

**“The 7-FOLD Excellencies of the Mystery:
“The Church which is His Body:
Its Distinctive and Dynamic Empowering, Under Grace”**

Theme Verse:

... **Eph 1:19** “And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power...”

Review:

- **So we have been considering these Seven Excellencies revealed by Paul for the Gentiles, for the Church or out-gathering of called out ones for this dispensation of the grace of God. This is the list: A New Dispensation, A Better Gospel, Every Spiritual Blessing, An Abundant Life, The Church Which Is One Body, The Blessed Hope and Heavenly Calling (or rapture), and A Heavenly Warfare**

- **We have already examined so far in this series:**
 - **Our Own Dispensation, the Dispensation of the Grace of God**
 - **The Gospel of the Grace of God**
 - **Every Spiritual Blessing in the Heavens in Christ Jesus**
 - **Our Abundant Life, under Grace**
 - **The Body of Christ: Its Calling and Nature**
 - **Its High and Heavenly Calling, Under Grace**
 - **The Church, the Body of Christ: Its Description and Membership, Under Grace**

Transition:

There is probably nothing believers want to possess more than what I will focus us on now. Our subject today is power.

- **“Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely”**
- **“Knowledge is power”**
- **Etc.**

We continue today even further with our fellowship around these precious truths with our Excellency, #6: Its Empowering”

Strength made manifest in weakness:

2 Cor. 12:9-10

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made

perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

The greatness of the power manifested through vessels of clay:

2 Cor. 4:7-8

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

It is all about God's working in us -- not about our working for God:

Phil. 2:12-13

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

The demonstration of Christ speaking in Paul is the fruit of his ministry in the saints:

2 Cor. 13:3-4

3 Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you.

4 For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

Every form of spiritual power was displayed in the apostle Paul:

Col. 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

Our Scriptures:

Eph. 1:17-20

17 [Paul's prayer] . . . 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:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his

own right hand in the heavenly places,

Eph. 2:8-10 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Eph. 3:7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

Eph. 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

Phil. 3:8-10

8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

9 ¶ And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

I. The Church, the Body of Christ: Its Trinitarian Essence

○ The Indwelling of the Trinity

■ God the Father:

- **2 Cor. 6:16** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people
- **We have a “new” nature and are both the children and the sons of God (the Father)**
- **What a difference it makes (or should make) to know that we have a new nature dwelling within us and that we can, therefore, bring forth fruit unto the glory of God. What a difference!**

■ Christ in you Gentiles, the hope of glory:

Col. 1:26-28

26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and

from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

- ***This is a favorite verse of mine because it establishes the bed-rock truth and reality for us today of God's intimate presence through every circumstance of life.***

-

- ***The Holy Spirit:***

Eph 1:13-14 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,**

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. [see also: Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 6:19]

- ***And the Holy Spirit as well, indwelling each of us***

#1: The Church, the Body of Christ: Its Distinctive Empowering: Its Trinitarian Essence

[Your thoughts?]

II. The Church, the Body of Christ: Its Distinctive Empowering: Its Fact

- ***Grace works directly enabling and empowering us all***
 - ***Empowering in general, under and by God's grace***
 - ***1 Cor. 15:10*** But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. See also Col. 1:29, and many, many other scriptures.
 - ***This should give hope to us all - since Paul is our example, our archetype of what it means to be saved today, under grace.***

#1: *The Church, the Body of Christ: Its Distinctive Empowering: Its Trinitarian Essence*

#2: *The Church, the Body of Christ: Its Distinctive Empowering: Its Fact*

[Your thoughts?]

III. *The Church, the Body of Christ: Its Distinctive Empowering: Its Magnitude*

#1: *The Church, the Body of Christ: Its Distinctive Empowering: Its Trinitarian Essence*

#2: *The Church, the Body of Christ: Its Distinctive Empowering: Its Fact*

#3: *The Church, the Body of Christ: Its Distinctive Empowering: Its Magnitude*

[Your thoughts?]

IV. *The Church, the Body of Christ: Its Distinctive Empowering: Its Transcendent Blessing*

#1: *The Church, the Body of Christ: Its Distinctive Empowering: Its Trinitarian Essence*

#2: *The Church, the Body of Christ: Its Distinctive Empowering: Its Fact*

#3: *The Church, the Body of Christ: Its Distinctive Empowering: Its Magnitude*

#4: *The Church, the Body of Christ: Its Distinctive Empowering: Its Transcendent Blessing*

2 Cor. 4:14-18

14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.

15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

[Your thoughts?]

SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS:

- **Wha**
 -

[Your thoughts?]

Body - gifts Rom 12:4, For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

Body 1Co 12:12, For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

Body Spirit 1Co 12:13, For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

1Co 12:14, For the body is not one member, but many.

Body 1Co 12:20, But now are they many members, yet but one body.

Body 1Co 12:25, That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

Body 1Co 12:27, ¶ Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Body Eph 1:23, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Body Spirit Hope Eph 4:4, There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

Body Eph 4:12, For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Body Eph 4:16, From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working

in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Body Eph 5:30, For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Body Church Col 1:18, And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Body Church Col 1:24, Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

??? Col 2:17, Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

Body Col 2:19, And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

Body Col 3:15, And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Body

Body + church

V. The Church, the Body of Christ: Its Distinctive Giftedness

- ***Spiritual Gifts (charisma)***
 - ***1 Cor. 12:12-13*** For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.
- ***Spiritual fruit-bearing***
 - ***The “fruit” analogy***
 - ***The contrasts with “kingdom” works, required in other dispensations***

-
- **Eph 4:12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
- **Eph 4:16** From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.
- **Gal 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.