

Four Powers

Ephesians 1:19 and what is the boundless greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

Ephesians 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

The Plan of God depends upon His Inherent Power.

Your life depends on the Inherent Power of God. The more that you grow and put your faith in God, He can and will do more powerful blessings that you can even imagine.

Ephesians 1:19 What is the surpassing greatness of His power and now the next two words are so important to everyone of you.

Toward us. This prepositional phrase applies to everyone of you who have believed in Jesus Christ as Savior. ***Toward us*** means that God has a purpose for you and your life.

What is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe means that God has a purpose for your life. God desires to share all His richness with you, to share His happiness with you. He desires to give you all the grace you could handle. But, this means that God does the giving and all you have to do is to receive. The problem is that most believers are poor receivers. You have to live by faith, you have to grow in knowledge of God's wisdom. You have to have capacity in your soul to be a receiver from God.

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Toward us who believe. Only this is the *Present Active participle* translated **believing one; toward us the believing ones.** If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ you are in the plan of God. He has a plan for you and that plan includes a happiness full of grace if you would live each day in faith and grow in the Word of God. Now if you are not experiencing the grace of God it is simply because you refuse to grow in the word of God. This is what we have read in

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity

And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us, the believing ones?

Now we are going to have four different Greek words for *power*. This word is the first one referring to the power of God.

First *dunamis* —**power**;

Now we have the second one *Energeia*, *Energeia* translated **working**;

Next we have *kratos*—**strength** and

Then the forth is *ischus*—**might**.

So we have in this one verse: *power, working, strength and might*. I pray that by the time we have noted all four of these words you will be motivated in the power of God.

The first of these words, *dunamis*, is used to refer to achieving power or ability power. It is used here to refer to God having the power to express or accomplishing His plan.

The second word is *energia*. What is so powerful, is this one word, *energia*, in this one verse, is translated in many different ways.

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In the King James Version *working energeia* is in Ephesians 1:19; Philippians 3:21; Colossians 1:29

But in Ephesians 3:7 & 4:16 the same Greek word is now translated *effectual working*.

And in Colossians 2:12 this same Greek word is translated *operation* and in 2 Thessalonians 2:11 it is translated *strong*.

In the Revised Standard Version this same Greek word is translated by five different words.

Working in Ephesians 1:19 3:7; 4:16 and Colossians 2:12
power Philippians 3:21;
energy Colossians 1:29;
activity 2 Thess 2:9 and
strong in 2 Thess. 2:11.

This Greek word, *Energeia*, is translated in a total of 7 different English words: Effectual working, operation, strong, working, power, energy and activity.

This second word for power is translated *according with the working*. This is the second word for power, again we are going to have four different words in this passage. This second Greek word is translated with 7 different words in English. It means *operational power or effectual working*. Not only did God conceive of this plan but God also has the ability to put the plan into operation. In the New Testament this Greek word is used to refer only to supernatural power. This word refers to the working of God's plan. But also, in 2 Thessalonians 2:9 it is used to refer to the working of Satan. So here we learn of the two most powerful power systems in the universe, God and Satan.

Next we come to the third word for the power of God. *of the strength* or in the King James Version, *of the might*. This time we have the Greek

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word *kratos* referring to the strength, power, might, dominion or authority. According to the Complete Biblical Library “in the New Testament *kratos* always refers to ‘authority’ above that of humans” In Hebrews 2:14 it is used of the Devil referring to his ‘power of death.’ Otherwise, the word is used just for God as in Acts 19:20 referring to the power of the Word of God. Let’s now look at Colossians 1:9 where we have several of the words we have in Ephesians 1:19:

Colossians 1:9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

Colossians 1:10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Colossians 1:11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, now, just

Look at this phrase: strengthened with all power, this is *dunamoo* followed by *dunamis*—strengthened with all might, then, *kratos* for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously

Colossians 1:12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

We have several words for a reference to the *power*. It is so important to understand the power of God. His power, His might, His working power and His strength. This should be in your prayer life. In praying to God for

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the use of His power in your life. And God always uses His power according to His plan. So if things are not going the way you think they should be going, always remember God is using His power according to the fulfillment of His plan, and that is always what is best for you.

Ephesians 1:19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.

This is the fourth word for power in this verse, *ischus*. Here it means *strength or power or to have endowment of some form of power or strength*.

Here in the use of two words, *kratos* and *ischus* are used together—*strength of His might* I am going to tell you what I think is being said here.

The strength or power of the Word of God.

Ephesians 1:19b ...These are in accordance with the working of the power of the Word of God.

In working together they refer to the working of the Word of God in the souls of believers. Growing in the Word of God. The Word of God is the endowment

Now let's grasp the four words for power in this one verse.

- (1) ***Dunamis*** refers to inherent power of God. God has perfect power. God has the inherent power to fulfill His plan.
- (2) ***Energeia*** refers to the *operational power of God*. God has the ability or power to put His plan into operation. God has the power to think up His plan and He has the power to bring His plan into operation. This also brings the Holy Spirit into this power plan

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because God the Holy Spirit is the operational power that puts the Father's plan into operation.

(3) *kratos* or the ruling power under his plan

(4) *ischus* refers to the power of the Word of God

Now in Ephesians 1:20 we come to the place of the Son of God in the plan of God. God has the *plan*, and the power of the Holy Spirit, and the power of the Word of God and now we come to the Person of the Plan of God, that is the person of the Son of God, the person of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.

See that word *which*? This is a *relative pronoun* which points to the antecedent, to the operational power—*dunamis*. We know this is the antecedent to this which, translated *operational power*, because it is a *feminine accusative singular* and it matches up with the relative pronoun.

Which. Operational power, the power of the Holy Spirit.

Which He brought. This is the *perfect active indicative* of the verb *energeo*. The *perfect tense* tells us this has been operational for all eternity past; the *active voice* tells us this has been in operation and the *indicative mood* tells us this has been in operation for all existence. *In Christ* should be translated *in the Christ when He raised Him*. There is no word in the original text for *when*, this is the translation of the *aorist participle* and should be *having raised Him*. And, this precedes the action of *seated Him at His right hand*. So, before God the Father seated His son, He raised Him from the dead.

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Ok, people, if Jesus was not raised from the dead, you and I would have no hope today.

Out from the dead. *ek—out from;* plus the Greek word *nekros* the word *dead*. This verse from Ephesians 1:20 is powerful and wonderful: *which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.*

Another passage you always want to bear in mind is from 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 which we will look at later.

Now in Ephesians 1:20 we have His resurrection before the statement of His death. So let us take the necessary time to look at His Resurrection. This is from several teachings as RB Theme, Leon Morris *The Cross in the New Testament*; K Schilder *Christ Crucified* and studying from many other books. I strongly recommend Leon Morris and K. Schilder.

The Resurrection

1. The fact of resurrection is declared by the Word of God in the Holy Scripture. The Resurrection is God the Father's Plan. Salvation is from God alone. Secondly, the work of God is of the primary importance to Jesus Christ. At the beginning as a small child, he said to His mother that He must be at His Father's business, Luke 2:49. God the Father was *pleased* to crush Him on the cross, Isaiah 53:10. It is also very important in regards to the birth, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ that mankind is not to live alone but by every word out of the word of God. Luke 4:3 & Deuteronomy 8:3.

The resurrection reveals the peace of the 'God of peace' in Hebrews 13:20.

2. The fact of resurrection is based upon the existence of the empty tomb declared by Roman soldiers and Christian witnesses, and on

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the truthfulness of the witnesses, who knew Jesus Christ and knew Him well and who could not be deceived. They were so set on the truth of His resurrection they would die rather than change their testimony about His resurrection. This is historical accuracy and competency of these witnesses. The subsequent change in the disciples after the resurrection also indicates the validity of the resurrection. Before His death they were afraid, despondent, and after His death the same thing continues. But after His Resurrection they were joyous and fearless. The existence of the day of Pentecost and the first sermon ever preached in the Church Age was a sermon on resurrection.(by Peter in Acts chapter 2). The observation of the first day of the week called today the Lord's day, (Revelation 1:10) the resurrection day, the very existence of the Christian Church logically depends upon the resurrection.

So from point one above, the Scriptures declare that the resurrection is truth (1 Corinthians 15:4) and point 2, it was witnessed by multitudes, including five hundred believers at one time, (1 Corinthians 15:6). The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is a fact!

3. The truth of His physical body after His resurrection. Jesus Christ in His resurrection body, still has the **scars** from the nail prints in His hands and feet, Psalms 22:16; Zechariah 12:10; John 20:25-29. He also retained the scars of the wound in His side, John 20:25-29. Jesus was **recognized** by His disciples as the one who died and rose again. This was attested in 17 different appearances. Jesus after the Resurrection, however, could **eat** , Luke 24:42-43, although He did not depend upon food to sustain Himself. Jesus Christ had a **true body** which could be felt, Matt. 28:9; Luke 24:29; John 20:17. His resurrected body could **breathe**, John 20:22. His resurrected body possessed **flesh and bone**, but it could also **walk through a closed**

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door, Luke 24:36; John 20:19. Jesus **appeared** to His disciples many times during the short time He was on the earth after resurrection, but He also **disappeared** at will, Luke 24:17. His body could move **horizontally or vertically**. So this gives you some idea of His resurrected body. And by the way we will have a body like His in our resurrected bodies. 1 John 2:2

4. The Resurrection is a part of the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 15:1 Now I make known to you, brethren the gospel which I preached to you, which you also received, in which you also stand,

1 Corinthians 15:2 by which you also are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

5. The resurrection is essential to the Gospel, and related to faith in Jesus Christ. This is also part of

1 Corinthians 15:12 Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do

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some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

1 Corinthians 15:13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised;

1 Corinthians 15:14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, your faith also is in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:15 Moreover, we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.

1 Corinthians 15:16 For if the dead are not raised, then not even Christ has been raised;

1 Corinthians 15:17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

In fact this passage indicates how useless it would be to believe in Christ unless He had risen from the dead, and this of course becomes an exercise in deductive reasoning, for if resurrection was omitted from the gospel and its significance, faith would be in vain. But since Christ actually rose from the dead, faith in Christ is not in vain.

6. The resurrection emphasizes the difference between Theophany and Christophany. A Theophany is an appearance of Jesus Christ prior

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to the incarnation, that is, prior to the first advent. Jesus appeared as an angel, He also appeared as a man visiting Abraham, then going on to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, He appeared as a wrestler defeating the worlds champion Jacob and permanently making Jacob lame. The Christophany on the other hand is entirely different, a Christophany is an appearance of Jesus Christ after His resurrection from the dead, Luke 24:13-43; Acts 2:32

7. There are two returns from the dead. The first is known as resuscitation. Resuscitation is when a person returns from the dead in a body of corruption, and subsequently dies. This is not resurrection. Lazarus and Paul experienced both of these. Jesus said to Lazarus, Lazarus, here, outside. He had been in the grave for several days, he came out of the tomb wrapped in his grave wearing, and they unwrapped and he was resuscitated. He was alive and subsequently died again. Same thing is true of Paul. Paul in Lystra was stoned to death and later he came alive from the death according to 1 Corinthians 15. In the Old Testament, in 1 Kings 17 Elijah resuscitated a boy from the dead, but of course he died later. Then 2 Kings 4, Elisha resuscitated a young boy who also later died.

So resuscitation is the first of two returns from the dead. The second return is *resurrection* in which a person returns from the dead with a body of incorruption. Therefore never again subject to death. And so far only one person in all history has been resurrected, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore resurrection is rising again from the dead in human body never again to be subject to death.

8. Resurrection is therefore one of the basic doctrines which all believers must understand for spiritual growth.

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Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

Hebrews 6:2 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and about the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

Every believer is to believe the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and move on in many other doctrines in the Bible.

9. The agents of the resurrection of Christ.

The first agent is God the Father. Colossians 2:12, 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 1 Peter 1:21, Galatians 1:1.

The second agent is God the Holy Spirit: Rom. 1:4, 1 Peter 3:18.

And the third agent is Jesus Christ Himself: John 10:11-18

10. The doctrine of the two resurrections is pertinent and important to us. There are two resurrections, not one. John 5:24-19; Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20:6, 13 all teach us that there are actually two general resurrections.

The first resurrection involves the Lord Jesus Christ and believers only. So we have the first resurrection and then we have the second resurrection.

It is like a military presentation in which there are two battalions and their companies being presented.

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The confusion seems to come in the fact that the first resurrection is divided into four parts (like four companies) but the second resurrection is accomplished all at once.

1 Corinthians 15:23 But each in his own order; Christ the first fruits after that those who are Christ's at His coming.

Alpha company is Jesus Christ 1 Corinthians 15:23.

Baker company is the rapture of the church 1 Corinthians 15:51-57. At the end of the Church Age, then the church is resurrected. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

Then Charlie company, these are the Old Testament saints and the Tribulational martyrs, and they are resurrection at the end of the tribulation, they are resurrected at the second advent. This is taught in such passages as Daniel 12:13; Isaiah 26:19-20; Revelation 20:4.

Delta company is made up of the millennial saints, and those who survive the tribulation into the millennial. They will have resurrected bodies at the end of the millennium. This is the fullness of the First Resurrection.

The second resurrection all occurs at one time, so there's very little confusion. John 5:28-29, Revelation 20:12-15; 2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 25:41. The second resurrection occurs at the end of the Millennium. It is a resurrection of all unbelievers since the beginning of time, they are judged and cast into the lake of fire forever and ever.

So there are two general resurrections.