

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

January 9, 2024 – Praying the Apostolic Prayers – Erlinda Cruz

Experiencing the Glory of Being God’s Inheritance (Ephesians 1:18)

“After I heard of your faith... and your love... I do not cease... making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him (Father), the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know (experience) what is the hope of His (Father’s) calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 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. 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.”

Ephesians 1:15-23

Paul prayed a general prayer that people receive revelation of the knowledge of God (what God and His kingdom are like). Then, he prayed that they experience 3 specific dimensions of God’s glory that would cause them to persevere in godliness. The sequence here is important to notice.

1. We pray to understand God’s calling for our life, both in this age and the age-to-come. We must have a clear vision for what our destiny is and what we are to do.
2. We pray to know who we are to God as His treasured inheritance.
3. We pray to experience God’s power in our heart, ministry and life.

Experiencing the Exceeding Greatness of God’s Power (Ephesians 1:19)

“That the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation... that you may know (experience)... what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe...”

Ephesians 1:17-19

The third specific request relates to how we are empowered to live out our life in God. This prayer request is to experience the power of God. Power (Gr. *dunamis*) refers to God’s strength and energetic grace that we need to overcome temptation. This is the power available to all believers (Philippians 3:10; Colossians 1:11).

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How we are to live out our life in God:

We must not be content with powerless Christianity. Rather, we contend for NT Christianity that experiences the power of the resurrection. Much of our insecurity and fear is related to lacking this revelation of our provision.

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me... to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

The Working of God’s Mighty Power in Jesus (Ephesians 1:19)

That you may know... 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.

Ephesians 1:18-23

God manifested this power in Christ in three different instances. This is the same power that we experience when we say no to sin or pray for the sick or for God’s justice to break forth.

The first manifestation of God's power in Christ was manifest in Jesus’ resurrection and ascension to the Father’s right hand (Ephesians 1:20-21).

1. Jesus was exalted far above all rule and levels of authority in the demonic, angelic and human realms (Colossians 1:16; Philippians 2:8-11) in the present and future (1 Corinthians 15:23-28).
2. Jesus as a Man was elevated to the Father's right hand because of His obedience to death (Philippians 2:6-11). The destruction of death occurred when Jesus was raised as the first fruits of our resurrection.

The second manifestation of God's power in Christ was the Father making all things subject to Christ (Ephesians 1:22). God will show forth Jesus as a Man the head over all creation. God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything (1:22). All God's sovereignty is mediated through Christ (1 Corinthians 15:27; Psalm 110:1).

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1. Adam lost his lordship over creation when he sinned. Jesus re-gained it by His obedience (Ephesians 1:10; Romans 5:12-21). Jesus' lordship over creation will be obvious when He reigns over the earth in the Millennium (Psalm 8:6; 1 Corinthians 15:27; Hebrews 2:6-8).
2. Jesus will exercise authority over everything in creation including the land, seas, and skies.

The third manifestation of God's power in Christ is when the Father placed all things under Jesus' feet and appointed as Him as the Head over the Church which is His body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15; 5:23; Colossians 1:18).

1. Part of this dimension of His lordship is evident now. We can claim the authority of Jesus, our head, as we resist sinful and satanic opposition against us. The church is both the body of Christ and the fullness of Him who fills everything in with God's presence and blessing through Jesus (Ephesians 4:10-11).
2. The Church could not come into being as a body filled with God's Spirit until Jesus had ascended into heaven to become our head.

All God's power works through and for the good of His Church.

Jesus' sovereignty is exercised for the benefit of His church.