Ephesians – “God’s Plan For Every Believer”

Chapter 1:18-23

We should pray for God’s enlightenment in one another’s lives

To enlighten is to gain greater knowledge and understanding

It’s more challenging to live by what we can’t yet see than what we can see now, i.e. future realities

We need God’s Holy Spirit to awaken our spiritual senses and enable us to see what awaits us with clarity

This, of course, includes what Paul refers to as the hope of His calling

“The believer has a glorious future of resurrection, eternal life, freedom from sin, perfected justification, and glorious elevation above the angels themselves.” (David Guzik, BLT)

Remember, hope in the New Testament Scriptures is a certain anticipation rather than an ambiguous expectation

We have this glorious, incredible inheritance awaiting us

Furthermore, we are also God’s inheritance itself

There can’t be a number value put on what we will inherit nor how valuable we truly are to God

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It’s not often we reflect upon these significant realities within the course of our daily life

So this is why it is vitally important we pray for this God-given enlightenment to be an ongoing experience for each believer within our church environment

Next, Paul is praying for these Christians to be enlightened in another way

He wants them to know the awesome power of God in their life on a continual basis

When I read these verses the word I think of more than any other is variance

I’m speaking of the huge discrepancy between the intended reality and my normal experience

I find these verses intriguing but also frustrating

Yes, I truly believe what they are proclaiming

This divine power is available to every single believer without exception at all moments, in every circumstance life may present

Paul can’t seem to find enough superlatives to describe this power

It is actually exceedingly great, mighty power

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We unquestionably require enlightenment as to what this divine power essentially is, in its essence and its manifestation

We’re talking about power here that is beyond human comprehension, calculation and replication

This is divine power which through only a divinely spoken word created 100 billion galaxies and 200 billion trillion stars

We astounds me is how we can hear a statement like this and yet be so seemingly unimpressed by it

God’s creative, divine power is truly amazing both in its magnitude and minuteness

There’s the vast expanse of this universe juxtaposed alongside the incredible complexity of DNA and the human cell which averages between 20 – 30 micrometers

The tiniest object we can see without magnification is 0.1 millimeters in diameter, like a grain of sand (100 micrometers)

The human body contains over 37 trillion cells

Paul writes this same divine power is readily available to you and me as believers in Christ

But how can this actually be true?

Why is God’s power so seemingly absent from my life?

I tend to be easily overcome rather than be an overcomer

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Paul writes of this awesome power again and its immediate availability in chapter 3, verse 20

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”

Then in chapter 6, verse 10 he wrote this command: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.”

So the power of God is not only available to Christians, we’re also to obediently tap into it

Paul next references the resurrection and ascension of Christ as primary examples of this astonishing power

What kind of power does it take to raise a dead person back to life?

There is no known power within this world’s physical, natural realm that can do anything like this

What kind of power does it take for a resurrected person to rise up into the air all the way through the universe to be seated at God the Father’s right hand in heaven?

Again, There’s no known power within this world’s physical, natural realm that can do anything like this

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The risen Christ is far above all angelic and human powers throughout time and eternity

No other being individually or beings collectively can supersede His sovereign reign as the great King of kings and Lord of lords

The Lord Jesus Christ is forever exalted over everything

He is the supreme authoritative head over the universal church

He fills His church with His holy presence and abundant blessings

Furthermore, because these realities are entirely true, Christ will not ever fail us

Here’s the bottom line

The same power which God the Father manifested in Jesus’ resurrection, ascension and exaltation is available to us

Am I utilizing even the smallest trickle which is available to me?

So how should this divine power show up in my life?

Should I be performing astounding, supernatural miracles?

Should I have power over every possible, negative situation?

Should I never have a struggle, or sickness, or misfortune?

Should I have tremendous influence, status, wealth and favour?

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The answer is not an unequivocal yes to any of those questions

There is no way God’s power will flow through our lives for any selfish, manipulative purposes

To answer how God’s divine power should show up in us, let’s go to Acts chapter 16

Here’s how I would summarize the story of Paul and Silas

If I’m exhibiting the same of response with God’s almighty power, might not some otherwise unexplainable supernatural events accompany it?

God’s divine power can enable us to have an effective testimony for Christ when it seems least likely this could ever happen

His power will show up in joy where we should have sorrow, peace where we should have anxiety, hope where we should have despair, victory over sin where we should have easily given into temptation, contentment where we should have bitterness and courageous acts of Christian service where we feel incapable to have a ministry for God

As such, He receives the glory, honour and praise

How will this sermon change the way you and I live?