But the LORD is with me like a Mighty Warrior….
Jeremiah 20:11

When you reach up for the Lord's power in your life with the same intensity that a drowning person has when grasping and gasping for air, power from Jesus Christ will be yours!
Russell M. Nelson

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
Ephesians 6:10

Prayer Study #701

WHERE'S THE POWER?

First Love Ministries, Inc., of Perry, Georgia USA

DUNAMIS (or DYNAMIS): that which manifests God's power, mighty works, miracles, power

The Greek scholar Rick Renner in *Sparkling Gems from the Greek II* writes of *dunamis:*

"In the Classical Greek and in the Old Testament Septuagint, the word *dunamis* was also used to depict the assembled forces of an army whose combined strength *enabled* them to achieve *unrivaled* victories. These troups were so strong that they simply could not be resisted. But in addition, we find in Classical Greek and in the Septuagint that the word *dunamis* can also describe the *power* that is inherent in a certain aspect of nature. For example, the power in a hurricane would be described as

dunamis power, because it is a *power so mighty* that *it is impossible to resist or to defeat*. This power is so mighty it can neither be measured nor resisted. There is simply no human power in existence to compare to it!

The Apostle Paul went on to say that it is the same '…*mighty power*, *which he* [God] *wrought in Christ*, *when he raised him from the dead*….' Paul was making it emphatically clear that no power has ever equaled or rivaled the power that was required for Christ's resurrection. It was the greatest manifestation of power that the universe has ever witnessed. It literally seized Jesus from death's grip, raised Him back into His body, and then continued to lift Him up through demonic principalities, powers, might, and dominion until He was seated at His throne at the right hand of the Father. No power in hell or on earth, and no principality or power in the heavens, was able to resist this demonstration of divine energy.

What a thrill to realize that God doesn't put a small dose of power inside us who believe. He has placed the power of His Son's resurrection in us! It is a power that utterly eclipses any other power. It is full, boundless, measureless energy-so mighty that no evil power can resist it. And to think God has made it available to those who believe!"

…*and* [so that you will begin to know] *what the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His* [active, spiritual] *power is in us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of His mighty strength, which He produced in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.*

Ephesians 1:19-20

EXOUSIA: absolute, unrestricted authority, delegated by someone to someone else, in this case delegated by God to man

According again to Rick Renner, *exousia* refers to delegated power given by someone and often translated *authority*. For example, this can refer to people who hold public office an dhave authority that has been entrusted to them by their superiors or through an election. Of course, in spite of the substantial power and influence these people have in the affairs of the world, this authority or power pales when compared to Jesus, and Jesus has a rank that is higher than the most powerful human authorities.

1. **In the great spiritual warfare we are called to and will encounter in the world, Jesus promised us and gave us power and authority!**

   Luke 10:19-20: ***"Behold, I give you the authority*** [EXOUSIA] ***to trample on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."***

   Luke 9:1: *Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power* [DUNAMIS] *and authority* [EXOUSIA] *over all demons and to cure disease.*

2. How do we get this power?

A. From the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8: ***"But you shall receive power*** [DUNAMIS] ***when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem and in Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."***

2nd Timothy 1:7: *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power* [DUNAMIS] *and of love and of a sound mind.*

B. Waiting on the Lord

Luke 24:49: ***"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power*** [DUNAMIS] ***from on high.***

Isaiah 40:29-31**:** *He gives power to the weak and to those who have no might, He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary and the young men shall utterly fall. But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.*

C. Preaching the Message of the Cross

1st Corinthians 1:18: *For the preaching* (or message) *of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to*

us who are being saved it is the power [DUNAMIS] OF GOD.

Romans 1:16: *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ*, [Isn't the Gospel message the message of the cross?] *for it is the power* [DUNAMIS] *of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

D. Walking in Kingdom Principles

Matthew 6:10: *Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

1st Corinthians 4:20: *For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power* [DUNAMIS].

Romans 14:17: *For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

3. What is this power for?
To Empower You to be a Witness

Acts 4:33: *And with great power* [DUNAMIS] *the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.*

To Bless us

Ephesians 3:20: *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power* [DUNAMIS] *that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen!*

4. WARNING! The Power is from God, Not Us!

Psalm 62: 11: *God has spoken once, twice I have heard this: The power belongs to God.*

2nd Corinthians 4:7: *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power* [DUNAMIS] *may be of God and not of us.*

Acts 3:12: *So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently on us, as though by our own power* [DUNAMIS] *or godliness we have made this man walk?*

2nd Corinthians 12:9: *And He said to me,* ***"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."*** *Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that this power* [DUNAMIS] of Christ may rest upon me.

5. Conclusion: Where are We as a Body of Believers?

2nd Timothy 3:1-5: *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of God, having a form of godliness but denying the power. And from such people turn away!*

The early Church was heavily influenced by Jewish thought. The Jews believed that time had only two dimensions: this present age, which was altogether evil, and the age to come, which was the golden age of God. In between the two was the Day of the Lord, a short period when God would personally intervene in the affairs of evil men and shatter the world in order to remake it.

The early Church believed that Jesus was coming back at any moment to destroy this present evil age and to establish His Kingdom on earth. In the meantime they believed this godless world would become more and more like what Paul enumerates in this list of characteristics of the Last Days.

The final characteristic will be people retaining an outward form of religion but denying the power that the Father gives to His genuine believers. As William Barclay put it, "That is to say, they go through all the correct movements and maintain all the external forms of religion, but they know nothing of Christianity as a dynamic power

that changes the lives of men and women. It may well be that the greatest handicap to Christianity is not the most notorious sinner but the sleek devotee of a faultless orthodoxy and a dignified convention, who is horrified when it is suggested that real religion is a dynamic power which changes an individual's personal life.

Without the *dunamis* power of the Holy Spirit operating in our lives, i.e. in our earthen vessels, we will be reduced to having a form of godliness but deny the power of God. We must ask for the Baptism in the Spirit and for the gift of power in order to change the wicked world we now live in. The only hope for society is a spirit-empowered Body of Believers who know how to bring great destruction to the kingdom of darkness and who love people enough to boldly declare that the captives can be set free.

Now when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.
Psalm 71:8