

SUBJECT: **The Exceeding Greatness of God’s Power**
SCRIPTURE: **Ephesians 1:19 - 23**

“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, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”

INTRODUCTION

Psalm 62:11. “God hath spoken once. Twice have I heard it, that power belongeth unto God.”

In this Psalm, David emphasizes that God, alone, is the source and possessor of all power; including creative power, military power, manpower, nuclear power, governmental power, judicial power, electrical power, horsepower, solar power and, praise God, saving power! And, of course, as we all know, there are many other types of power. Whatever they may be, power belongs to God!

The word power simply means “the ability to act or to produce an effect.” It carries with it the meaning of ability and might, and is used of persons and things. In relation to God, power also means “the right (authority) to act.” God is unrestricted and absolute in all of his actions and He is able to produce whatever effect that He desires.

The following scriptures are just a few of the many scriptures in the Bible that speak of the power of God:

*Psalm 21:13. “Be thou exalted, Lord, in thine own strength: so will we sing and **praise thy power.**”*

*Isaiah 40:25, 26. “To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by **the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power;** not one faileth.”*

*Ephesians 1: 19. “And what is **the exceeding greatness of his power.**”*

*Colossians 2:9 – 11. “For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is **the head of all principality and power.**”*

God’s mighty power is manifested in a two-fold way in Ephesians Chapter One:

1. God at work within and towards the redeemed.
2. God at work in and through His Son, Jesus Christ

GOD'S MIGHTY POWER AT WORK ... IN THE BELIEVER

Ephesians 1:3 says, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ."* Notice that it is God at work blessing those who believe. Look at what God has done for His children:

- Ephesians 1:4 He chose us
- Ephesians 1:5 He predestined us
- Ephesians 1:6 He made us accepted
- Ephesians 1:7 He redeemed us
- Ephesians 1:7 He forgave us
- Ephesians 1:8 He abounded toward us
- Ephesians 1:8 He made known to us
- Ephesians 1:11 He gave us an inheritance
- Ephesians 1:13 He sealed us

... and then Paul prays, in Ephesians 1:17, *"that God will give to us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him."*

The work of God and His power towards the Believer continues in Ephesians Chapter Two:

- Ephesians 2:1 He quickened (made us alive)
- Ephesians 2:4 He loved us
- Ephesians 2:5 He made us alive together
- Ephesians 2:6 He raised us up together
- Ephesians 2:8 He saved us
- Ephesians 2:10 We are His workmanship

Ephesians 3:20, 21, sums up the first division of Ephesians by saying:

*"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**, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever."*

GOD'S MIGHTY POWER AT WORK ... IN CHRIST

In Ephesians 1:19 – 23, God, the Father is at work blessing His Son, Jesus Christ.

These verses do not speak of the humiliation and sufferings of Christ. It powerfully and simply says, "He raised him from the dead." Instead of the focus being on the sufferings of Christ, the focus of these verses is on His resurrection, glorification and exaltation.

The four manifestations of God's work in Christ are:

- Ephesians 1:20 He raised Him from the dead
- Ephesians 1:20 He set Him at His own right hand
- Ephesians 1:22 He put all things under His feet
- Ephesians 1:22 He made Him head over all things to the church

God Raised Jesus from the Dead

- The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead manifested forth God's satisfaction with Christ's obedience and sacrifice
- God's power over death, hell, the grave and the devil was clearly evidenced at Jesus' resurrection
- At the resurrection God, the Father vindicated His Son and declared that He was satisfied with the work that he had done
- The resurrection of Christ is a witness to the Believer of their justification through faith in the Son of God
- Jesus has been raised from the dead; never to die again

God set Jesus at His own Right Hand in the Heavenly Places

Forty days after the resurrection of Jesus, He ascended back to heaven. It is then that the Father promoted and rewarded Him with the position of glory, honor and power by seating Him at His own right hand.

Because the sacrificial work of redeeming mankind, that no one else could execute, was finished, God seats His Son at His own right hand.

- *Acts 1:9, 10. "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, **he was taken up**; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as **he went up**, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel."*
- *Mark 14:62. "And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see **the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power**, and coming in the clouds of heaven."*
- *Hebrews 1:3. "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, **sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high**."*

Jesus, who became the lowest is exalted to the highest position.

- *Psalms 22:6. "But **I am a worm**, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people."*
- *Ephesians 1:21. "**Far above all** principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come."*

Jesus is seated, "FAR ABOVE ALL"

- **FAR** to be at a considerable distance in space
- **ABOVE** to be in a higher place, rank and authority; superior to
- **ALL** to be the whole amount or quantity of; every kind and variety of; wholly

*Eph 4:10. "He that descended is the same also that ascended up **far above all** heavens, that He might fill all things."*

Jesus who became the lowest has been exalted as the highest.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

*But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself**, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

*Wherefore **God also hath highly exalted him**, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:5 – 10)*

God Put All Things under Jesus' Feet

Jesus Christ stands above and alone, and has authority over all

Hebrews 1:13. "But to which of the angels said He at any time, Sit on my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool."

God Gave Jesus to be Head of the Church

(which is His Body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all)

- His current position and current work
- The Church, which is Christ's Body over which He presides as its Head, Founder, Foundation, Ruler, Faithful Witness, Cornerstone and Judge
- He is in the midst of the church (the seven golden candlesticks)

*Revelation 1:12, 13. "And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And **in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of Man**, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle."*

Daniel 7:14. "And there was given Him dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all people, nations and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."

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Velma J. Sanders

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