

## Spiritual Power

This is the second of five lessons entitle, “In the Heavenlies.” This phrase is used by Paul five times in the Book of Ephesians (Eph.1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10 and 6:12). Our five lessons will come from the context of these five verses.

The first four references refer to the throne room of the third heaven where Jesus Christ is seated in resurrection body with all authority and power (Acts 2:33-35).

(Eph.1:19-21) “And what is the surpassing greatness of His power towards us who believe in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when he raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the Heavenlies. Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come.”

We will examine our lesson text by the following three homiletical points.

- Eph.1:15-16    Personal            Thanksgiving
- Eph.1:17-19    Prayer                    Threefold (what)
- Eph.1:20-23    Position                Triumph

**This lesson will study four aspects of the Spiritual Power that Jesus Christ possesses on behalf of the Church  
“And gave Him as head over all things to the church.” (Eph.1:22b)**

### **1. After expressing personal gratitude for the spiritual growth momentum of the Ephesian Christians, Paul mentioned two prayers on their behalf.**

Paul’s first prayer was that God would give them a “spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowledge (epignosis) of Him” (Eph.1:17; Col.1; 9-12; 3:9-10).

Paul’s second prayer was that the epignosis would open the “eyes of their heart to be enlightened (photizo / perf.p.ptc.aplm).” (Eph.1:18-19)

- Notice that both of Paul’s prayers were directed towards the Ephesians reaching and maintaining spiritual growth maturity (Heb.5:13-14; Eph.4:13-15).

### **2. Next, Paul used the interrogative pronoun (tis) three times to explain what he expected from these two prayers**

(1 John 5:14-15). He will use them to explain three key doctrines of enlightenment of Christian Way of Life.

- **First:** They might know (oida) [inherent knowledge or knowledge that is part of you] what was “the hope of His calling” (Eph.1:18a) [Phase I, II, III of the plan of God].
- **Second:** They might know what was “the riches of the glory of His inheritance” (Eph.1:18b). This spiritual inheritance is not just the believer’s investment found in God, but God’s investment found in the believer (1 Pet.1:4-5).
- **Third:** They might know what was “the surpassing greatness of His power towards us who believe.” (Eph.1:19)

### 3. Paul explains that the surpassing greatness of spiritual power was based on the resurrection, ascension, and session of Jesus Christ

(Eph.1:20-23) “Which (asf / relative pronoun / hos) [refers back to the surpassing greatness of His power] He brought about (energeo / a.a.ind.3ps) in Christ.” (Eph.1:20a)

- **Resurrection** God raised Him from the dead (Eph.1:20b)
- **Ascension** God seated Him at His right hand in the heavenlies (Eph.1:20c-21)

The phrase, **In the Heavenlies**, is explained as “far above (huperano) **all** (pas category) rule (arche) and authority (exousia) and power (dunamis) and dominion (kuriotes) and **every** (pas category) name that is named, not only in this age (to aion), but also in the one to come.” (Eph.1:21)

- **Universe Session** God put all things in subjection under His feet (Eph.1:22a).
- **Church Session** God gave Him as head over all things to the church (Eph.1:22b).

### 4. Now Paul explains how every church age believer is benefited by being in union with this surpassing greatness of spiritual power in Christ.

“And what is the surpassing (to huperballo / p.a.ptc.nsn) [super excess] greatness of His power (**tes dunamis**) towards us who believe (tous pisteuo / p.a.ptc.aplm) in accordance with **the working of the strength of His might.**” (Eph.1:19)

Paul used three words to describe the function of the surpassing greatness of His power in the believer.

- The working (**ten energeia**) is the operative power (spiritual energy) (Col.1:28-29)
- The strength (**tes kratos**) is the enduring or persevering power (inner man) (Eph.3:15-17)
- The might (**tes ischus**) is the endowed power (Eph.6:10).

Omnipotence power is reduced to surpassing greatness of spiritual power through union with Lord Jesus Christ to every church age believer. “And gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is the body, the fullness of Him who fills all things.” (Eph.1:22b-23)

### 5. There are fourteen nomenclatures of Jesus Christ in session to the church. These make Jesus Christ our celebrity that we celebrate each Eucharist in the bread.

- Jesus Christ is the head of the church (Col.1:18).
- He is the sacrificial lamb (John 1:29; 1 Pet.1:19)
- He is the savior of the body (Eph.5:23; Titus 2:13)
- He is the mediator of new covenant (Heb.8:6; 12:24)
- He is the high priest (Heb.2:17; 3:1)
- He is the chief shepherd and guardian (1 Pet.2:25; 5:4)
- He is our advocate (1 John 2:1)
- He is the firstborn (Heb.12:23)
- He is the firstfruits of the resurrection (1 Cor.15:23)
- He is the foundation (2 Tim.2:19)
- He is the groom (2 Cor.11:2; Rev.19:7; 21:2)
- He is the exact image of God (Col.1:15; 2 Cor.4:4; Rom.8:29)
- He is the judge (2 Cor.5:10; 1 Cor.6:2-3)
- He is the author and perfecter of faith (Heb.12:2).

