

## THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

### "The Greatness of His Power"

Ephesians 1:19

#### Introduction

1. Paul's prayer for the believers at Ephesus is fervent and deep. Read it and digest its truths (vv. 15-23). God help us to pray like this.
2. Of specific concern to Paul is that the believers might know (v. 18) three blessed facts: a. The hope of His calling (past); b. The glory of His inheritance (future); c. The greatness of His power (present) (vv. 18b-19a). Now that is a substantive prayer of the character we need to pray for one another today.
3. Now that third concern relates to God's power. This is one of His non-communicative attributes. It belongs to Him as essential God. Other attributes in this category include God's omniscience, omnipresence, and His sovereignty (cf. Psa. 139). Study how Paul describes God's power:

#### 1. ITS CONSIDERATION

##### a. As dynamic

The original Greek word used here may be transliterated as dynamite. It is the root for all such forms, for example dynamo, dynamism, etc. It may be defined as inherent and natural ability. It is used of the impact of the Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16).

##### b. As surpassing

This word grammatically is a present active participle. It is found two other times in the book (2:7; 3:19) and also in 2 Corinthians 3:10; 8:14. The root of this verb means "to throw" and its prefix "over" or "beyond." The resultant meaning is "throw beyond" or surpassing (cf. 1 Sam. 20:37).

##### c. As great

This noun is only found here in the New Testament. Its root, however, is used numerous times and means "large" or "great." The idea of abundance is latent in the word. Taken with the two previous words, God's ability is limitless, save that He cannot deny His person nor His promises (2 Tim. 2:13).

NOTE: The whole process of salvation, sanctification, and glorification evidence His surpassing great power.

## 2. ITS CALCULATION

The idea of God's power being calculated is suggested by the preposition "according to" which connotes proportion or measure. Now notice the measurement given:

### a. As forceful power

The Greek term here is used only of God. It speaks of His relative and manifested power. It is power in mastery or force (cf. 6:10).

### b. As inherent power

This is the word for "mighty" in the KJV. While it is passive power, it is nonetheless power possessed. It denotes indwelling power or strength. The word serves as an explicative of "power." The possessive pronoun "his" marks it as might which is peculiar to God Almighty. The strength of this word is seen by its use of our Lord's return (2 Thess. 1:9).

### c. As energizing power

In the KJV this word is translated "working." This is the active side of the other two words used here. It is power as efficiency and operation. Elsewhere the noun is in 3:7 and 4:16 (cf. Phil. 3:21; Col. 1:29; 2:12; 2 Thess. 2:9, 11).

NOTE: The three words for power as used here relate to one another as fruit (energy power), root (inherent power), and tree (forceful power). What a remarkable heaping up of words. They express the highest form of power. No created being has power as described here.

Conclusion This fantastic prayer takes on enormous significance when it is understood that this power is "to usward who believe." "Usward" is the same word as found in the Tyndale Bible of 1535 A.D. Once a believer grasps this truth, he must be transformed. Such grace is just too wonderful. Blessed be God. Are you a believer to whom this power has been directed? How significant is it to you?