

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 15 (#912195)
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare
TITLE: Program 15 - In Warfare, Remember You Are Seated In
Heavenly Places In Christ Jesus**

FRIDAY

OPEN

Can you imagine going from death to life? I mean being dead and all of a sudden finding yourself alive. Can you imagine going from abject darkness into light? Can you imagine having all your sins forgiven? Can you imagine no longer being a son of disobedience, no longer being under the prince of the power of the air? Can you imagine living on earth and yet being seated in heaven? We’ll talk about it today.

PART ONE

It’s absolutely incredible to think about it; about moving from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to the kingdom of God. Of once being a son of disobedience walking according to the lusts of your mind and the lusts of

your heart and now able to overcome all that. Of once being totally earthbound and now being blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. It absolutely is staggering and you think what could accomplish that? What could accomplish that is only one thing, Beloved, and that is the power of God. And this is what we want to look at as we continue looking at Paul’s prayer for those in Ephesus. Now as we look at this prayer I want to remind you of the background of the Ephesians and so let’s take a quick excursion to Acts chapter 19. Now in Acts chapter 18, Paul visits Ephesus for the first time. They want him to stay but he can’t and he says, “I’ll be back if it’s God’s will.” Well it certainly was God’s will because there was a lot of work that had to be done in Ephesus because the warfare there was great. Let’s look at it. In chapter 19 it says that there were **“...Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, [who] attempted to name over those who had...evil spirits the name of...Jesus.... (Acts 19:13)** And the reason that they were doing that was because what they saw was they saw the power of the name of Jesus. They saw Paul casting out evil spirits in the name of Jesus Christ. And so what they said and they were very cautious and they were saying, **“...I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.” (Acts 19:13)** You know who I’m talking about is Jesus that Paul preaches. These weren’t people that believed in Jesus. These were people that knew about evil spirits and were trying to help people. An exorcists is a person that casts out evil spirits. And it says, **“Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. And the evil spirit answered and said to them, ‘I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?’” (Acts 19:14-15)** And then this is what happened. It says, **“And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on...,” (Acts 19:16a)** these sons of Sceva, this Jewish chief priest sons. They leaped on him and I mean they wreaked havoc. It says they, **“...leaped on [him] and subdued all of them...overpowered them, so that they fled out of [the] house naked and wounded.” (Acts 19:16)** I mean this is the power of the enemy. I don’t

know if you have ever dealt with someone that has demonic spirits. I have. And I have seen those demonic spirits in that person rise up and rage at me and come at me and say, “If I could...” And see that was the thing. They couldn’t because [greater was He that’s in me, than he that was in the world.] (PARAPHRASE, 1 John 4:4) And I knew the power of God. I knew the power of God and Paul wants the people at Ephesus to know he’s praying in Ephesians chapter 1, in verses 15 to 23. We have his prayer. We’re on that third thing that he is praying for, that third what is. He wants them to know “...**what is the surpassing greatness of [the] power [of God] towards [those] who believe....**” (Ephesians 1:19a) And the reason the sons of Sceva had no power was because they were using the name of Jesus, they were going against the evil spirits but they didn’t believe in Jesus. And this is why they took off. This is why they were out of there naked and wounded and it says and, “**This became known to all....**” (Acts 19:17) I mean, you can imagine it became known. I mean they didn’t have television. They didn’t have radio. They didn’t have a printing press but they had their mouths and they lived in a smaller community and smaller cities than you and I live and you know it was the talk, the talk of Ephesus. I don’t know if you’ve even been to Ephesus but every other year we take a teaching tour, the Precept team and I, the teaching team and we take a teaching tour. We have the most marvelous time and the teaching that they get is incredible. Well one of the places we go is to the ancient city of Ephesus and how I love walking through that city with them and how I love explaining to them the book of Ephesians. How I love standing in that great, great amphitheatre where where Paul was and and where they were shouting, “Great is Diana!” the Ephesians for hours and and standing there and saying, “Great is the name of Jesus Christ.” Oh! It’s absolutely awesome. And it says, “...**both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon [all of them] and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.**” (Acts 19:17b) Now once you know what Paul’s prayer was for them in regard to knowing

the surpassing greatness of His power and once you read Ephesians 2 which we’re gonna look at you see why Paul wrote what he did. You know, I’ve written a book and it’s called “Lord, Is It Warfare? Teach Me To Stand” and it’s everything that the Bible teaches about spiritual warfare. I mean, everything from Genesis all the way to Revelation. It’s a marvelous study and God has used it mightily and you know we work in prisons throughout the United States and many places in the world. And what we do is we teach those people in there how to study the Bible for themselves, how to study it inductively, how to discover truth for yourselves. Well, everything that I write has that inductive flavor to it and so “Lord, Is It Warfare? Teach Me To Stand” is actually a Bible study and you go through week after week. There teaching tapes that go with it but anyway the prisoners absolutely love it. It’s one of their favorite books because they learn how to have victory when they come to know Jesus Christ even living many times in very difficult and very hopeless conditions but their hope is in Christ. And they learn about “**...the surpassing greatness of His power towards [those] who believe....**” (Ephesians 1:19a) And so of all the epistles in the New Testament and that’s where the epistles are but all the epistles this book, Ephesians, is the epistle on warfare. It’s the epistle on the church but it’s the epistle on warfare. Well it says, “**Many also of those who had believed kept coming, [and] confessing and disclosing their practices. And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together....**” (Acts 19:18-19a) Now practicing magic is flirting with the underworld. “**...And [they] began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.**” (Acts 19:19b-20) Now what God wants and what He is expressing through Paul to the Ephesians is He wants the Word of God to grow in them in wisdom and revelation and the knowledge of Him and to do it’s mighty, mighty work. So let’s go to Ephesians chapter 1. Now, in Ephesians chapter 1, verse 19 we

come to the third what is. “...**What is the surpassing greatness of his power toward[s] us who believe....**” (Ephesians 1:19) Now I’m gonna give you some Greek words, okay? And they’re in your study guide so you can go to the website and you can download this study guide absolutely free. And that study guide you get it by going to “preceptsforlife.com.” All right now, verse 19, let’s look at the word “greatness.” Now that word greatness is “hyperballon,” “h-y-p-e-r-b-a-l-l-o-n,” and this is what it is. It is a greatness, now listen, it is a greatness that is so great that it takes us to another sphere and you’re gonna see that other sphere. It seats us in heavenly places. It takes us from being earthbound to having the power of heaven. So what he’s going to do he is so awed with his power and Paul is trying to express it so that you get every dimension of it. So what he uses is he strings together all these power words. And this is why I’m giving them to you, all right now. He says, “...**The surpassing greatness of His power....**” (Ephesians 1:19) I told you about the word power. It is the word “dunamis,” “d-u-n-a-m-i-s.” I know you think of dynamite. Well dynamite is pretty powerful when you light the fuse. So the way I mark “power” is I draw like a little fire cracker or a stick of dynamite and I put a fuse on it and I color it red, all right now. He wants them to know the surpassing greatness. This greatness that is so great that it takes us to another sphere of His power, of His “dunamis.” Now “dunamis” means this. A capacity to perform. In other words God is going to give you the capacity to perform. The capacity to use the strength of His might. The capacity to stand against the power of the enemy. You’re not gonna have to be like the sons of Sceva that come against the enemy and all of a sudden your clothes are off and you’re bruised and battered and wounded and running. Oh no, oh no, you’re going to see that when it comes to spiritual warfare every child of God who really understands who they are and “...**the surpassing greatness of His power....**” this capacity to perform is able to stand firm against everything that the enemy will throw at you. So he wants them to know the third what is

“...The surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.”

(Ephesians 1:19) Now the word “working” is...I’ll tell you when we come back right after this break.

PART TWO

Welcome back, my friend. Let’s look now at Ephesians chapter 1 at **“...the surpassing greatness of His power...,” (1:19b)** this operational power, this power that is working within us. I want us to look, I left you with this word “working.” Now watch what it is. “E-n-e-r-g-e-i-a,” “energeia” and so what he’s saying is that this power’s not something that sits here that is absolutely dormant but he’s saying the working of His power. This power, this “dunamis” that God has given you and me in Christ Jesus that he wants us to know and understand about is a power, Beloved, that is full of energy. It is a working power. It is an alive power. It is an organic power. It is a divine power. It is a supernatural power. It is the power of God. And you’re gonna see about that power in just a minute but let’s go because it’s he’s gonna demonstrate and he’s gonna tell you what it did but first we gotta get down all these Greek words. So it’s an operational power. It says, **“...These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.” (Ephesians 1:19b)** Now the strength of His might is “k-r-a-t-o-s.” “K-r-a-t-o-s” and that word means that it is a power, this is so good, that overcomes resistance. You see those sons of Sceva could not resist or they could not overcome those evil spirits because they didn’t believe and that’s why they went away naked, that’s why they went away wounded and that’s why they fled away in standing their ground. But when you and I believe what we have is we have the operational power, the operational working of the strength of His might. So that strength is the strength that overcomes resistance. Isn’t this good? I mean doesn’t it absolutely thrill you? It ought to thrill you. I mean you think

of strength but once you get into the depth and you find this and you begin to savor each word. But now listen, it is the strength of your might. No, siree. It is the strength of His might and that word “might” “i-s-c-h-y-s.” Let me spell it for you again, “i-s-c-h-y-s.” And he’s putting all these power words together so that you might get an idea of the greatness, “**...the surpassing greatness of His power toward...**” you. Now watch what he says, “**...with the working of the strength of His might.**” (Ephesians 1:19b) Now “might” there means inherent power. Inherent is something that’s inside of you and so he’s saying I’m praying that you will know the surpassing greatness of God’s power, the power that is in God. The inherent power that is in God, listen carefully, is in you. Now I mean what a thing to pray for other people. I mean this ought to become part of our practice in praying for ourselves and for our family and for our church that God loves. That we would know what is “**...the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe...**” (Ephesians 1:18:b-19a) Now he’s gonna describe this power to you. It is the power, verse 20, “**Which He...**” God, “**...brought about...**” and once again you have the word energy this operational power which he, God, “**...brought about in Christ...**” when? “**...When He...**” God, “**...raised Him from the dead....**” (Ephesians 1:20a) Now what is the gospel all about, Beloved? Well the gospel is all about the fact that Jesus Christ died on a cross. He was made sin for us. “**...The wages of sin is [huh] death....**” (Romans 6:23a) So Jesus died because He became sin for us. Now He died. He went into the grave. He was as dead as they come. He was in a state of death for three days and three nights and then God with His operational power [raised Him from the dead and then He seated Him in heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that’s named in heaven and earth.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 1:20-21) This is what God has done. And this is what He is praying that

those people will realize, appropriate and live in the light of it. This is he says, **“I pray that the eyes of your heart [will] be enlightened, so that you [might] know what is the hope of His calling, what [is] the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saint, and what is the surpassing greatness [f] of His power toward[s] us who believe.” (Ephesians 1:18-19a)** So it says, **“Which He brought about in Christ...,”** and you want to mark the **“in Christ”** again, **“...when He...,”** God, **“...raised Him...,”** Jesus, **“...from the dead...,”** (Ephesians 1:20a) And many times when I’m marking **“dead”** or **“death,”** I simply take a black fine pen and I put a tombstone over it. All right, **“...From the dead and seated Him at His right hand...,”** now listen, here’s that key repeated phrase, **“...in...heavenly places.”** (Ephesians 1:20b) Now **“in heavenly places”** was used in chapter 1, verse 3. Now we see it used again and you’re going to see it used again after that. So I just took a blue pen and drew a cloud around **“...in the heavenly places.”** Then I colored it blue so I can spot every time that it’s used. So Jesus is seated in the heavenly places, **“Far above all rule...,”** I want you to get the **“...all rule and authority...,”** (Ephesians 1:21a) and there’s that word **“power”** again but now it’s lesser powers. Now it is the power that belongs to the prince of this world. And so I drew my stick of dynamite but I colored it black. **“...And dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.”** (Ephesians 1:21b) So what you know is there’s another age that follows this and that other age is when Jesus Christ, everything’s summed up in Jesus and what He is doing is He is ruling as King of kings. And it says, **“And He put all things in subjection under His feet....”** (Ephesians 1:22a) All things in subjection under His feet. It’s like He came and just take your foot and put it on a coffee table and pretend that underneath it is every power and every authority. **“...He [has] put all things in subjection under His feet...,”** now listen to what it says, **“...and [He] gave Him...,”** Jesus, **“...as head over all...the church.”** (Ephesians 1:22) I want you to remember the

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[exceeding greatness of His power towards you who believe.]
(PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 1:19) So anytime you are attacked by fear, anytime you are threatened by the enemy what you have to remember is this and it's 1 John, [greater is He that's in me than He that's in the world.]
(PARAPHRASE, 1 John 4:4) And God wants you to remember and to know the exceeding the surpassing greatness of His power toward you. So every time that you get in this warfare, every time you get in the conflict, every time you start to be afraid, every time the enemy whispers in your ear just say, "Hey, wait a minute, wait a minute. Jesus is my head and I am part of His body, His body which fills all in all. Christ is in me. God the Father is in me. The Holy Spirit is in me and because all of those are in me, then I am seated with Christ in heavenly places." Now watch. Far above all power and all authority and all might and all dominion, and every name that's named in heaven and earth. They're all under the feet of Jesus and if they're under the feet of Jesus, they're under my feet because I am bone of His bone and I am flesh of His flesh. I am part of the body of Jesus Christ." So, Precious One, look up, stand firm. You're the victor seated in heavenly places.