THE FULLNESS OF GOD 05-26-19

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Comments before the sermon

STRENGTH THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

2 <u>Eph 3:14-19</u>

(14) For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

(15) Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

(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;

3 (Eph 3:17) That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

(18) May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

(19) And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

4 STRENGTHENED WITH MIGHT—IN THE INNER MAN

<u>MIGHT</u> 1411 δύναμις dunamis *doo'-nam-is*

1) strength power, ability

1a) inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth

1b) power for performing miracles

1c) moral power and excellence of soul

In order to be strengthened with might in the inner man by the Holy Spirit we must place our feelings, thoughts, and purposes more and more under the SPIRIT'S influence and direction so that HE can manifest His power through us in greater measure for the purpose of:

- 1. Establishing Christ's <u>dwelling</u> in our hearts (cf. Ro 8:9-10),
- 2. Being rooted, grounded and settled in love for God and others,
- 3. Being able to comprehend and experience the boundless effects of God's love in our lives and minister the same to others,

4. Being so filled with the "fullness of God" that we manifest and articulate from our inner most being the love, nature, character, and presence of God in all that we do, think, and say.

5 EXCEEDING ABUNDANTLY ABOVE

EPH 3:20-21

(20) Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,(21) Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Glory is to be attributed in and through the church to God, Who is able to do not only far more than we could ask in prayer but also more that we could possibly perceive or even imagine.

6 <u>It is of the utmost importance</u> to note that the abundance promised in this passage is conditioned on the degree of which the Holy Spirit's presence, power, grace, and anointing is accepted or allowed in the life of the believer and also the church.

7 THE BELIEVER'S WORTHY WALK

Eph 4:1-6

(1) I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

(2) With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

(3) Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

(4) There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

(5) One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

(6) One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

8 WALK IN DUNAMIS—ability for moral power and excellence of soul

Obedient believers are to walk with utmost confidence and faith in the reality of God's boundless love for them and in the operation of the Holy Spirit with and through that love to supply and manifest "dunamis" ability and power in their walk as a result of their obedience and yieldedness to Him.

THIS IS FAITH IN ACTION, faith with works and in walking worthy of your heavenly calling without fault before Him.

Your calling is to believe in and to walk in the:

Ability and power to live and operate in the fullness of God, and in the **Ability and power** to serve in humbleness of loving service to God and others.

9 THIS PROMISE is not for the unfaithful in their walk with the Lord. (1Jn 1:6) If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

(7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

10 CHRIST STRUCTURES HIS CHURCH WITH "DUNAMIS" GIFTS

Eph 4:7-8, 11

(7) But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

(8) Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

(11) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

(9) (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

(10) He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

CHRIST IS THE GIVER of ministry gifts to the church. These gifts are given

- 1. For equipping the believer for works of service, and
- 2. For spiritual growth and development of the body of Christ.

11 APOSTLE: (someone sent on a special mission as a messenger and personal representative of the one who sends him).

IN A GENERAL SENSE, the apostle is any messenger appointed and sent as a missionary or for some other special responsibility (Ac 14:4,14; Ro 16:7; cf. 2Co 8:23; Php 2:25).

12 IN A SPECIAL SENSE refers to those who saw the resurrected Christ and were personally commissioned by Him to preach the gospel and to establish the church (i.e., the twelve disciples and Paul). They had unique authority in the church and brought forth divine revelation and the original message of the gospel that can no longer exist in anyone today. They were the foundation of the church and have no successors.

N.T. Apostles demonstrated:

- 1. extraordinary spiritual leadership,
- 2. anointing with power to directly confront powers of darkness,
- 3. power to confirm the gospel with miracles, and
- 4. a dedication to establishing churches according to apostolic truth and purity.
- 5. They were itinerating, risking their lives for the sake and name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the advancement of the gospel (Ac 11:21-26; 13:50; 14:19-22; 15:25-26).
- 6. They were Spirit filled men of faith and power (Ac 11:23-25; 13:2-5, 46-52; 14:1-7,21-23).
- 7. They had a continuing burden to proclaim the N.T. gospel and t defend it against heresy and false teachers (Ro 16:17; 1Co 11:2; 2Co 11:3-4,13; Ga 1:9; 2Pe 2:1-3; 1Jo 4:1-6; 2Jo 7-11; Jude 3-4,12-13).

13 PROPHET: those in the church who spoke under the direct impulse of the Holy Spirit and whose main motivation and concern were the spiritual life and purity of the church. Under the new covenant they were raised up and empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring a message from God to His people (Ac 2:17; 4:8; 21:4).

The prophet's function within the church was to proclaim and interpret the Word of God, called of God to warn, exhort, comfort, and edify (Ac 2:14–36; 3:12-26; 1Co 14:3). The task of the N.T. prophet, like the O.T. prophet was to expose sin, proclaim righteousness, warn of judgment to come, and to combat worldliness and lukewarmness among God's people (Lu 1:14-17).

14 EVANGELIST: those who are gifted and commissioned by God to proclaim the gospel, the good news, and to offer the power of salvation through repentance of sin, acceptance of Christ and His shed blood for the remission of sin, and to commit to a life of righteousness led by the Holy Spirit. They are concerned that new converts be empowered and filled with the Holy Spirit (Ac 8:12-17; cf. 2:38; 19:1-6).

15 PASTORS: sometimes called elders are those who oversee and care for the spiritual needs of the local congregation. Their task is to proclaim sound doctrine, refute heresy (Tit 1:9-11), teach God's Word and exercise leadership in the local church (1Th 5:12; 1Ti 3:1-5), be examples of purity and sound doctrine (Tit 2:7-8), and take care to see that believers remain in divine grace (He 12:15; 13:17; 1Pe 5:2).

Pastors function as many shepherds under the good and Chief Shepherd Jesus Christ, directing the spiritual life of the local church.

16 TEACHERS: those who have a special, God-given gift of clarity, expound and proclaim God's Word in order to build up the body of Christ (Eph 4:12). The purpose and task of the teacher is to guard, by the help of the Holy Spirit, the gospel entrusted to them (2Tim 1:11-14), to preserve truth, and to produce holiness by leading into an uncompromising commitment to the godly lifestyle set forth in Scripture.

THE PURPOSE OF MINISTRY REQUIRES "DUNAMIS" GIFTS

Eph 4:12-16

(12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

(13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

(14) That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

(15) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

(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.

17 THE BODY OF CHRIST: comprised of believers and members of each local church worldwide who have repented of sin, accepted Christ and His shed blood for the remission of sin, and committed to a life of righteousness led by the Holy Spirit.

18 Each member is called by God to:

mature and grow by **DUNAMIS POWER** in the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

unity of the faith and by **DUNAMIS POWER** to be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

19 speak the truth in love by **DUNAMIS POWER**, and to grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

From whom

the whole body by **DUNAMIS POWER** are fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth,

according to the effectual working of **DUNAMIS POWER** in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

20 <u>Eph 3:14-19</u> – DUNAMIS POWER

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(15) Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

(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;

21 THE FULLNESS OF GOD IN DUNAMIS LOVE

(Eph 3:17) That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

(18) May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

(19) And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

22 Slide 22 Dunamis Power in God's thoughts and ways

Isa 55 use God's thoughts – Php 2:5 mind of Christ

Psa 17:3-4 purposed my mouth not to transgress; kept safe by Word of God

Jas 3:6 tongue a world of iniquity

Jas 3:2 bridle the whole body

Psa 34:12-13; 1Pe 3:10 desire life?—keep thy tongue from evil

Psa 39:1 keep my mouth with a bridle

Psa 141:3 watch my mouth – door of my lips

Pr 13:3 keep mouth - keep life

Pr 18:21 death and life in the power of the tongue

Pr 21:23 keep mouth and tongue – keep soul from evil

Jas 1:26 bridle not tongue – deceives his heart

Zeph 3:9-(3)-20 pure language – no deceitful tongue – no guile

Eph 4:15 speak truth in love – grow up in Him

4:25 speak truth

4:29 no corrupt communication out of mouth

4:31 no evil speaking

5:4 no evil speaking