

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Vaught Sermon Notes: Ephesians

W.O. Vaught Archive

5-1-1975

How God's Super Excess of Power is Available for You

W. O. Vaught

Ouachita Baptist University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn_ephesians



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), and the [Liturgy and Worship Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Vaught, W. O., "How God's Super Excess of Power is Available for You" (1975). *Vaught Sermon Notes: Ephesians*. 5.

https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn_ephesians/5

This Sermon Notes is brought to you for free and open access by the W.O. Vaught Archive at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Vaught Sermon Notes: Ephesians by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

HOW GOD'S SUPER EXCESS OF POWER IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
NUMBER 10
EPHESIANS 1:19-23

Dr. W. C. Vaught, Jr.
Immanuel Baptist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas

EPHESIANS 1:19-23 "And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own 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 world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."

We are now studying the first apostolic prayer of Paul in the Book of Ephesians. We have been studying in this chapter the plan God made in eternity past to care for all of our needs. God is the author of this plan but all members of the Trinity are involved. The three members of the Trinity all have the same essence qualities. In essence they are one, while in personality they are three. One of the qualities each has is perfect happiness. God designed a plan whereby we might share that perfect happiness, and that plan was the cross.

God has omnipotence, all-power, and Christ the Son has this same power and God the Holy Spirit has this same power. Now in this study before us we are going to see how God has devised a plan whereby we may share this power with him.

The subject for this study is POWER. We are going to see four words for power here in verse 19. Let us get those words first before we study them in this verse and see what they mean.

1. DUNAMIS. This refers to inherent power, inherent strength and ability. God has "dunamis" within himself. He is all-power.
2. ENERGEIA. This refers to energy, power in action and we refer to it as overt strength.
3. KRATOS. This is inner power we use to self-discipline ourselves. Inner power to control the life.
4. ISCHUS. This is endowed strength, strength you receive from some source outside yourself. But once you receive it you make it your very own.

Now these are the four words we have to face as we study this passage. This passage was designed to show us that in eternity past God provided for every problem we would ever face. The provision centered in the cross. When we believe in Christ we enter into the plan of God, and since God is perfect, his plan is perfect. It was designed so that God would do all the providing and man would receive all the benefits apart from his own works and his own merit.

EPHESIANS 1:19 "And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,"

Here we find the dynamics of this plan. The greatest power in this world is not in muscles or in physical strength. But the greatest power that exists in this earth is in the dynamics of human thinking. Isaiah 55 is a passage that illustrated this truth.

ISAIAH 55:7 "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Please notice that ways and thoughts are parallel here. Wickedness begins in the mind. The way, which here refers to the works and actions of man, arise out of the mind, the thoughts.

ISAIAH 55:8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." Please notice that thoughts in this verse precede deeds. The only way to change your way and your works is to change your thoughts. Belief is non-meritorious thinking. The object of faith is the one who has the merit. So your relationship with God begins in your thought pattern. Truth is non-meritorious thinking. Sharing the power of God and the happiness of God depends on your knowing something.

ISAIAH 55:9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." The whole principle that Isaiah is developing here is that the dynamics of the Christian life depend on what you think. God has provided maximum happiness for every person but we get into the plan at the cross when we believe.

The greatest thing we can do as Christians is to learn doctrine. Paul began this prayer in verse 18 and his prayer centered on the idea that we might learn doctrine. Why? Because learning doctrine will benefit the Christian as an individual, and it will benefit the nation collectively.

Now back to Ephesians 1:19.

"Exceeding greatness" here is from "huper ballo" and "huper" means over and "ballo" means to throw, so it means to overthrow, or to have too much of something, or an excess of something. In this verse it simply means that God has an excess of happiness and victory and blessings and power. Now all of this super excess is available to us, but it all depends on learning Bible doctrine. As soon as we learn Bible doctrine we shift into the high gear of super abundance.

So this verse can be translated "The super excess of his power." Now what kind of power do we have here? The word used here is the first of our four words for power--"dunamis, and this is inherent power. In eternity past God had this omnipotence. This is the word used here for power. God's battery never runs down, his supply of power is never depleted or damaged. Right next to the omnipotence (all-power) of God is omniscience (all-knowing), and this means the power of thinking. This is a power that belongs to God and this power is now available to us and it is available through the learning of Bible doctrine.

I want you to see something of God's power. Millions of years ago God had this unlimited power "omnipotence" and he also had this unlimited knowledge "omniscience." This is a part of his happiness and stability.

So when Satan failed and fell apart and millions of angels fell with Satan, it didn't change the status of God's unlimited power and unlimited knowledge one iota. God went right on just the same. God wasn't disturbed or discouraged or defeated by Satan's fall, and when man was created and chose Satan's way, God's perfect power and wisdom was not dented or disturbed or diminished one bit. Paul, here in this verse 19, is praying that this same amazing kind of power will reside inside us, so in the midst of our trials and problems and discouragements, we will have stability and poise and victory. REMEMBER, THIS KIND OF POWER IS AVAILABLE TO CHRISTIANS ONLY. God is perfect and his provision is perfect. But he cannot provide this power on the basis of human merit. In other words, you don't get God's power because you deserve it and you can never merit this power. This power came to you as a grace gift from a perfect God.

Illustration--Suppose we take X, Y and Z to represent three parents. X, the first father, is emotional and he emotes all the time and is so sentimental he can't discipline his children. Y, the second father, is tough and hard and all he can do for his children is to discipline them. Z, the third father, is a balanced man and he has some emotional tenderness but he also knows how to discipline his children. The child under the first father became a spoiled brat. The child under the second father rebelled and finally left home because of no love and very harsh discipline. The child under the third father got both love and discipline and he grew up to be well-adjusted and useful. Now in each case of these three children the outcome depended largely on the character of the parent. And, as you know, quite often the child reflects the character of the parents. Our spiritual parent is God and he is perfect and has this perfect power and as his children we should reflect his power. We should share his happiness and his power. So this Scripture says that he has made this super excess of power available to us. "Who believe" is a present, active, participle of "pisteuo." We keep on believing and this indicates the faith rest technique as our pattern of life.

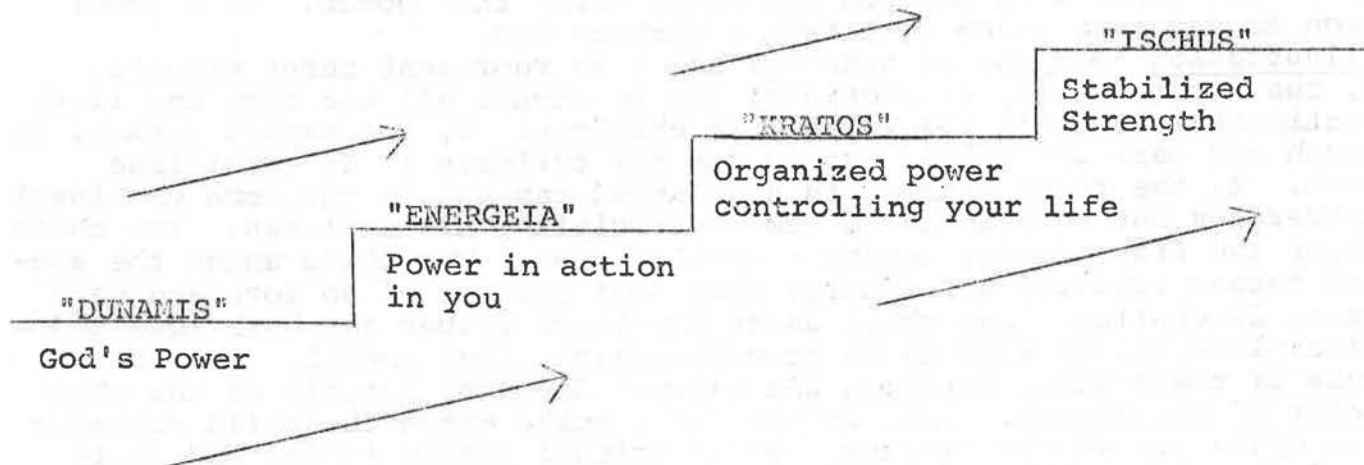
"According to the working" is our second word for power and is "energeia." This is power in action, overt strength. This is an operational power and we achieve this through divine thinking. This is energy, operational power. Paul is praying first, that we will be exposed to the Bible. The Bible is the mind of Christ. When we pipe the Bible into the mentality of our souls it becomes "dunamis," the power of God. Then when your thinking becomes divine viewpoint it is converted into "energeia," it is spiritual energy which makes it possible for us to live the Christian life. Bible doctrine in your mind is the highest virtue in the Christian life. No possible way to function in God's great plan without having Bible doctrine in your mind. So it is like this--

"Dunamis" plus "energeia" = divine good.

Now once you start this process, your life is turned from chaos into order. So the next power brought up in this verse is "Kratos" and this is the power which organizes our life. This is the word mighty. "Kratos" is doctrine utilized, and it means self-discipline. Your mind gets organized and then your life gets organized. Mental victory in learning Bible doctrine means victory in other realms of life. "Kratos" means you will have an organized life. It means you can survive in the daily struggle of life and if you just "goof off" and don't apply yourself and don't learn Bible doctrine, then you will fall apart under the heavy tasks and then you wonder why!

Now "Epignosis" and "Kratos" go together and when you keep learning and keep taking in truth you finally grow an edification complex. Now the last word in this verse is "Ischus" and this is endowed power, and this is the power with which God can trust you when you have learned Bible doctrine. This is the ultimate in power. This is operational power when you face the "charge of the elephant" and you have trouble and disaster and calamity, but you are ready for it. You can actually have a share of God's power and "Ischus" is the stabilizing power, the kind of power that provides inner peace and inner power which cannot be removed from you by the problems that hit your life.

THIS IS THE WAY TO CLIMB THE LADDER OF POWER.



This is the road you must travel if you have the power of God in your daily living. Suppose you are in the desert with no water and all of a sudden you come upon a big 50 gallon container filled with water and a spigot on the side, but you have nothing to catch the water in. You try your hands, but it leaks out quickly. Then you try your hat, but the water gets caught under the band and this is not satisfactory. Then someone comes up with a cup, and the cup was designed to hold water, so you can easily drink. Now "Ischus" is the power cup that is designed to help you utilize God's mighty power, and that cup is our old friend "Bible doctrine."

EPHESIANS 1:20 "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places," "Wrought" is the verb "energo" and here we see God is providing inner happiness for us. This is to put the whole thing into operation so we can receive this power and live by it. Now we have a cup and we can drink God in and enjoy him. Now God found a way for us to do this and that way is Christ. Christ was raised from the dead and was seated at God's right hand so this relationship could be a reality.

EPHESIANS 1:21 "Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:" "Principality" refers to super angels, including Satan. Christ is higher than they are.

"Power" refers to super creatures in the demon world.

"Might" refers to the ability and power we find in man.

"Dominion" means Christ is far above things.

Christ not only has this position in this world, but in the world to come.

EPHESIANS 1:22 "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church," Everything is under the feet of Christ. He is the head of the church and is more important than anything else or anyone else.

EPHESIANS 1:23 "Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." Now we have a relationship to our head. "Pleroma" means fulness, and is a reference to his happiness in eternity past and nothing can ever mar this happiness.

"That filleth all in all" should be translated "Who is being filled." This means that one by one, as people are being converted, the body of Christ is being completed, and one day when the right number has come in, the body will be completed and Christ will be filled.