

FAITH IS ACTION

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WHAT IS THE EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF GOD'S POWER?



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The Lord said to me, “Ask the people, ‘How great is your God?’” Is He a god that you have to take care of? Do you have a god like the foreign gods that you have to give them something to eat? What can He do for you? Is there any situation in your life that your God can’t take care of?

My God feeds all of the animals every day. He lets the robin find the worm. That’s what Jesus said to His people Israel: “*Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin—yet Solomon (who was the epitome of rich) in all of his glory wasn’t arrayed as much as these. Look at the sparrows—God takes care of them and feeds them.*” Then He said to them, “*O you of little faith,*” and if you ever read my message on the definition of faith, little faith is the same as

no faith, because you have such little faith that you do not use it. Jesus asked, “*Are you not much better than they?*” (Refs: Matt. 6:26-20, 10:29-31). If God takes care of them, won’t He take care of you?

When bad things come, it is a time of faith. That’s why He gave us faith so that our faith will make us an overcomer. Faith can overcome anything, because faith is an attribute of God. “*For whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith*” (1 Jn. 5:4).

There was nothing in the beginning with God, but the Spirit of God and the Word of God. God drew up a plan of creation, and He took a vote of the family, and the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost said, “We can do it!” There was nothing there,

but the Godhead had a plan, and He had faith in His Word and He had faith in His ability. I also have faith in the Word of God and the ability of God to supply my little need. What in the world is it? He said in Isaiah that “*all the needs of all the nations,*” and we have 8 billion people now, “*are as a drop of a bucket.*”

HOW POWERFUL IS GOD?

When the Holy Ghost really opened up the first chapter of *Ephesians* to me, I saw that it is the greatest N.T. book on God’s *demonstrative power*. In fact, He revealed to me that *God doesn’t even know how much power He has!* When the Holy Ghost showed this to me, I thought *How can this be?* Then He began to reveal to me why, and it starts with the Creation.

Scientists are continually gaining advanced knowledge of the solar systems and planetary heavens, and they have found out that we are in the smallest galaxy, *the Milky Way*. There are billions of galaxies bigger than ours, with trillions of stars, and He created every one of them. All the planets rotate on an axis in a certain place, and none of the planets run into one another. Astronomers can tell where a planet’s going to be at a certain time of the year. NASA knows when “the window is open” to send a rocket in space and get it back safely. The position of our Sun is so finely tuned, so that it is not off even *a half of a degree* further or closer to the earth, or we would become an *ice ball* or a *fireball!* When I saw this, it

blew my mind. Paul, praying in the first chapter of *Ephesians*, said: “*God wants us to **know** the exceeding greatness of **His power.***”

The human language however, is inadequate to express how great His power is. Paul modified a modifier with a modifier in an attempt to convey it. An adjective modifies a noun, which means to describe something about it. He said that God’s power is *greater than great*—It is *exceeding great!* He said that God wants us to know this! The Greek word *knowledge* (EPIGNOSIS) means *to know by experiencing it*, **not** to know by just *hearing* about it. Also, the regular word for *knowledge* is “GNOSIS.” By adding EPI as a prefix, the meaning is intensified, giving it greater strength than the simple word contains. It denotes a larger and more thorough knowledge, and means *full knowledge*.

Somebody might tell me that a certain person is a gracious, loving and giving person. But I will never *know* that he is a good, loving, gracious, and giving person, *until he gives me something*. Likewise, God’s power exceeds great. It goes beyond, surpasses the *greatest!* God wants us to experience this *superlative greatness!* (Greek-MEGATHOS). Let’s begin at *Ephesians 1:7*:

“*...According to the riches of His grace; Wherein He has abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence, Having made known unto us the mystery of His will...*” (vv. 7-9). Do you know the mystery of His will? Paul said that He has made it known, and we should know it. If

you don't know His will for your life, how can you be obedient to God? Not being in God's will opens the door to the enemy.

"...According to His good pleasure which He has purposed in Himself; That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in Him. In whom also we have obtained an inheritance..." (vv.9-11). We can know His will, and we have an inheritance, that we are going to be gathered together with Christ, and be a part of His eternal kingdom.

"...Being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who works all things after the counsel of His own will. That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom you also trusted, after that you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also, after you believed, you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise" (vv. 11-13).

In those days the king sealed something by pressing his signet ring into wax. The seal meant two things: It *authenticated* the genuineness of the thing he was sealing, and it also *protected* it. God has a seal on me. I have been authenticated that I am His child. I am under the protection of His power, and nobody better fool around with my seal!

"...After that you believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance..." The "earnest" means

a down payment. We will get the full payment of our glorified bodies at the rapture-resurrection. When you buy a house, you have to put down what is called "earnest money," a down payment, but when you settle, you have to pay the whole price. All the blessings we have now are just a down payment of what He's going to give us. I've been searching the Bible for 57 years to see all that I'm going to have up there. *"...Until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory"* (vs. 14). Until we rapture, everything He's given us now is the down payment, and this is nothing to what He's going to give us!

"Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers, That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him" (vv. 15-17).

Paul was a person who got his prayers answered, and he expected this to be answered as well. Paul had been praying that the believers would receive *the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.* As we have stated, this knowledge of Him is to begin to grasp the superlative greatness of His megapower, and for this understanding to continue, and to intensify until you receive the full inheritance at the rapture-resurrection!

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may

know...” This is a textual term for which there are two schools of interpretation. One says that it refers to “understanding,” and the other says, “heart.” They mean the same thing: The eyes of your heart, or the eyes of your understanding to be “enlightened that you may know what is the hope of His calling.” What is the hope of His calling us? We already have salvation, but “the hope,” is eternal life at the rapture-resurrection, and of all His “exceeding great precious promises,” (2 Peter 1:4).

“And what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints” (vs. 18). This refers to His inheritance—not our inheritance in Him. We are His inheritance, and no power or person better try to rob Him of His inheritance! We need to tell the devil: “When you mess with me, you mess with what belongs to God, and you are in big trouble!”

“And what is the exceeding greatness of His power...” We **can know** the exceeding greatness of His power, because He gives us the spirit of wisdom and revelation, He enlightens the eyes of our understanding, and He quickens our hearts to know that **we are His inheritance**.

“And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to usward...” The mega power of God is turned to us. His exceeding great power is turned to His children. “...to usward 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” (vv. 19-21).

TWO RAISINGS OF CHRIST

Please note something very important: **There were two raisings here:** He raised Him *from the dead*, **and** He raised Him *above all the devil’s power*.

First God raised him *from the dead...*” Jesus was in the tomb and had been there for three days. There was a Roman seal on the tomb. Pilate gave the Jews the seal, marked it with his signet ring, and that meant that it was backed up by the power of Rome. If you broke that seal, then you would have to deal with the power of Rome. Jesus was in the tomb, being guarded continually by Roman soldiers, four worked three hour shifts: to make sure that nobody broke the seal and stole His body. The Pharisees and priests told Pilate that His disciples would steal His body, and then say that He was raised from the dead (Ref. Matt. 27:60-66).

The stone covered the whole opening to the tomb, and they thought that there was no way in the world that His disciples or thieves could come and steal Him. It was absolutely sealed by the greatest power on earth. Then Roman, hardened, trained soldiers, fully armored, guarded the entrance. Jesus lay in that sealed tomb, with all the authority of man on the earth sealing it, *when God turned all of His exceeding great*

power, beyond comprehension, beyond the ability of man to even know how great His power is, upon that body and that tomb, and a **double miracle** happened: *His body was not only raised from the dead, it was changed!* Paul said in 1 Cor. 15:51: “*We shall not all sleep (or die), but we shall all be changed.*”

I don't plan to go through eternity with this body. No, it's too old and worn out. It has too many wrinkles, and sags and bags, and aches and pains! I am going to get “*a changed body, fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working, whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself*” (Phil. 3:21). The same exceeding power that energized Jesus' body is going to raise up my mortal body! (Rom. 8:11).

When that immortalizing power hit that tomb, it performed a double miracle, and the spirit man of Jesus stepped into His glorified body. The earth shook and knocked the soldiers to the ground. They were scared to death, and they didn't know what to do. What really happened? Jesus did not walk out of the mouth of that tomb **after** the angel rolled the stone away. *The angel rolled the stone away to show them that He was not in there!* No stone could hold Him down. He walked right through the wall, just like He appeared to the disciples in the upper room (John 20:19&26). The Father glorified that earthly body and gave it the properties of the heavenly bodies that are not subject to earth's physical laws. ***This was the first raising.***

God wants us to know how powerful He is! How awesome He is! How great He is! He wants us to know the exceeding greatness, beyond words, no-words-can-describe-it, power that He energized in Christ, that raised His crucified body and changed it into His immortal, glorified body, and “*raised Him above all of the power of the devil—and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places.*” This means the place of honor and power, and supreme authority, because *He gave Him the name that is above every name.*

“*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 has put **all** things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over **all** things (pertaining to) the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all and all*” (vv. 21-23).

This is the second raising! He not only raised Christ from the dead—but He raised Him **far above all** other powers and every name in heaven and in earth, and beneath the earth:

“*Wherefore God both 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*” (Phil. 2:9-11).

And not only that, but we are

raised with Him, and are the fullness of God on the earth. The body of Christ is God's fullness on the earth. Christ is the head of the body, the church, and the whole church is supposed to have all of the fullness of God operating in us. As a member of His body, you're not supposed to be some weak person, afraid of your own shadow. You need to get up in the morning and say, "I'm a son of God. I'm in the same family as the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost. I have the same nature. I have the same ability. I have the same promises. I have the same power," because "*He has raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus*" (Eph. 2:6).

You should be saying, "*Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world!*" (1 John 4:4). God is the most powerful being in the whole universe, and He demonstrated that power in Christ, because He not only raised Him from the dead, but **far above all!** This is the ultimate demonstration of His exceeding great power, but it does not end here, because the next great demonstration of His power was when He *raised us* from the dead when we were *dead in trespasses and sin*, and changed us from the vile creatures we were into the likeness of Jesus, and made us heirs and joint-heirs with Him! I remember over 50 years ago when God gave me this message *Heirs of God: It blew my mind!* I couldn't contain it, that I'm an equal heir with Jesus! What kind of love is this that He took me—a dirty vile person—

and made me an equal with Jesus? What manner of love is this?

HE RAISED US UP TOO!

"And you has he quickened (made alive), who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past you walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience" (Eph. 2:1-2). If He has quickened you, you are not walking according to the course of this world. God is against worldliness and the systems of this world. Paul said, "*Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but we have received the spirit that is of God: that we might know the things that are freely given us of God*" (1 Cor. 2:12).

If you walk according to the world, then you are walking according to the prince of the power of the world, who is called "*the god of this world*" (2 Cor. 4:4). The Greek word for world here means *age*. He is now working in the children of disobedience, so if I'm obeying God, he can't work in me. The word "work" means to energize you. Millions of people in the world are being energized by the devil, but I'm energized by the Lord by the Spirit that raised Christ from the dead, and the energy of the Lord is greater than the energy of the devil.

"Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past..." The King James Version for *conversation* does not mean just *to talk*, but it means *one's whole conduct*, or whole mode of life. In time past we

walked *“in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath even, as others”* (vs. 3). Before I was born again, God’s wrath was coming against me, because I was walking in the lusts of my flesh and the evil thoughts of my mind on a continual basis. Paul said in Colossians 1:21: *“And you were sometime alienated (from God) and enemies in your mind by wicked works...”*

WHERE ARE YOU SEATED?

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins has quickened us together with Christ by grace you are saved: And has raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (vv. 4-6). **We have been raised with Him!**

Where are you sitting, Child of God? I have been raised up with Him; I have been quickened like He was quickened, and now I am seated where He is: *“Far above all power!”* The Greek word for *power* here is *EXOUSIA*—which means *authority!* That means **all those authorities are under our feet!** So who’s afraid of *the big bad wolf?* He can *huff* and he can *puff*, but he can’t blow my house down, because I’m not a little *pigg*y—I’m a little *lamby*, and I’m not in a straw house, or a stick house, but I’m in the *Rock of Ages!*

“...That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of His grace...” (We only have a down

payment now, but in the ages to come He’s going to show us the full inheritance!) *“...and his kindness to us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.*

“Wherefore remember, that you being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time you were without Christ...” (Every Gentile was without God, because we weren’t under the covenant of Israel.) *“...Being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus...”*

But now! Don’t tell me what I was, but *now...* you could pull up my past record that man has kept, but when God goes to pull up my past record, there is nothing there! It’s all gone. It only starts at Jesus. When I got in Jesus, the rest of it was obliterated by the Blood! Man might have it in his book, but God has wiped it out. He took the blood of Jesus and spilled it all over my past record, and His blood is speaking better things than Abel’s blood, because Jesus said, *“Father, forgive him, because he knew not what he did.”*

“But now in Christ Jesus you who

sometimes were far off are **made nigh by the blood of Christ**" (vv. 7-13). Are you near Jesus? Are you near God? If you are, you're not wondering, "*Where are you God?*" You are not worrying that He has left you and forsook you. No, you're near Him, and you know He has promised, "*I will never leave you. I will never forsake you. I am with you always, even until the end of this age*" (Heb. 13:5, Matt. 28:20).

"For he is our peace who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby" (vv. 14-16).

This is why the devil doesn't want you to preach the cross. In His crucifixion, Jesus saved both Jew and Gentile and made us into one body. Some call it a *bloody religion*. That's right—it took His blood to blot out the sins that alienated us from God, so that now we can draw nigh!

"And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints and of the household of God. And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cor-

ner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together grows unto a holy temple unto the Lord: In whom you also are builded together for an inhabitation of God through the Spirit" (vv. 17-22).

How are the Lord and the Spirit in us? I just read it to you. Christ is the foundation of this building (2 Cor. 3:11). You are a stone, and I am a stone. "*We are lively stones built up a spiritual house*" (1 Peter 2:5). Every Christian is a stone, and Christ is in the middle of the Church. This temple is a living temple, and it moves when He moves, like the cloud that led Israel in the wilderness. Peter said that we are living stones in a living building, and God inhabits it by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Wherever the Holy Spirit is, that's where His temple is. His temple is holy. There is no unholiness in it. *We are a glorious church, and He's going to present it to Himself without spot or wrinkle nor any such thing, holy and without blemish* (Eph. 5:27).

Do you realize what is available to you? Do you realize that in any situation, the same power that went into the tomb and raised up Jesus and changed His body, and raised Him up above all powers is at your disposal? How can we lose? We have that exceeding great power, beyond man's ability to elucidate, turned toward us! He gave it to you, but you have to claim it. Everyday you should look in the mirror and say, "I'm a child of God, and because I'm a child of God, I am in the same family, and I can stand in God's pres-

ence, because I'm not inferior." Adam could stand in God's presence because he was in the likeness and image of God. He wasn't inferior. He just had a different type of body.

In Jesus, God looks at us as joint or equal heirs: Whatever He promised to Jesus, He gives to us. Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth, and I bequeath this to my brothers and sisters: "Behold, I give you power over all the power of the enemy:..." (Luke 10:19).

Bible Scholars have said: "When N.T. writers want to demonstrate *the great love of God*, they point to *the cross*, and when they want to demonstrate *the great power of God*, they point to the *empty tomb*."

Let it now be said: "And when they want to demonstrate *the exceeding greatness of His ultimate mega power*, they point to *Jesus seated at His right hand, far above all powers and authority, and every name that is named!*"

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