decisions
- j. The authority to manage situations
- k. One who possesses authority as a ruler

- l. Superiority
- m. Regal – authority or crown

5. This is why Jesus declared that one of the signs of believers was that they would CAST OUT DEVILS.

- a. This is also why – we are told to RESIST the devil and He will flee – he is no match for the power that is in you.
- b. This is why we are told that we will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.
- c. This is why they are called OVERCOMERS.
- d. This is why we are referred to as MORE THAN CONQUERORS.
- e. All of this is because of the power that works within.

C. The Power must be working in us.

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV) – *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us*

III. How does the power work in us?

Power is released by releasing faith!

A. My faith must not only be in God, the source of power, but my faith must be – that the power is working in me.

- 1. Many believe in the power of God.
- 2. Not everyone believes that that power is working in and through them.

B. Paul wanted them to focus their attention to the truth that God's power was already available within them.

- 1. When you know that the power is available within, you stop asking God to send the power.

2. You stop asking God to release the power.

3. By faith, you begin to release the power.

C. Your attention will be:

1. I am able – because of the power vs I am unable.

2. I am strong – vs I am weak.

3. I am victorious – vs I am defeated.

D. Faith in the power

1. **1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (NKJV)** – ⁴*And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: ⁵that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*

2. Stir up your faith in the power.

3. Activate it by words and acts of faith.