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How to Be Strengthened with His Power in Office



AN UNKNOWN AUTHOR RECORDED the following true story: “A certain rich English eccentric named Julian Ellis Morris liked to dress like a tramp and sell razor blades, soap, and shampoo door to door. After a day’s work he would return to his beautiful mansion, put on formal attire and have his chauffeur drive him to an exclusive restaurant in his limousine. Sometimes he would catch a flight to Paris and spend the evening there.”

The author goes on to make the point of this week’s study, stating, “Many Christians live something like Mr. Morris, spending their day-by-day lives in apparent spiritual poverty and only occasionally enjoying the vast riches of His glory that their heavenly Father has given them. How tragic to go around in the tattered rags of our own inadequacy when we could be living sumptuously in the superabundance of God’s unspeakable riches.”

As you read, *How to Be Strengthened with His Power in Office*, may God’s Word speak to you as to how you may live sumptuously in the superabundance of God’s unspeakable riches. Read on my friend!

Ralph Drollinger

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SENATE: 8:00 AM Tuesdays, Rotating Offices of Senators. *Hot Breakfast Served.*

HOUSE: Capitol H324: Monday or Tuesday Evenings after First Votes Back. *Dinner Served.*





MINISTRY UPDATE

Rhode Island

Ministry Leader Merrill Thomas and State Senator Harold Metts



MINISTRY LEADER MERRILL THOMAS and STATE SENATOR HAROLD METTS are the Capitol Ministries team working together to bring the Word of God to Public Servants in the Rhode Island Capitol in Providence. At the Capitol Ministries' Fall Training Conference in Washington, D.C., they talked about their ministry. Here is some of what they said:

Senator Metts: "Currently we have four to seven Public Servants who come every week and as we become more established, there will be more. There is a great need for a discipleship Bible study in the Capitol because many people have faith, but they keep it quiet. Many don't realize that the Great Commission says you need to go beyond the four walls of your home or your church and reach out to others."

Merrill Thomas: "I prepare the studies based on topics the legislators want to talk about and Senator Metts invites Public Servants to attend. Right now we are working on foundational material, we don't want to delve too deeply too fast because we are not certain where everyone stands in his faith."

Senator Metts: "Yes, as Merrill was saying, we don't know where people are. We heard Pastor Shawn Thornton speak

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I. INTRODUCTION

LET US EXAMINE in careful detail a great passage of Scripture found in Ephesians, chapter 3:16-17:

that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;

The passage is a prayer of Paul's. He is praying the following idea: "Lord, give believers the capacity to know all of what they have in Christ — so that the Ephesian believers would come to grips with their immense multi-dimensional prosperity that is made available to each one of them — and every other believer — through their faith in Christ! Like many today, the Ephesian believers had a limited understanding as to what belonged to them as a result of their salvation in Christ. From this prayer, let us examine three beautiful spiritual riches that vividly unfold.

II. THE DELIVERER OF HIS POWER

that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory

It is normative for The believer to be strengthened with power from above. Paul begins his prayer *that He would grant you* with a tautological style that is similar to his first prayer in Ephesians 1:17-18 that states:

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

What do I mean by tautological? Tautology is the repetition of an idea. In other words, Paul is being redundant in our home passage to convey repeatedly the same thought once again for the purposes of emphasis. This is a common written communication technique of his that he uses to emphasize the point he is making (unlike preaching, wherein one can raise his voice) (cf. Philippians 3:1; Galatians 1:8-9). Both *that he would grant you* and *that the Father of glory, may give you* are similar ideas: Paul is praying in both passages that he's interceding for them (cf. 3:14), asking God to *grant* and *give* respectively. Note more precisely that Paul is not praying that God would *grant* and *give* what will follow as if they did not already possess these things (cf. Col. 2:10). Rather context suggests that he is praying God would *grant* and *give* what is to follow in a way that befits what has already been bequeathed by Him and exists in the believer at the point of salvation. Keep in mind as you study this passage that the idea of God having already chosen and empowered the believer is something Paul has already established at the outset of his Ephesian letter (cf. Eph. 1:4).



Notice the ways in which he will now describe what has been *granted* the believer: First, what has been *granted* is *according to the riches of His glory*. This phrase begins with *according* thus indicating that the believer is empowered with strength *corresponding* to the One giving it. The Greek word for *according* is in contradistinction to the idea of “out of.” Let me explain. For a millionaire to give \$100 is to give *out of* his riches. For him to give \$200,000 is to give *according to his riches*. Paul’s inspired prayer informs us that the believer’s strengthening is *according to* the One granting it! Romans 11:36 provides additional insight into this corresponding delivery capacity of God: *For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things*. The first portion of this profound passage provides a tight synopsis of God’s huge riches in ways more than physical! Similarly illustrating, in a parallel passage from Colossians, Paul prayed that believers would be *strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might* (1:11). The grantor of strength is able to provide abundant strength corresponding to His capacity! How? God *grants accordance to the riches of His glory!*

Now add to this the last aspect of this stanza: *His glory*: God *grants* in *accordance* with *His glory*. Philippians 4:19 states the same idea stereophonically: *and my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus*.

HIS GLORY IS THE

SUMMING UP OF ALL OF HIS ATTRIBUTES, CHARACTER, AND MANIFEST ACTIONS

The believer is strengthened in *accordance* with all of this! It follows then that in comparison to someone who knows not Christ, or a believer who is naïve to his standing in Christ, i.e. these truths we are presently explicating, that you who know Christ and these profound truths should exhibit abundantly more character, strength, and resulting fruitfulness in your personal and professional life than someone who does not! Political leaders who are strong in Christ should not be living like Julian Ellis Morris did during the daytime! (*See my PROLOGUE.*) Beloved fellow believers, do you live as though you are disconnected or naïve to your eternal source of power?

III. THE DESTINATION OF HIS POWER

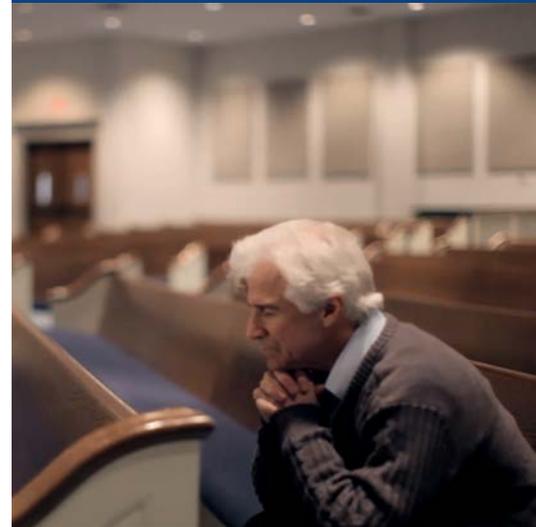
to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

Having substantiated the credible and omnipotent source of power available to and in the believer’s life, Paul continues in his manifest prayer, now describing God’s specific desired destination for all of that indwelling power: We have already foreshadowed this destination in our study — and that is this — for all believers to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man. There exists a common relationship found throughout the NT between the Holy Spirit and

♥ VERSE OF THE WEEK

Ephesians 3:16-17

... that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.



May you be strengthened by The Spirit!





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about not jumping too quickly into the application of Scripture before you've done the foundational work.

"We have members who are coming from a variety of places, some colleagues want to know more about the Bible, others do want to jump quickly into application, another is a retired navy chaplain, right now we are being careful to craft something that meets all their needs and we are starting with the basics of the Gospel."

Merrill Thomas: "And you may remember the study we talked about last year that showed Rhode Island being one of the least churching cities in the United States."

In a report on an American Bible Society study, *Time Magazine* called Providence, Rhode Island one of the "Most Godless Cities in America." The report ranked Rhode Island's capital city last in 'Bible-mindedness,' which is defined as reading the Bible and believing in its inerrancy.

Rhode Island ranked 44 out of 50 states in regular church attendance, and in a separate study, with Providence running nearly dead-last in church attendance, coming in 98 out of 100 cities.

"Because we are one of the least churching states, people may just not know and the basics could be news to them, so Sen. Metts and I are happy to begin by sharing the simple truth of the Bible."

In speaking about the study last year, Senator Metts said: "Providence was named after God's providence, yet it is one of the lowest Bible reading cities in nation. I am ready to go! Hopefully, prayerfully, God will bless this Bible study, even if there is only a handful of us. I have four to six and we will see what happens. There were 12 disciples and they changed the whole world." **cm**

the believer's empowerment because *strengthening with power* is one of the Holy Spirit's ministries. This idea is normative for the believer as can be referenced by the following numerous passages underscoring this idea:

- A. Acts 1:8 *but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.*
- B. Romans 1:4 *who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,*
- C. 1Corinthians 2:4 *and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,*
- D. 1Thessalonians 1:5 *for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.*

It follows that *to be strengthened with power* implies that one should not grieve or quench the Holy Spirit who indwells the believer at the point of his salvation (cf. Rom. 8:9).

TO GRIEVE OR QUENCH THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TO CUT OFF YOUR POWER SUPPLY!

Paul specifically states this idea later in his letter to the Ephesians when he writes in 4:30, *Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.* He tells the Thessalonians in his first letter to them (5:19): *Do not quench the Spirit.* To the contrary, in order to live powerfully one must *be filled with the Holy Spirit* (Eph. 5:18) and *Walk by the Spirit* (Galatians 5:16). To do so is to fuse God's power directly into your *inner man!* When this fusion occurs and is consistent over a period of time, there will be outwardly identifiable characteristics. Galatians 5:22-23 calls these the fruits of the Spirit. They are: *Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Walking in the Spirit,* being empowered by the Holy Spirit always equates to the believer manifesting increasingly His attributes, character, and actions! *Walking in the power of the Holy Spirit* is both critical and progressive. That is to say, one should walk in the Spirit in contrast to quenching or grieving the indwelling Holy Spirit in order to bear fruit in the moment, but it also means that one who has walked in the Spirit for a greater amount of time will have borne more fruit than someone who has walked in the Spirit for a shorter amount of time.

The indwelling Holy Spirit directs God's power into the *inner man* (*eso anthropos*). What exactly does



that mean? “The sphere in which the strengthening is to take place is ‘the inner person,’ it is [best] to understand the inner person as the ‘interior of our being . . . the seat of personal consciousness . . . and our moral being’ . . . It is the focal point at the center of a person’s life where the Spirit does His strengthening and renewing work. Indeed, the inner self stands in need of empowering given our struggle against sin (Rom. 7:22).”¹ It is this *inner man* which Paul refers to in 2Corinthians 4:16 when he says, *though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day*. That is such good news for someone who is worn out by basketball and mountain climbing and who will soon will turn 62 years old! Albeit our physical bodies are decaying and becoming increasingly weaker with age, but our *inner spiritual man* should continue to grow stronger and stronger the longer we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit! Isn’t that encouraging news? God’s Spirit will continually and increasingly strengthen your *inner man* for as long as you live — if you continue to yield to Him! So strong is this indwelling Spirit in the *inner man* that it can slay the evil deeds of our flesh! States Romans 8:13: *but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body*. In Galatians 5:16 Paul echoes this idea when he states, *Walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh*. Is that true in your life? Are you walking in obedience to God’s Word? If you are, then you can rest assured that He is empowering and improving you daily! You are

being *strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man!* Amen! Keep it up dear friend!

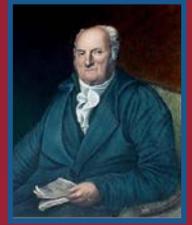
IV. THE DESIRE OF HIS POWER

so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith

Herein is revealed the reason why, or God’s desire for, empowering the believer: Many are the biblical reasons for God empowering the believer, among them is the clause, *that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith*. What exactly does this mean?

Inner man (*eso anthropos*) and *heart* (*kardia*) carry a similar Greek NT meaning. *Inner man* is in contrast to *outer man* (*exo anthropos*) in Pauline word usage throughout the NT. Both are in reference to those made in the image of God (cf. Gen 1:26). But the differentiation is this: *Exo* is used by Paul to refer to the physical and mortal side of man whereas *eso* is used to describe, “The inward man [as] the true self, yearning for the life of the Spirit . . . It is the essential self . . . that passes from the body of the flesh to the body of the resurrection.”² *Heart* (*kardia*) (from which we derive in English, “cardiology,” i.e. the study of the physical heart in medicine) is used in the NT to mean, “. . . supremely the one center in man to which God turns, in which religious life is rooted, which determines moral conduct.”³ It is the heart that God opens and illuminates in the miracle of salvation. Note this usage in Acts

Elias Boudinot



“. . . without the almighty power of the Spirit of God enlightening your mind, subduing your will, and continually drawing you to Himself, you can do nothing. . .”

— Elias Boudinot, President of Congress; Signed the Peace Treaty to End the American Revolution; First Attorney Admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar; Framers of the Bill of Rights; Director of the U.S. Mint.

Elias Boudinot, The Age of Revelation (Philadelphia: Asbury Dickins, 1801), pp. xii-xiv, from the prefatory remarks to his daughter, Susan, on October 30, 1782; see also Letters of the Delegates to Congress: 1774-1789, Paul H. Smith, editor (Washington, D. C.: Library of Congress, 1992), Vol. XIX, p. 325, from a letter of Elias Boudinot to his daughter, Susan Boudinot, on October 30, 1782; see also, Elias Boudinot, *The Life Public Services, Addresses, and Letters of Elias Boudinot* (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company, 1896), Vol. I, p. 260-262.

Henry Marchant



“Remember that God made you, that God keeps you alive and preserves you from all harm, and gives you all the powers and the capacity whereby you are able to read

of Him and of Jesus Christ, your Savior and Redeemer, and to do every other needful business of life.”

— Henry Marchant, Member of the Continental Congress; Attorney General of Rhode Island; Ratifier of the U.S. Constitution; Federal Judge appointed by President George Washington.

Letters of Delegates to Congress: May 1, 1777 — September 18, 1777, Paul H. Smith, editor (Washington DC: Library of Congress, 1981), Vol. 7, pp. 645-646, Henry Marchant to Sarah Marchant on September 9, 1777.



William Samuel Johnson



In an address to graduates:

“[G]o forth into the world firmly resolved neither to be allured by its vanities nor contaminated by its vices, but to run with patience and perseverance, with firmness and [cheerfulness], the glorious career of religion, honor, and virtue. . . . Finally, . . . in the elegant and expressive language are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” – and do them, and the God of peace shall be with you, to whose most gracious protection I now commend you, humbly imploring Almighty Goodness that He will be your guardian and your guide, your protector and the rock of your defense, your Savior and your God..”

— William Samuel Johnson, Signer of the Constitution; Member of the Continental Congress; judge; framer of the Bill of Rights; President of Columbia College; U.S. Senator.

In an address to graduates: *William Kent, Memoirs and Letters of James Kent*, (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1898), pp. 276-277

How to Be Strengthened *with* His Power *in* Office

16:14, *A woman named Lydia . . . was listening; and the Lord opened her heart (kardia) to respond to the things spoken by Paul.* More broadly understood than the specific act of the salvation, as important as it is to understand that, throughout the NT, the word *heart* is used to indicate the center of the inner life of man. It is the *seat* and *source* of each of the three aspects that best define the overall composition of man: his body, soul, and spirit.

The crux word to properly understanding this portion of our passage under study is the word *dwell* (*katoikeo*). This does not refer to the initial indwelling of Christ at the point of salvation, but rather to His continual abiding presence. After all, every believer is *indwelt* by Christ at the point of salvation as indicated by the following numerous passages:

- A. 2Corinthians 13:5 *Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you — unless indeed you fail the test?*
- B. Colossians 1:27. *Towhom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

Herein in our passage under study is mention of *indwelling* not related to salvation, but rather to sanctification. The verb *katoiko* means “to settle

down,” “to dwell fixedly in a place.” *Katoiko* is used similarly in Colossians 1:19 and 2:9 referring to the totality of God’s attributes and powers of the Godhead *dwelling* in Christ. Notice this respectively: *For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.*

Now add to this the following: in the Greek there are two words that translate into the English *dwell*. The other Greek word is *paroikeo* which is used in the NT to refer to a sojourner *dwelling*; like Abraham, a foreigner *dwelling* in a land that does not belong to him. My point in bringing up this second word for *dwell* is this: Had Paul meant verse 17 of our study passage to mean *dwell* in a soteriological sense, a salvific sense, he would have utilized this word instead. Accordingly, Paul is praying that the believer would have Christ take up a *permanent ongoing* residence in the center of his being, wherein one’s intellect, emotions, volition, personality and thoughts originate! He is praying that Christ will be the absolute center of your life! Is He?

Implied in the words of Paul in this passage is this: that Jesus Christ would rule over all that we are and do! Paul is praying that the believer would have Christ control him as his rightful owner! Does He control your *heart*, your *inner man*?

This is in keeping with Paul’s thesis, or application of earlier positional



truths in the epistle: *He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world . . . He predestined us to adoption as sons . . . For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we would walk in them.* (Eph. 1:4, 5; 2:10). It is in accordance with these earlier propositional truths that we find Paul praying in chapter 3 that God would give them the capacity to understand and make continually real these earlier expounded significant truths! If what is said earlier is true, then Christ by all means should *dwelt* fixedly in place! Christ is not just inside your life, but at home in your life! Perhaps the best picture of Christ indwelling, being completely at home in your life is provided by Robert Munger in his book, *My Heart, Christ's Home*. He states,

The Christian life is pictured as a house where Jesus Christ is going room to room. In the library, which is the mind, Jesus finds trash and all sorts of worthless things, which He proceeds to throw out and replace with His Word. In the dining room of appetite, He finds many sinful desires listed on a worldly menu. In the place of such things as prestige, materialism, and lusts He puts humility, meekness, love and all the other virtues for which believers are to hunger and thirst. He goes through the living room of fellowship, where He finds many worldly companions and activities, through the workshop, where only toys are being made,

into the closet, where hidden sins are kept, and so on through the entire house. Only when He had cleaned every room, closet and corner of sin and foolishness could He settle down and be at home.⁴

CHRIST CANNOT BE AT HOME IN OUR HEARTS UNTIL OUR INNER MAN SUBMITS TO HIS EMPOWERING.

Munger's picture of what it means to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit is authenticated further by what Jesus said in John 14:23, *"If anyone loves me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him."*

Further states a leading commentator in summary fashion regarding this passage:

Jesus enters the house of our hearts the moment He saves us, but He cannot live there in comfort and satisfaction until it is cleansed of sin and filled with His will. God is gracious beyond comprehension and infinitely patient. He continues to love those of His children who insist on spurning His will. But He cannot be happy or satisfied in such a heart. He cannot be fully at home until He is allowed to dwell in our hearts through the continuing faith that trusts Him to exercise His lordship over every aspect of our lives.⁵

John Hancock



He called on the State of Massachusetts to pray . . .

" . . . to overrule all the commotions in the world to the spreading the true religion of our Lord Jesus Christ in its purity and power among all the people of the earth."

— John Hancock, signed the Declaration of Independence; President of Congress; Revolutionary General; Governor of Massachusetts.

John Hancock, *Proclamation for Day of Public Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer*, March 4, 1793.



V. SUMMARY

Lastly this *indwelling* in the *heart* is *through faith*.

A synonym for *faith* is trust. In other words, “As they trust Him, He makes their hearts His home. The implication of the apostle’s prayer is that the more the Spirit empowers one’s life the greater will be their transformation into the likeness of Christ, a point that will be developed throughout the second half of the letter.”⁶

As a believer you will be *strengthened*

with His power to the degree that you are obedient to the will of God. It is directly proportional. So do you want to be powerful in D.C.? Do you want to change the direction America is headed? Do you want to make your time on the Hill count? Then may I suggest to you, per this powerful and insightful passage that we have studied this week, that God says to you this: “To the degree you are obedient to My revealed will in Scripture, is the degree to which I will empower you with My strength to do the job.” May God use this lesson this week in your life in a wonderful way my friend.

¹ Stacey, *The Pauline View of Man*, pp. 212, 211

² Baumgartel and Behm, *The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, vol. 3, 611-13

³ Note that there are three views of the make up of man. They are known as the trichotomist, dichotomist and monist views. The first views man as body, soul and spirit, while the second sees the soul and spirit as one in the same. The monist holds to no distinction. The debate centers around 1 Thes. 5:23, which I would view along with Mark 12:30 and Matthew 22:37 as emphatic expressions delineating the specificity of the Holy Spirit’s sanctifying process — versus an anthropological exegesis of man’s make up.

⁴ Excerpted from *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Ephesians* (Chicago, Ill: Moody, 1986), p 104

⁵ Ibid. p 107

⁶ O’Brein, Peter T., *The Letter to the Ephesians. The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1999), p. 259

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Making Disciples of Jesus Christ in the Political Arena Throughout the World

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Gouverneur Morris



“Your good morals in the army give me sincere pleasure as it hath long been my fixed opinion that virtue and religion are the great sources of human happiness. More especially is it necessary in your profession firmly to rely upon the God of Battles for His guardianship and protection in the dreadful hour of trial. But of all these things you will and I hope in the merciful Lord.”

— Gouverneur Morris, revolutionary officer; member of the Continental Congress; signer of the Constitution; “Penman of the Constitution”; diplomat; U.S. Senator.

Letters of Delegates to Congress: February 1, 1778-May 31, 1778, Paul H. Smith, editor (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1982), Vol. 9, pp. 729-730, Gouverneur Morris to General Anthony Wayne on May 21, 1778.