

## Identity Part 8 “I am Empowered” Ephesians 1:19-21

Have you ever had times in your Christian experience where you felt like you were always running up hill?

A) Early on in my Christian experience – I had a tendency to be extremely performance oriented.

B) Being an Athlete – I loved a good challenge – I loved messages that challenged me to read more, pray more, witness more.

C) I would respond to those messages – with a great deal of enthusiasm concerning what I was going to do for Christ.

Like any new Challenge – I would start off with a bang – Like New Years resolution- Get in Shape – at the gym 5 days a week.

A) But that only last for a week or two or a month - Suddenly – missing the gym and not eating right.

B) Going to work out – becomes a drudgery – A HAVE TO – and you feel so guilty when you miss.

1) So what do you when miss ? – YOU EAT – ICE CREAM!

C) What is the use anyway. { Been there!

Well the Christian life can be the same way at times – We have all experienced it!

A) Excited or convicted – so we get determined –

Aa) I am going to get serious about following God – serious about Discipleship

B) For several weeks – we are running strong – doing all the right things - Being disciplined –

1) Then attack comes – We get tired – we lose our discipline

C) Result – we say what is the use – and we eat ICE Cream – NO WE SIN

D) We give into temptation – we think – I am never going to get this right- what is the use.

The whole problem often revolves around the fact that we are trying to live the Christian life in our own Power – own Strength.

A) Completely failing to realize – that God has already supplied us with the Power that we need to make this life work.

B) Need to Realize -That part of our Identity in Christ is this: WE HAVE BEEN ENDOWED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH!

C) Tonight we come to study #8 in what is going to be a Nine part series called Identity –

Discovering your spiritual DNA

Tonight we are going to back up into ch. 1 of Ephesians – a portion I purposely skipped – because I wanted us to consider it this week.

A) Everything that we have been talking about up to this point – is connected to this weeks study.

B) In Christ – I AM EMPOWERED!

In Ch.1 V.1-14 Paul has been talking to the People about God –

A) The great source of Blessings that belongs to them – from the Lord

Aa)But when we get to v.15 Paul begins to pray: After talking to the People about God – **he talks to God about the People**

B)His prayer for them is really a prayer of Knowledge – That they would really come to know some things

- The knowledge of the hope of their calling.
- The Knowledge of the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.

C)The final request v.19 is that they might know the exceeding greatness of His power toward them or in them .

*Eph 1:19-21 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,21 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 want us to note 3 Characteristics of this power & then – Finish by talking about how it ENABLES US in our walk w/ the Lord**

A)1<sup>st</sup> DYNAMIC POWER:

B)The word power is Dunamis –English word Dynamite from it / **explosive power**

1) A Power that makes an impact

B) Power that Saves – Power that transforms a life !!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Exceedingly Great POWER : what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe,**

A) The word Exceeding = **LIMITLESS** - It exceeds a fixed amount – it is greater than we could ever imagine

B) The word Greatness = really big / the word in the Greek is *megathos* from which we get our English word: MEGATON-Talking huge power

Lloyd Jones - *"God's power not only surpasses our power of expression, it surpasses our power of comprehension! Take all the dictionaries of the world, exhaust all the vocabularies and when you have added them all together you have still not begun to describe the greatness of God's power"*

**3<sup>rd</sup> It is WORKING POWER** – *according to the working of His mighty power /*

A)The word working is *energia* – English - **ENERGY** – describes an active power /–

B)Power that is at work in our lives – not Dormant - not stagnant

Bb)I picture a river that is flowing – Jesus said that those who believes in Him – out *of their lives would flow Rivers of living water* – spoke of spirit John 7:38

C) The phrase V.19 mighty – speaks of a power that is **FORCEFUL & strong**

1) A strength that overcomes & Prevails ! It is a strength that conquers !!

E) Paul put it this way in Ch 3 **Eph 3:20-21**

*20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

**Note that Paul is not praying that power would be given to them –**

A) But that they would know the exceeding greatness of the power that is already theirs –

B) Power like electricity that **only needs to be tapped into – Plug into**

1) LUMBER JACK story

C) That can be us – trying to do what God has called us to **but we are not plugged into the Power Source**

D) Two men on vacation w/ their families – standing at Niagara Falls – One man made the comment – that is the greatest source of unused power in the world

1) Other man corrected Him – No it is the *Power of God in the life of the believer*

E) Because we are in Christ & Christ is in us – there is this incredible power that is available to us –

**That enables us in the things of the Lord**

**So that is a good Description of this amazing power that comes from the Lord**

A) Spend the remainder of our time discussing how God's power Supplies us or enables us.

B) **#1 It is a Power that enables us to serve God**

Jesus said in Matthew 28:18

**"All authority (or Power) has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**

B) How much power do you suppose that is? Look out at our vast Universe, God spoke it into existence – Creator & Sustainer

1) Earth circulating at just the right distance from the sun – Galaxies orbiting around at just the right speed – Incredible Power

**C) Power seen through out History: The Flood / Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah / Plagues in Egypt / Red Sea / Jordan River / Jesus healings**

1) Jesus made the blind see / lame walk / raised the dead

**D) Then finally the Resurrection of Jesus / He was raised to die no more**

1) He ascended into Heaven – Sits in glory at the right hand of the father

**What do you suppose you would do if you had that much power? What would you use it for?**

A) Well Jesus tells his disciples what he wants them to use it for !!!

*19 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, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;*

**B) Jesus wants them & us to go into the world and make disciples – share the gospel**

1) Jesus is sending his disciples into a hostile world – will they be able to handle it ?

C) The Key is found however in the end of v. 20 *and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

D) Always with us – Never leaves us – Chosen to allow us to Partner with Him in His Mission!

**This is an amazing thing to consider for us as Believers.**

A) We are his workmanship – Visible expressions of the artist – His heart – plan.

B) **God the father – who doesn't need us** – allows us to participate in his desire to reach men. (Not animals, Not angels, Not obscure events- No People)

B) And the way that He does this is through His Spirit working in and through our Lives

C) In John ch.14:18 – Jesus said: **I am leaving you – but not leave you orphans. I will come -**

1) Not going to leave you alone – Come – here is how The Helper – My Holy Spirit

D) My Spirit is with you right now – but he shall be in You!!  
John 14:17

**John 20:22 in the upper room after the Resurrection is when the Holy Spirit Indwelt the Disciples!**

A) Jesus Breathed on them and said: Receive the Holy Spirit.  
John 20:22 –

B) But even though they were now born again – HS was now living in their hearts – they were not yet ready to reach the world.

C) Even though three years of being personally discipled by Jesus Himself.

**So He told them – before they went out into the world – they were to go to Jerusalem and wait for the HS to come upon them Acts 1:4-5**

*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;5 for*

*John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.*

D) Baptized with the HS – Filled to overflowing – Acts 1:8

*8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

**This is how the power of God that Brought Jesus Christ from the dead is made available to us –**

**Thru the Baptism of the Spirit**

A) The Spirit of Christ is in us – His Power is available to us {to be his witnesses – Serve Him

*"The steam in a locomotive does not exist to toot the whistle. Its purpose is to power the engine and move the train. So too, the empowering of the Spirit is not given for people to feel 'Holy Ghost Goose Bumps', emotional highs, or warm fuzzy feelings. The Spirit comes upon people in order that the message of the Gospel might be moved throughout the world." JON COURSON*

B) It was the power of the Holy Spirit working in the life of the Disciples that **enabled them to turn the world upside down** { or right side up

C) **Power that transformed Peter** – from a coward – who denied the Lord – in front of some servant girls to a fiery Preacher of the Lord

1) 3,000 Jews – You crucified the Messiah

D) It was the Power of the HS working in the life of the Disciples who transformed these men – who all forsook Christ

1) To men who were willing to die for Christ –

E) Transformed them from Common uneducated men who had the religious leaders marveling at their boldness & wisdom

**So it is a Power #1 that enables us to serve the Lord**

A) What will make you affective for the Lord – it is more than schooling / more than training /

B) It is the degree to which you allow the spirit of God to Empower your life

1) You know none of us has any excuse for not serving the Lord and making our lives available to Him -

**#2 It is a power that enables us to Stand firm in the face of Spiritual warfare!**

Ephesians 6:10 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*

A) Many times we cringe before the enemy when we should be standing firm

1) **Jesus has given us the Power to be Victorious in the Battle /**

B) The enemy of souls is described as a roaring lion – on the Prowl but in the context of the believer – he has been declawed / teeth knocked out

A 5yr old boy and his father were on a trip to the zoo one day, and saw a huge lion. The lion was prowling around his enclosure and letting out chilling roars. **The boy became very frightened and screamed in terror**, but his father remained calm and unafraid. Why?

*The boy was frightened because he saw only the lion, while the father was unafraid because he saw the cage enclosing the lion.*

**C) The Christian's view of Satan should be like that of the father rather than that of the boy, for our fierce enemy is like a caged lion.**

1) Teeth .....out /All He can do is make noise!

D) Jesus beat Satan – when He rose from the dead – He is now in us

1) 1 John 4:4 *“Greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world”*

D)**Jesus is in us!** Because He was victorious means I can be victorious!

Rom.8:37 *More than conquerors thru Him who loves us*

Lloyd Jones - *"There is no power that can withstand Him; there is no might or influence that can match Him; there is no possible antagonist who can equal Him. The mightiest foes, the devil death and hell have already vanquished, and the resurrection ascension and dominion of Christ is proof of it"*

E)So we Fight not FOR victory but FROM Victory because of the Power of God that is in our lives

**1 John 5:4 “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith.”**

SO the Power of Christ in us – through the HS –enables us to stand strong in the midst of the Battle!

**#3 It is the power that enables us to keep going even in the face of our weaknesses.** { Times when we feel over our heads or too weak for the task

A) We can take courage in what Jesus said to Paul –

2 Corinthians 12:9

*"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."*



**B) Zerubbabel learned that lesson. He was the governor of Israel who was rebuilding the temple that had been destroyed.**

1) The temple was in a mountain of rubble and he was trying to get it rebuilt.

**C) Every time he made an effort, enemies would come in and thwart the work, making it an impossible task. It was just a mess.**

1) And then the Lord sent Zechariah the prophet with this message for Zerubbabel.

*“This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts. Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone of the temple with shouts of “Grace, grace to it!” Zechariah 4:6-7*

**D) It’s not by might, that is it’s not by human strength. It’s not by power. It’s not by human ability.**

1) But it’s by My Spirit says the Lord.

**That’s not a put down. I don’t think Zerubbabel is thinking, “Oh, sure, thanks! You think I can’t do it.”**

**A) No, it’s an encouragement. It’s a comfort. You don’t have to do it on your own.**

**Aa) You were created to depend on God. You were created to look to God.**

**B) The impossible suddenly becomes Possible when He is involved!**

1) God wants to help. He wants to do it He wants to show you Himself strong on our behalf.

**C) Here is what that word meant to Zerubbabel**

1) As he looked at that huge mountain and that impossible task, he took heart. He thought, **God is with me; God is for me; God wants to work.** “

D) And God did work. They rebuilt the temple and when Zerubbabel put the capstone on, he proclaimed,

1) **“It’s God’s grace.”**

**Have you been feeling weak lately in your responsibilities / Weak in ministry / weak Physically or emotionally**

**A) Listen God wants to meet our weakness with His megaton strength –**

**B) We come to discover that it is more than enough to carry out the task**

**How do we tap into that Power source that God has made available to us IN CHRIST – The same way the Disciples did – YOU ASK**

**A) Thru the Baptism of the HS / The Baptism of the HS is something that every Christian should ask for**

**B) Luke 11 Jesus is teaching on Prayer and on the need to be persistent in prayer.**

1) Heavenly father responds to persistence

**C) Then He gives this analogy:**

**Luke 11:9-13**

**9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If**

**you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"**

**D)Luke 24: The Promise of the Father!**

**E)God keeps his promises – So do you want to be His Witness? – Serve Him ?**

**1)Need Power to stand strong in the Battle?**

**2)Need Power to be strong in Weakness? ASK !**

**But once we have received the Baptism of the Spirit – we are to continue to ask to be filled – Ephesians 5:18 Be continually being filled**

**A) DL MOODY – Why He emphasized this filling so Much – I leak**

**B) That is how we plug into the Power of God – We acknowledge our need and ask Him to fill us afresh**

**C) Tonight – Close with this**

"I read the story about Alexander the Great in which this poor and needy man did Alexander a service, and Alexander told him to ask for any type of reward he wished. The man went up to the treasurer and asked for 100,000 gold pieces.

Well the treasurer told him no way – He said that was far too extravagant of a request. But Alexander replied

**“Give him all that he asks for immediately. The largeness of his request honors me, for it shows that he has a very high opinion of my wealth, my word and my benevolence.”**

**Do we so honor the Lord by believing what His word says about His power that is available to us – that we daily call out to Him for it !**

Or do we go about our daily routines only crying out to Him when we are in desperate straits