

Underestimating God's Power

From: Overcoming the Overwhelming:
A 40-Day Journey toward Rediscovering Faith in God

Day 29: Underestimating God's Power
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It is not uncommon for us, even as believers, to need a revelation of God's great power toward us. Paul prayed that the eyes of the Ephesians, whom he'd personally taught for two years, would be enlightened to see the greatness of His power toward them.

Ephesians 1:15-20

Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17that 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, 18the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know (see, perceive, understand) what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.

The exceeding greatness of His power is toward us who believe in Him!

Colossians 1:9, 11

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding...

"strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power for all patience and longsuffering with joy.

This power strengthens us—with all might. “‘All’ might?” my brain asks? “Yes, ‘all’ might,” the Spirit answers. Wow. Is it because we fast and pray and read our Bibles? No! It is according to His glorious power through His Spirit who dwells in us.

Psalms 8:3-4

*When I consider Your heavens,
the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,
“What is man that You are mindful of him, And the
son of man that You visit him?”*

As many times as we have personally experienced His power working in our lives, I still cannot completely wrap my head around this idea of God’s power in me. When praying, I believe God will answer me, yet sometimes when He does, I am completely in shock that He did because the situation looked so impossible.

Let me give a recent example. Recently, I faced a sudden and great storm in my life. A doctor told me I needed a certain painful medical test that horrified me. He made it sound as if it was absolutely necessary, so I set an appointment, even though I felt very uneasy about it. As is my custom, I did some research on the procedure and ended up nearly frightening myself out of undergoing it. Something inside of me was cringing about it, but because the winds and waves of concern for my health were raging, I had a hard time hearing God speak to me. Employing Philippians 4:6-7, I prayed, “God, I ask that before they do this test, they will discover they don’t need to do it.”

I did amazingly well the days before the test, and was living in the peace that passes understanding, but as I went to my appointment, I felt like a sheep heading toward the slaughter. I kept focusing on Him through the storm. As I was in the waiting room, I sang songs about putting my trust in Him to keep my body calm, but the winds and waves were pressing in. “Jesus, I walk to You on these waves,” I said.

Please don’t think, “Oh, she’s such a woman of faith,” because I was on the very edge of going under! The technician was

wonderful at keeping me calm, but I was ready to lose it, and she could see that. The doctor who entered the examination room, was not the doctor who'd prescribed the procedure, and when he asked if I had any questions I said, "Can I change my mind about this?" He said that of course I could, but not wanting to be unwise, I signed the consent form. If I really did have a problem, it would be better to get it diagnosed and deal with it than to ignore it. Still, I remained unsettled and unable to think clearly.

They couldn't sedate me for this because I had to be consciously perfectly still. The technician kept coaching me, and I kept praying, "God don't let them see anything." She did a couple of images and was strangely silent.

I asked, "Can you see anything?" She said that she couldn't see anything yet. Then she took more images.

"Can you see anything?" I asked again.

Her response gave me a ray of hope, "Let me go ask the doctor what he thinks."

The doctor came in and looked at the images. He said something to the technician and then came to the examination table to talk to me.

"We will not be able to do this test," he seemed to apologize. I don't see anything, and we don't do tests just to do them."

"Oh," I said, "I am so happy to hear you say that." Now, he wasn't saying that there was nothing there because a former image showed there was, just that he could not see it with the instruments he would have used for the test. He gave me my options and said, "If you were my mother, I would tell you to take this option." I asked him if these abnormalities ever go away, and he said no, but that they can either remain the same (a good thing), change in characteristic (another good thing), or grow (not good). Since he said that they don't go away, that is what we later decided to ask God to do—to ask for the impossible.

It was probably the first time a technician in that office got such a happy hug from a patient. I felt like the damsel in distress whose Knight in shining armor had galloped in and saved her from certain doom! I was so happy when I told my husband and children about this that I sobbed with joy. God answered my prayer. Oh, my goodness. God rescued me. I was thrilled beyond words.

Psalm 18:1-3

I will love You, O Lord, my strength.

² The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;

*My God, my strength, in whom I will trust;
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

³I will call upon the lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.

I don't mean this in a negative sense, but why was I so surprised? It is what I asked, and it turned out that God had done exceedingly above all I'd asked or thought by saving me from an unnecessary procedure. With all of this glorious good news, why wasn't my response more like, "I knew it"?

It seems every time God answers a prayer, we are amazed by it. All I can figure is that in the presence of a miracle, we can't do anything less than be amazed at His grace.

May God help us all to trust more and more in His power, and to never underestimate what His power can do for us.

1 Corinthians 2:9-12, 16

But as it is written:

*"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

¹⁰But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

¹⁶For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

God has great things prepared for us. We might not be able to comprehend them with our natural minds, but we have the mind of Christ and have received the Spirit who is from God so that we can know the things that God has freely given to us. May our eyes be enlightened to understand and believe in the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe in Him.

