

PART 5 – EPHESIANS 1:23 AUTHORITY

FOUNDATIONAL TEXT

John 1:16-17 AMP - *For out of His fullness (abundance) we have **all received** [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favour upon favour and gift [heaped] upon gift. For while the Law was given through Moses, **grace** (unearned, undeserved favour and spiritual blessing) and **truth** came through Jesus Christ.*

The Greek word for:

- Authority is '*Exousia*' [reigning over, enforcement of dominion]
- Power is '*Dunamis*' [which is spiritual strength and ability]
- Dominion is '*Kratos*' [undisputed sovereign rulership]

1. Revelation – What does Chapter 1 tell us?
2. Interpretation – The word of God
3. Application - How do apply this preaching from Ephesians Chapter 1?
4. Key Messages from this preaching

1. Revelation – What does Chapter 1 tell us?

KEY VERSE "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,"

Ephesians 1:3 NKJV

- God is wanting His church to rise up in victory and take a hold of what Jesus has accomplished for you.
- Our faith is not meant to rest on **human words**, but on the power of the Holy Spirit.
- God wants our faith to rest on His power, not in anything human, but His power is the one that can set the captives free
- Paul did not ask God to give them what they did not have, but rather prayed that God would reveal to them what they **already had**.
- Jesus is a just, loving, gracious God who has empowered us to take this good news into all the earth, making disciples
- Your power to act as a witness of Jesus has nothing to do with you!

Ephesians 1 & 2 -Recap

1:15-18:

Activation - Prayer for enlightenment

- (i) - In the knowledge of Him
- (ii) - Eyes of your heart/understanding enlightened
- (iii) - the hope of your calling
- (iv) - the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints

2:1-22:

Outworking of plan of salvation

- (i) - Our state before we put our faith in Jesus
- (ii) - What God did to save us and bring us alive
- (iii) - The heritage of the Gentiles
- (iv) - The union of Jews & Gentiles in Christ
- (v) - Our standing as a result of salvation in Jesus

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2. Interpretation – The word of God

Verses 19-23	Ephesians 1:19-23 NKJV
<p><i>“and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”</i></p>	
Verse 19	<i>and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power</i>
<p>God’s power works if you believe. If you don’t believe God’s power, it won’t work for you. There’s not a problem with the power, the problem is with our heart to believe. This power has a source, it’s according to the working of his ‘mighty power’ which he worked, never fails [it always works if you believe it]</p>	
Verse 20	<i>which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,</i>
<p>Very important- we read these scriptures and we gloss over them and think they are for no purpose. There is a purpose – Jesus is ‘raised’ and Jesus is ‘seated’ – very important. Our faith is based on those two irreversible facts that Jesus has accomplished for us. And your power goes directly to that source, it’s got nothing to do with you.</p> <p>He is seated at the right hand, the place of absolute power and authority next to God [Yahweh, Jehovah himself]. Jesus didn’t do that for himself, he did it for you and for me. The bible says that the man Jesus is exalted to the highest place, Jesus did what he did as a man and fully God all at the same time.</p>	
Verse 21	<i>far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.</i>
<p>Paul is saying the ‘power’ that we have Dunamis, is directly related to who Jesus is, what he has accomplished and what he has released over your life right now. Paul is praying for our eyes to be opened so that we can see this [<i>it’s almost like he is saying ‘can you see this? Can you see your authority?’</i>] It’s not yours, it’s His, but this is what you have access to</p> <p>Can you see what Jesus has purchased for you?</p> <p>Can you see how powerful God’s power is toward you who believe?</p> <p>How far the church has fallen. How many things we tolerate in the guise of wisdom and western philosophy and humanism and all other ‘isms’ that are out there?</p>	

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<p><i>I Corinthians 2:1-5 NKJV</i></p>	<p><i>“And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”</i></p>
<p>Paul comes with this: Jesus Christ comes with this. God wants our faith to rest on His power; His power that can set you free. You’re standing there not on the condition of what you have achieved or how you feel, but who’s backing you.</p> <p>Paul said I didn’t come with that backing me, if I come with that backing me, your faith is going to be in me, but he said I didn’t come with any of that, I came with Jesus Christ and him crucified and I came and preached to you and demonstrated the spirit and power so that your faith will not rest on human wisdom, but on the power of God.</p>	
<p><i>Matthew 16:15-19 NKJV</i></p>	<p><i>“He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”</i></p>
<p>Simon Peter answers and said, ‘you are the Christ - in Greek that word Christ is ‘Christos’ which means ‘anointed one’. Jesus Christ is not Jesus ‘last name’ -it’s who He was. Jesus [means God who saves] anointed by God, the son of the living God [which speaks of his humanity and his divinity].</p> <p>And I also say to you that you are Peter [<i>means ‘little rock in Greek - little rock’</i>], and on this rock I will build My church, [<i>so the Church is not built on Peter</i>] and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.</p> <p>And I will give you the KEYS that whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whenever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Jesus is saying, I’m going to smash him in the face, Jesus is saying there is a time coming when I will give you some keys [<i>up until this point, Jesus didn’t have the keys</i>], who had the keys? Satan had the keys legally. Legally, because man gave it to him, but Jesus is saying, not long from now, I’m going to smash him in the face, and I will get some stuff from him and then I’m going to give you something that you lost in the fall that no one can ever take from you.</p>	
<p><i>Colossians 2:13-15 NKJV</i></p>	<p><i>“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”</i></p>
<p>Paul P. talked about this a couple of weeks ago in the Sermon on Ephesians 2 - it’s not a physical circumcision, it’s a heart circumcision; it cuts off our sinful nature, so that we can approach God. We’re born again, God made you alive with Christ; good news is that he forgave us not just some of our sin, it says he forgave us of all our sins!</p>	

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There is a written code that stood against us and condemned us. So, we lost authority, we gave our power to Satan *[that's why death ruled, so no one could approach God without something happening because we're all spiritually dead]* That written code was the law and the 10 commandments - 613 commandments stood against us, accused us, pointed the finger at us, to say that we will never measure up. That was their purpose. One was to have a remnant of people to follow the law, so that Jesus would come, the other was to show us Jesus, to bring us to Christ. That law condemned us, and it actually is what empowered satan against us because we didn't have favour with God. Our sins could not be forgiven. Why? Because legally we gave everything over to him and he stood and opposed us and condemned us.

But on the cross, he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. Jesus took it on the cross. Every condemnation weakness, sin accusation was nailed with Jesus took to the cross. ***If you don't get this by revelation, none of anything would ever make sense to you.***

When he died, he didn't die for himself, he died carrying humanities condemnation, justly deserved to us, unjust to him because he never deserved it. Such was his love towards you. And because he did that, having disarmed *[the devil goes around LIKE a roaring lion]* he's the prince and power of the air, having disarmed the powers and authorities by making a public spectacle, triumphing over them. Jesus, had to go and get the keys back, and he did it by carrying the penalty and burden of all our condemnation and sin on the cross, that he went into the depths of hades *[the bible talks about this]* and in a public spectacle, he disarmed satan in front of all his minions and when he got resurrected, he took the keys back off the devil and said they don't belong to you, I'm taking them back. This is good solid teaching - it's biblical.

<i>Revelation 1:17-18 NKJV</i>	<i>"And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."</i>
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Jesus said 'I hold the keys, I have the keys of death and hades, I hold the keys of your despair and I'm giving them to you. Jesus did all He did, not for himself, but to arm the church of the living God with resurrection power, the same power that He has, belongs to His church, not a different power.

<i>Philippians 2:6-11 NKJV</i>	<i>"who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."</i>
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Leadership in the kingdom is back to front, you go lower and lower and lower, and everyone steps on you, but you keep serving the body. There is no higher place than where Jesus is now. Even those demons in hades will bow one day to Jesus. Every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. He has the highest position in the whole universe, the throne of heaven, and he has the highest name given to any other being in the whole universe.

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Hebrews 1:3 NKJV	<i>“who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,”</i>
Jesus accomplished what he did and now he is seated at the right hand of the majesty of heaven	
Hebrews 10:12-13 NKJV	<i>“But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.”</i>
Jesus has the highest place and platform to reign from, so that everything in this world, things that we see, things that we cannot see - strongholds, principalities, powers, governments, everything is under the jurisdiction of the Throne of King Jesus.	
Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV	<i>“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.”</i>
Jesus did all he did to make this possible for the church. He will never send us on assignment if He hasn't authorised us and commissioned us and empowered us to carry on this mission.	
Verse 22	<i>And He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things for the church,</i>
<p>Because Jesus is King, seated on the highest throne in all the universe - the bible says he has Dominion [In the Greek it's the word - Kratos]. it's directly related to the throne - Jesus wouldn't have dominion if he hadn't been given the throne, but Jesus earned the throne, by humbling himself, stripping satan, and God raised him up and gave him the throne so therefore, now as king, he has Dominion. Without dominion, a King cannot reign.</p> <p>As the head of the church, Jesus has been given Authority – [in the Greek it's the word –Exousia] <i>to carry out his Dominion [Kratos]</i></p> <p><i>Through the power of the resurrection he has inherited the name above every other name. Now that Jesus is Lord of his body [the church] he has given us power or ability [Dunamis] to carry out His will on the earth.</i></p>	
Verse 23	<i>which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.</i>
<p>Jesus has given us his name [authority] to exercise power of attorney to call things that are not as though they are, to speak faith, to speak hope, to speak life, to speak healing into people's situations. How? Through the power of the Holy spirit that is upon you.</p> <p>You'll know when you have encountered the power of God, it's not a feeling, it's a knowing that all of a sudden, your life has power. You can do stuff you couldn't do before; you can say 'no' to sin.</p>	

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4. Overarching Messages from this preaching	
Nine times out of ten, a chronic condition is a spirit of infirmity	Jesus addressed it in Luke 13:11-17 with the woman that was bent over for 18 years and he says ‘woman you are loosed from your infirmity’
Our lives are meant to reflect His glory	<i>A ship in harbour is safe, but that is not what ships are built for – Albert Einstein</i> It’s time for us to leave the safe harbour of Crows Nest and go and sail the high seas for Jesus.
God’s power works if we believe, according to ‘something’	We’re not the source of power. Our faith is based on those two irreversible facts – 1. That Jesus was raised from the dead and 2. Is now seated at the right hand of God
Too many Christians are arming a ‘disarmed foe’ . He’s got authority over you.	We’re not of this world, we’re of the kingdom. The devil is not our lord, he has no authority of you; he’s been disarmed.
We don’t live in ‘Groundhog Day’	Our assignment isn’t just to wake up in the morning go to work, earn some dollars, come home , make dinner, go to bed, get up in the morning and go to work
<i>“And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”</i> Acts 1:4-5 NKJV	Have you been baptised with the spirit? Because if you haven’t been baptised with the spirit you don’t have the spiritual ability to be a witness for Jesus. That’s why he said ‘wait, do not leave Jerusalem in Acts 1: until you have been clothed [baptized] with his power [Dunamis] so you can be my witnesses.
This is not our home, we’re not citizens of earth, we are citizens of heaven, we are just passing through here	I want your faith to rest not on the condition of your uniform <i>[policeman example]</i> or how you woke up in the morning, or how you feel, if you feel powerful or you feel anointed. It’s got nothing to do with those things, it’s got to do with who has authorized you to stand as a representative of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Your faith needs to go back there because that’s unchanging and when you stand in the place of your workplace, your influence, your sphere, you are standing as an ambassador of Christ.