

The Surpassing Power of God in Nathanael
Proverbs 3:1-8; 2 Corinthians 4:7-10; John 1:43-51

Today we remember a _____ that may not be very familiar to you, in part because he is known by two _____. August 24 on the historic Church calendar can be celebrated as the feast of St. _____.

Bart is on several lists of _____ in Scripture, (Matt 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:13-14) but with very little added _____. The name _____, however, appears in John's Gospel, with a bit more detail but is not on any list. (John 1:43-51, 21:2) In the 2nd Century, Church leaders treated them as if they were the same person. Why?

- Both Bartholomew and Nathanael are always connected closely with _____.
- Bar-tholomew shows a common patronymic _____ for surnames in Judaism. (cf. Matt 16:17)
- No early Christian source _____ this accepted understanding of their identity - ever!
- So...Nathanael (God has given/gift of God) Bartholomew (son of Tolmai)

As with all of God's saints, Nathanael's story says more about _____ than it says about him.
"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us."

The life of Nathanael the Apostle shows us the surpassing power of God to:

- stand up to _____, skepticism, and scrutiny.
- identify and harness the _____ and talents hidden inside each of us.
- see us and _____ with us anytime any where
- propel us out _____ into a hostile world with the Good News of Jesus
- help us endure incredible _____ for the sake of Christ

This same power is _____ to _____. This same power is _____ at work in _____.

If you don't feel strong enough to handle anything you're the _____ vessel for the surpassing power of God.

Which kind of presents receive the most protective packaging? _____ Which receive the least? _____

Similarly, the _____ we are, the _____ the power at work within us.

*For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities.
For when I am weak, then I am strong. -2 Corinthians 12:10*

How is God showing you new ways his power can work in your life? _____

How is he making you rethink your weakness? _____

How is he using the life of Nathanael Bar-tolomai to spark a missionary zeal in you? _____

*What are you going to do about it????*_____
