

The Holy Spirit

Colossians 1:11

We now move to verse 11 and the 6th petition in Paul's prayer
Colossians 1:11

¹¹ **strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, (I will tell you right up front,) this is talking about the Holy Spirit.** (This is one of the most powerful, beautiful declarations in all the Bible concerning the Holy Spirit.)

To grasp the significance of this awkward phrase:

¹⁰ **strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might (we must understand why.)**

Why Paul desires believers to be strengthened with all power?)

And this is stated at the end of the verse:

for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously.

Ok, what is '**steadfastness**'? this is the Greek ***hupomone*** and '**patience**' is our friend ***makrothumia*** or longsuffering in describing Spiritual Love in 1 Corinthians 13.

And then Paul desires that these be accompanied or completed '**joyously**'.

Question:

What are patience, longsuffering and joy?

Answer:

These are fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Now let us go back and look at the opening phrase:
**strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might,
strengthened**

Paul is praying that each believer will be strengthened –
to produce the Christian virtues mentioned at the end of this verse.

So we immediately learn something.

It requires *strength* to have patience and longsuffering.

What kind of strength?

Not physical, not even mental, but **spiritual strength**.

The Greek word is **dunamaoo** from the Greek **dunamis**
referring to the inherent power, strength of the Holy Spirit.

Now how do we know this refers to the Holy Spirit?

Let us turn to our old friend... Galatians 3:5

⁵ **So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?** (I hope you recall that we had to do some work from the original manuscripts.) **So then, does He** (God the Father) **who provides you** (should be) who graciously supplies you (at the point of Faith in JESUS CHRIST) **with the Spirit** (Holy Spirit) **who works miracles among you.**

This is incorrect: **works** is a participle.
even working See this word **miracles**?

This is our word **dunamis** and should read **working power—working strength** (and the preposition is not) **among you** (but) in you.

So this wonderful verse should smoothly read:

⁵ **Does He who graciously supplies you with the Spirit even working power in you do it by the works of the Law or by hearing with faith?**

So, **dunamis** refers to the inherent power or strength of the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 1:11

¹¹ **strengthened with all power** (Strengthened is a Present Passive Participle meaning the believer receives this power – **their strengthening from the Holy Spirit** (– by) **Faith.**)

Strengthened with all power

This time we have the same root word we just had of the Holy Spirit; **dunamis** Again referring to the power or strength of the **Holy Spirit**; but don't speed read past that all inclusive **all power**.

That is **all the power of the third member of the Godhead**.

Lets note a few things about **all power**.

1. **All power** means that the Holy Spirit gives every believer who is trusting in Him the power to persevere in any and every circumstance; and to persevere in every problem the believer might encounter that involves people, anyone and everyone.
(We will study this at the end of verse 11.)

2. **All power** means to power to overcome any and every temptation to sin that may come into your path.
1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³ **No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.**

3. **All power** refers to all the power of the third member of the Godhead, **God the Holy Spirit** who is Omnipotent, so you have omnipotent power residing in you.

4. **All power** is also referring to the positive side of our life here on earth. We have seen that Paul prayed for **increase** in the Knowledge of God and all Spiritual Wisdom.

Well, **All power** means that God has provided every believer with the inner power to keep on growing in the Knowledge of God and of JESUS CHRIST.

5. We have seen that Paul prayed that they walk in a manner to please the Lord and be worthy of the Lord. **All power** means that no believer is without excuse for you have the **inner power** in the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit to walk, and live in a manner that will glorify JESUS CHRIST.

6. Then Paul prayed that they would bear fruit in every good work... something we cannot do in the flesh, but the **all power of the Holy Spirit** enables every believer to bear fruit that glorifies JESUS CHRIST and God the Father.

7. All power means you will never be lacking in your spiritual life to live a moral life, power to forgive, power to overcome any and every circumstance of life and power to persevere in longsuffering in regard to people in your life.

Colossians 1:11

¹¹ **strengthened with all power according to His Glorious might**

This time we have a different word for might. **kratos**.

This word refers to the Ruling Power of the Holy Spirit.

“Denotes the presence and significance of force or strength rather than its exercise”

(The Complete Wordstudy Dictionary New Testament)

“In the New Testament, **kratos** always refers to ‘**authority**’ above that of humans’ (The Complete Biblical Library).

according to His Glorious authority!

The Holy Spirit has authority over you when you are walking in Him, when you follow Him. (Galatians 5)

So here we see the Spirit of the Lord has authority. We have studied how so many things are said of both the Holy Spirit and JESUS CHRIST.

Well it should not surprise us that **JESUS CHRIST** is said to also have **this authority** in another rich verse. Ephesians 1:19

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**

You will note here four words for ‘power’.

**Surpassing greatness of His power dunamis
in accordance with the working energeia
of the strength kratos
of His might ischus**

Of course, we could spend a long time on these words but at over simplifying:

dunamis refers to **inherent power**—power in and of the Holy Spirit.
energeia **operational power**; power to accomplish.
kratos **ruling or authoritative power.** and
ischus **endowed power.**

Also the WORD OF GOD has **authority** Acts 19:20

²⁰ **So the word of the Lord was growing mightily—increasing authority and prevailing.**

So **GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT**
and **GOD THE SON**
and **THE WORD OF GOD**
all have **authoritative power!**

*And it is up to you
as to whether or not each of these
has authority over your life...
over your daily decisions.*

Colossians 1:11

11

strengthened

(You, the believer, be strengthened with this inherent power)

with all power, (of Holy Spirit)

according to His glorious might,

(this is the authoritative power of Holy Spirit)

Now why?

**Why does Paul pray that believers
have the power of the Holy Spirit in them?**

This brings us to the 7th petition of Paul for these believers and for each of us throughout the Church Age:

for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously

We will list the 7th petition of Paul's prayer for these believers as
Christ formed in you.

Why this reference of this petition?

If we studied the fruit of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5 we would see 9 fruits but they are listed as singular.

Why?

Because the combination of the 9 results in Christ being formed in you, which is where Paul is headed in Colossians 1:27

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...Christ in you, the hope of Glory.

But in getting to verse 1:27 we have verse 1:11.

¹¹ **strengthened with all power, (of the Holy Spirit) according to His glorious might,**

Now why, why does Paul pray that believers have the power of the Holy Spirit in them?

This brings us to the 7th petition of Paul for these believers and for each of us throughout the Church Age: **for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously.**

for the attaining is a preposition in the Greek.

for the purpose that you might have these qualities.

It is so important to the Christian to be empowered by the Holy Spirit – so much is accomplished when we are Filled with the Holy Spirit

for example:

He teaches us the Truth of Scripture

He makes righteous all the good that we do under His power

He leads us where God desires us to be

He gives power over sin

He increases our knowledge of JESUS CHRIST and of God the Father and He forms Christ in us!

All of this by or through the fruit of the Holy Spirit, which three are here mentioned in Paul's prayer.

Filled with His glorious might that is the Holy Spirit

...**for the purpose that you attain all steadfastness**

first of all, don't speed read past: **all**

...**all steadfastness** let us look at steadfastness then note 'all'.

Steadfastness To appreciate this word it should be noted with the accompanying: **and patience.**

Stated as simply as I can;

1. Steadfastness: **hupomone** and Patience **makrothumia.**
both these words carry the idea of 'succeeding patience'.
2. Steadfastness or **hupomone** refers to Patience as to circumstances of life. Things that happen in our daily lives.
3. While Patience **makrothumia** concentrates on Patience in regard to people.
4. Steadfastness refers to persevering or enduring as to things or circumstances.
5. The point being under Steadfastness is that the believer does not allow... does not give in... when "things" or "circumstances" and allow "things" or "circumstances" to cause them to desert their spiritual momentum.

Does not allow "things" or "circumstances" to cause them to stop walking by Faith in the Power and Leading of the Holy Spirit.

So often things happen in our lives or circumstances occur that causes believers to stop trusting the Plan of God.

*'I just give up'
'I am going to stop going to church'
'God does not love me'*

This kind of giving in to circumstances causes “*teams to lose in the fourth quarter*” or causes **believers to just retreat from a relationship with God, abandon study of the WORD OF GOD.**

*And let me warn you,
Satan has been around a long time and he knows just how to attack you.
This is one reason, we do not judge One Another.*

A circumstance that does not seem to bother you, that same circumstance causes another believer to breakdown and move out of a relationship with the Lord.

The death of someone,
One we love becomes desperately ill,
Financial loss,
A car wreck,
Loss of home or job, etc.

Each of these are examples of “things” or “circumstances” that some believers simply cannot bear up under. **Please do not judge how another believers handles circumstances of life. Pray for them rather than criticizing them... help them if you can.** Satan knows what will be a challenge to you and what is a challenge to them.

A beautiful verse on helping One Another in regards to circumstances of life is 2 Corinthians 1:6

⁶ **But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; (deliverance from affliction) or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer;**

We have been noting that the first event after the Rapture is each one of us will stand before JESUS CHRIST at the Judgment Seat of Christ for an evaluation of our Spiritual Lives. This should give us strong endurance to things that happen in our lives.

Romans 8:25

²⁵ **But if (maybe you will and maybe you will not) we hope (have confidence) for what we do not see,**

(And What Is It That We Do Not See?)

Eternity future, after death, and this includes the Judgment Seat of Christ—so if we are confident that we will stand before JESUS CHRIST at the Judgment Seat of Christ... the result will be **with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.**

Perseverance is our word—**hupomone** that is Patience.

Under “things” or “circumstances” that happen in our lives we persevere—we do not lose hope of all that awaits us after death.

There is no way I can or will mention all the “things” or “circumstances” that will occur in all of your lives, but a short list is given by Paul in 2 Corinthians 6:4

⁴ **but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, (*hupomone* perseverance,) in afflictions,** (Powerfully descriptive word of “things” or “circumstances” that can and often does occur in our lives.)

The Greek word “**afflictions**” means **to crush!**

“Things” or “Circumstances” **that seem to just crush the life right out of you...**

It means to press in upon you, to continually squeeze in on your life, on your soul, — *tribulations, troubles, afflictions*.

Then **in hardships**, the King James interestingly translates this *necessities*. The point here is that this word is in contrast to *willingness*.

There are things that happen in our lives because this is Satan’s world.

Hardships due to the nature of an automobile.

Hardships due to the nature of economics.

Then third categories **in distresses**, This word is in contrast to *afflictions* in that this word—**afflictions** pressing on someone from without—such as PERSECUTION, while this word, *distresses* refers to **distress** that arises from within such as ANGUISH, GRIEF, or even HEARTACHE, HEARTBREAK, ANXIETY, INNER PAIN, TORMENT, even INNER TORTURE.

Some religious Self-Righteous person might like to say, this is sin!

But here in 2 Corinthians 6:4 Paul is experiencing **distresses** with no indication of sin. And in 2 Corinthians 12:10 he suffers from these **distresses for Christ's benefit**.

Can these inner distresses become sin? Absolutely!

We need to cut them off before they become sin, before they so overwhelm us to where we give in and drop out of Spiritual momentum and living for Christ.

There are a multitude of verses that address **heartache** and a **broken heart**. We shall note just a few of these verses, but remember all the verses in the world will not help you in time of **inner distress** if you do not believe them and live by Faith and keep you eyes on Him, not on your problems.

Psalm 34:18

¹⁸ **The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves/heals or delivers those who are crushed in spirit.** Sometimes life will do this to some believes—circumstances of life, things that happen.

And we have not yet addressed **makrothumia** which deals with **persevering** in regard to people. Now, if you are really under **inner distress**, as you read a passage like this, you ask:

How? How is the Lord going to heal or deliver me through this?
Is He going to remove the adverse circumstances..?

Is He going to make things right again?

And I am sorry, but the answer is ***not necessarily***.

This is why Paul prayed in Colossians 1: that they be filled with **the knowledge of His will, in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.**

If you understand this then passages like Isaiah 12:2-3

² **“Behold, God is my salvation,** (Eternal Salvation and therefore, He will keep me through life...)so: **I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD GOD is my strength and song,** (Not in circumstances of life, not by His changing the circumstances... but just by Knowing Him, INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM, BEING OCCUPIED WITH HIM.) **And He has become my salvation /my deliverance /my healing.”**

³ **Therefore you will joyously draw water From the springs of salvation.** (Springs of deliverance)

Now since we are here...note **you will joyously draw...** (Lets look back at Colossians 1:11) **for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience –joyously** (We have not come to this word yet, but here is what the meaning of that word says...) **you will joyously draw from the springs of salvation** (You will persevere with inner joy because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.)

Psalm 147:3

³ He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds

Remember He does this through His mighty Spirit and His glorious Word.
Now it is up to you, to stay in His Spirit and in His word.

Before we leave this beautiful Psalm 147, note verse 1

1 Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant *and* praise is becoming.

Now lets just read verses 4-6

**4 He counts the number of the stars;
He gives names to all of them.**

5 Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite. In understanding what you are going through and the torment of your soul.

6 The LORD supports the afflicted; He brings down the wicked to the ground.

In just reading the WORD OF GOD... in the Spirit
gives Peace and instills Joy.

Isaiah 26:3

3 (KJ) Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (inner peace) whose mind is stayed on thee. (Why?) because he trusteth in thee,

4 Trust in the Lord forever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting Strength

Note several things about these verses:

God acts in response to you –keeping your mind on Him. If you keep your mind on things going in your life, circumstances and do not keep your mind on Him, He will not act so as to give you inner peace.

Note also—everlasting strength, this means in any and every circumstance in your life.

There are so many other passages we could look at but let us move on in Colossians 1:11, but please remember, reading these passages does nothing if not mixed with Faith—even believing them.

Colossians 1:11

¹¹ **strengthened with all power, (Holy Spirit) according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience;**

You have to make up your mind:

Is Christ sufficient for all your needs?

Or do you have to have other things or something else?

**This book is about the Sufficiency of JESUS CHRIST:
to God the Father;
and to you?**

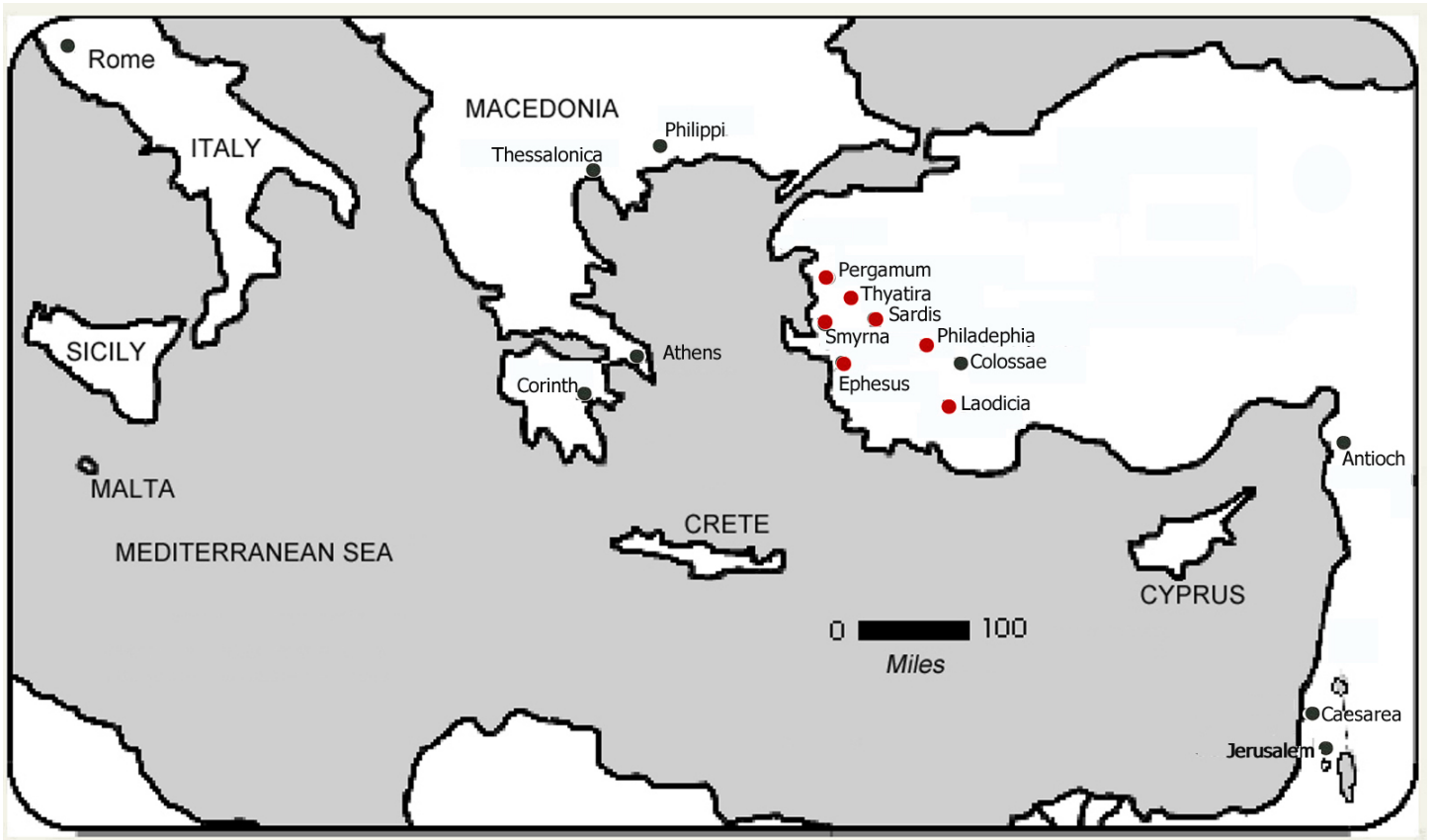
Is the Word of God sufficient for you?

Sufficient to bring you to JESUS CHRIST?

Sufficient to bring you to God the Father?

Is the World of God sufficient for **SAD** (*Stress, Anxiety, Depression*) in your life or do you need outside help?

So we learn so much from the true understanding of the Gospel.



*Only one life,' twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last. "*