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### A Prayer Worth Millions!

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## A PRAYER WORTH MILLIONS!

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS  
NUMBER 31  
EPHESIANS 3:16

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EPHESIANS 3:16 "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;"

In this passage the Apostle Paul has the believer priest in mind. God has made provision for our every need in order for us to have the adequate resources for our task as Christians. At the point of our salvation, we are placed into union with Christ and nothing can destroy that relationship.

At the point of our conversion many great things happen to us. At that point we share his eternal life, we share his perfect righteousness, his sonship, his priesthood, his heirship, his election and his destiny. We will ever be in union with Christ. Now this kind of relationship was never true before the Church Age. Christianity, during the Church Age, means union with Christ. There is nothing we can ever do that will break this relationship. To believe that you can commit a sin so great that it will destroy your salvation is the quintessence of human pride. Every believer is indwelt with the Holy Spirit and is indwelt by Christ and every Christian is in fulltime Christian service.

The Lord anticipated our every need for every single day of our lives and he knows our needs even before they come to us, and therefore, on the basis of this perfect knowledge he has made perfect provision for us.

In this prayer of Paul, which is now before us for consideration, Paul is trying to teach us that in the Church Age there is a new pattern for prayer, a new thrust in prayer, something new that had never existed before in human history. We now live in a new dispensation, therefore the phraseology we use in prayer must change to conform to this new relationship which we have in this new dispensation. In this prayer Paul was not only praying for Ephesian Christians, but he was praying for every Christian who would ever live during the Church Age. This prayer was given to establish a pattern for the Church Age. This prayer was uttered to show what was compatible with Church Age doctrine.

Prayers uttered in the Old Testament dispensation were quite different from prayers that would apply in the Church Age. Elisha prayed that he might receive a double portion of the same Holy Spirit that had rested on Elijah. This is an Old Testament prayer. No one can pray that prayer in the Church Age because once one is converted the Holy Spirit is given him and abides in him. And in Luke 11 Christ told the disciples to ask for the Holy Spirit, and this too is an old dispensation prayer which is unnecessary in the Church Age. There can be no reason for a believer in the Church Age to pray for something that he already possesses. In Psalm 51 David prayed that the Holy Spirit might not be taken from him, and that is an Old Testament prayer and is out of place in the Church Age. Intelligent Christians should know these things and should not pray contrary to doctrinal truth.

In the Church Age a whole new pattern of truth applies concerning the Holy Spirit within the life of the believer. In the Church Age every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and cannot lose the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Once the Holy Spirit enters the life of the believer, he is there to stay. We may grieve the Holy Spirit and we may quench the Holy Spirit, but we can never lose the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

So the status of the believer can be one of three conditions--

1. The Christian can be controlled by the Holy Spirit, and thereby, produce divine good.
2. The Christian can sin and thereby ~~quench~~ *grieve* the Holy Spirit.
3. The Christian can also grieve the Holy Spirit.

EPHESIANS 5:18 "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;"

EPHESIANS 4:30 "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:19 "Quench not the Spirit."

This apostolic prayer of Paul has anticipated all this New Testament truth, and we can properly understand this prayer of Paul if we keep in mind this New Testament doctrine.

EPHESIANS 3:16 "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;" The word "that" which introduces this prayer introduces a purpose clause. Then later on in this sentence the word "that" is used again and there it refers to a result clause, for there are certain results that come from intelligent praying. So this prayer has a logical progression.

First of all, there must be divine power. In this Church Age we are in the stage of the intensification of the angelic conflict and we need additional power for our task and the Holy Spirit is within us to provide this additional power. Before the Church Age began Christ and the line of Christ was the main target of Satan, but now that Christ is no longer here and is seated at the right hand of God, Satan can no longer get to Christ and oppose him. Therefore, Christians are now the target of Satan and this is why Christians must have additional resources in order to be able to combat the opposition of the Devil. So all of this information is Church Age doctrine, never mentioned in the Old Testament, but now made known to the world through the preaching of Paul. This we call "The Mystery Doctrine," hidden in the past, but now made known to all New Testament saints.

Paul knew that it was very important for us to be oriented to the plan of God and the grace of God. The content of this prayer has a pattern to it, and this prayer helps us understand the whole plan of God as it applies to us in the Church Age. God's provision for us through doctrine is adequate. We need power and that power is available and we are to pray for power.

"He would grant" is from "didomi" and this word means "to give." This statement affirms that God the Father, the author of the divine plan, will give us adequate power for every task and it all spells grace. Let us ever keep in mind that he is not going to give us all these things and all this power because we are such nice people, but he is going to give us these things because he loves us and because through his perfect character he has provided these things through his grace. God the Father gives these riches to the believer priest on the basis of his perfect character and because the believer priest needs these gifts.

This verb "to give" is in the aorist tense and this means he will keep on giving and giving just as long as we are willing to receive his gifts. The active voice of this verb "to give" means that God does all the giving himself and he doesn't get any help from us. The subjunctive mood of this verb means that God is willing to do this for us because of his perfect character.

"According to" is from "Kata" and it means he gives on the basis of a norm or standard. This norm or standard which is the basis of God's giving is the norm or standard of his perfect character, and never on the basis of the fact that we merit these things ourselves. We never receive God's blessing on the basis of who and what we are, but always on the basis of who and what God is. If we ever get the idea that because of our hard work for the Lord, or because of our tithing or soul winning efforts, or because of our church loyalty we are going to be able to win the favor of God, then we are just off base and we don't understand the meaning of the grace of God.

Let me remind you that morality is not wrong, and I am certainly not building up a case for immorality. BUT GOD BLESSES YOU ON THE BASIS OF HIS CHARACTER, and not on the basis of your goodness. God gives according to his riches and his grace and his glory. God doesn't give on the basis of who and what we are but he always gives to us on the basis of his perfect love and his perfect character. So here we see in Paul's prayer this norm or standard of God, and it is this standard by which we are blessed.

The riches of God reminds us of his unlimited wealth. Glory reminds us of his essence, his perfect character. Keep saying it until it is in your soul forever--GOD IS SOVEREIGN, HE IS RICHTEOUSNESS, HE IS JUSTICE, HE IS ETERNAL LIFE, HE IS PERFECT LOVE, HE IS OMNISCIENT, HE IS OMNIPOTENT, HE IS OMNIPRESENT, HE IS IMMUTABILITY AND HE IS VERACITY Now that's who God is and the one who blesses you is this one with unlimited wealth. That's why I love so much the song which says:

"My Father is rich in houses and lands,  
He holdeth the wealth of the world in his hands!  
Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,  
His coffers are full, he has riches untold.

I once was an outcast, stranger on earth,  
A sinner by choice, and an alien by birth,  
But I've been adopted, my name's written down,  
An heir to a mansion, a robe, and a crown.

I'm a child of the King, A child of the King;  
With Jesus my Saviour, I'm a child of the King."

His character is perfect and his giving to us is perfect. Now when you have someone giving to you on the basis of the norms and standards of God, you are indeed most fortunate. God is consistent and he cannot change. God says, "I love you" and then he adds "Forever." Nothing you or I can do that will ever change his love toward us. God worked all this out in eternity past and he found a way to love us through his cross. The glory of God is the character of God, and he also has perfect wealth and he is going to give us that wealth on the basis of his character. Earthly parents don't stop feeding their children just because they disobey them, neither does God stop giving to us because we disobey him. God gives to us on the basis of his wealth, then he had reserved wealth he has never touched.

The words "to be strengthened" come from "krataioo" and this means ruling power, the ability and power to rule your soul. The Holy Spirit indwells you and now fills you. When once the Holy Spirit fills you, you have adequate unlimited strength. The Holy Spirit in you does this for you and in every phase of your soul you are strengthened. This is the work of God in you. Please notice that you do not strengthen yourself, this is the work of God in you. God never gets discouraged and he waits on you, waits until you are willing to let him do his great work in your heart.

The might, the power, this spiritual ability is all linked with the Holy Spirit. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life is to make all these riches of God's grace real to you. The Holy Spirit leads you, instructs you, corrects you, disciplines you, even sometimes whips you--but one thing he never does and that is to leave you. He can't desert you, for his character won't let him do that.

The words "with might" come from "dunimis" and this means inherent power which is the omnipotence of God. The Holy Spirit has this same omnipotence and this is the unlimited and unmeasured power of the Living God.

"By his Spirit" really means "Through his Spirit." The words "In the inner man" refers to a man's soul.

So in closing this study, look with me again at this amazing prayer--

"HIS PURPOSE IS THAT HE WILL GIVE YOU, ON THE BASIS OF THE NORM AND STANDARD OF HIS UNLIMITED RICHES BASED ON HIS PERFECT CHARACTER, THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH RULING POWER GIVING YOU ADEQUATE POWER IN YOUR SOUL."