

## Series: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

### God's Mighty Power

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Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.



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Have you ever experienced or encountered something so supernatural that the only way you made it through to be alive today can be attributed to the divine intervention of the Living God? Do you just have to use words like “great,” “magnificent,” “mega power here,” “the splendor of God just shined,” and/or “what in the world”? It happened; we call them “God stories.”

For example, testimonies abound of the specifics of someone’s salvation. Before it happened, you may have had no idea what signs saying “Jesus saves” even meant. Saves whom? Saves from what? And then it happened to you. You were born again, born anew, and became a born-out-of-God one. Colors were brighter, your “wanter” changed. You knew you were different now. Now, you want to know this Jesus who saves and who is now your Lord, the one in charge of your destiny. You want to repent of your sins. You want to devour the Word of God. You want to identify with those Christians. You find yourself praying and having a heavenly Father who loves you because of what Jesus did on your behalf. You want to tell others. And so forth.

We have been looking at various powers of the Holy Spirit. We have looked at the Greek words *arche*, *exousia*, *ischus*, and *dunamis*. This time we consider two of the Greek words used in connection with God’s mighty power—mega power.

**I. Megaleiotes.** Strong’s 3168. Phonetic Spelling: (meg-al-i-ot' ace). It means: Greatness, magnificence; of the majesty of God, of the visible splendor of the divine majesty as it appeared in the transfiguration of Christ: a manifestation of great power; mighty power; a mighty act.

**Luke 9:43: "amazed at the mighty power of God. But while they wondered every one"**

**Acts 19:27: "goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence"**

**2 Peter 1:16: "were eyewitnesses of his majesty."**

#### **A. Luke 9:43.**

In Luke 9:43 we find people being amazed at the greatness and mighty power of God as Jesus cast out the devil that the disciples were unable to cast out. This power is that transcending power of God that lifts humanity out of its impossible plight and transforms impossible situations. We might think of the kind of power used to energize a freight elevator of a large industry. The freight elevator can hold much more weight than elevators used for transporting people. Its cargo is too heavy for guest elevators. Also, it’s usually hidden from the public eye. It is this “pulley power” of the Holy Spirit that can lift a burden that would otherwise be impossible to carry. The Holy Spirit becomes our burden bearer. He pulls us out of sin, out of self, out of negative circumstances and grief, and seats us in heavenly places with Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6).

This great and mighty power of the Holy Spirit is a transcending power that enables us to go through severe trials with a strange peace, a peace that the world doesn't understand. This great and mighty power lifts us above our circumstances as the Holy Spirit carries the load too heavy for the human psyche. This power can transcend all human tragedy and lifts us into the heavenly places in Christ.

**B. Acts 19:27** Again, *Megaleiotes*, Strong's 3168. Phonetic Spelling: (meg-al-i-ot' ace) Definition: splendor, magnificence ...

**It may be surprising that this word is used** in the description of Diana a/k/a Artemis. As we listen to the account in Acts 19, let's ask ourselves: Who voiced the description? What caused the riot at Ephesus? How is the goddess Diana described? She, by the way, is one of many goddess/Queen of Heaven/counterfeit Holy Spirit no-gods. What was in danger; what might be despised; and what of Diana would be destroyed? How did the people react to Paul's preaching against the no-gods? We see this today, namely, the conflict between the mind of the natural man versus the mind of the one governed by the Holy Spirit.

**<sup>23</sup>And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. <sup>24</sup>For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of <sup>[e]</sup>Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. <sup>25</sup>He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. <sup>26</sup>Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. <sup>27</sup>So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and <sup>[f]</sup>her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship."**

**<sup>28</sup>Now when they heard *this*, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great *is* Diana of the Ephesians!" <sup>29</sup>So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions. <sup>30</sup>And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him. <sup>31</sup>Then some of the <sup>[g]</sup>officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater. <sup>32</sup>Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together. <sup>33</sup>And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, and wanted to make his defense to the people. <sup>34</sup>But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, "Great *is* Diana of the Ephesians! Acts 19:23-34 NKJV <https://biblehub.com/nkjv/acts/19.htm>**

It took the city clerk speaking to the crowd to quiet everyone down. He advocated for lawful assembly and having any supposed case brought before the courts and the proconsul. He then dismissed the assembly

**C. 2 Peter 1:16-18.**

**<sup>16</sup>For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His**

majesty. <sup>17</sup>For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” <sup>18</sup>And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. NKJV

We cannot fully comprehend the majestic power of Christ. Peter said they were witnesses of His majesty and sought to convince believers of the reality of Christ’s majestic power [*dunamis*]. Remember, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ.

Adapted from [Benson Commentary 2 Peter 1:16-18](#). These things are worthy of being always remembered and regarded; for we have not followed cunningly-devised fables. These fables were common among the heathen.

The things to which Peter was an eye witness were and are things infallibly true and infinitely momentous. Made known by Peter and the apostles was the power, *dunamis* power. Evidences and demonstrations were given of Christ’s divine power in the miracles which He wrought. By means of these miracles, Jesus demonstrated Himself to be the Son of God; and coming of our Lord Jesus.

The promised Messiah was already come, and Jesus of Nazareth was He. “Or his second coming to raise the dead, to judge mankind, and to introduce His people into His eternal kingdom, might be chiefly intended. But it may be observed, if what the apostles have advanced concerning Christ had not been true, if it had been only of their own invention, then, to have imposed such a lie on the world, as it was in the very nature of things above all human power to defend, and to have done this at the expense of life and all things, only to engage the whole world, Jews and Gentiles, against them, would not have been cunning, but the greatest folly that men could have been guilty of.” (Benson)

Peter says they were eye-witnesses of Jesus’ majesty — “at His transfiguration, which was a specimen of His glory at the last day. For He received from God the Father divine honor and inexpressible glory — Shining from heaven above the brightness of the sun; when there came such a voice from the excellent glory — From the Shechinah, as the Jews termed that glorious appearance which was a symbol of the presence of Jehovah; This is my beloved Son,” (Benson)

**“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” <sup>18</sup>And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.” NKJV**

See [Benson’s] notes on [Matthew 17:2-5](#). This voice we heard — Namely, Peter, James, and John. John was still alive when Peter wrote this. They were with Jesus in the holy mount — **“The mount made holy by that glorious manifestation, as mount Horeb was of old by the peculiar presence of God,”** [Exodus 3:4-5](#).  
[https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2\\_peter/1-16.htm](https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2_peter/1-16.htm)

**II. Megala:** G3167. Megalaios. Phonetic Spelling: (meg-al-i' os) Definition: magnificent, splendid. Usage ...This means: a deed of importance and power; mighty act, great deed; something magnificent and splendid. Luke 1:49; Acts 2:11. We

**Luke 1:49: For has done to me great things, the mighty one, and holy is the name of him.** <https://biblehub.com/interlinear/luke/1-49.htm>

This verse is found in the Song of Mary, also called *The Magnificat*.

**<sup>46</sup>And Mary said:**

**“My soul magnifies the Lord,**

**<sup>47</sup>And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.**

**<sup>48</sup>For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;  
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.**

**<sup>49</sup>For He who is mighty has done great things for me,  
And holy is His name. Luke 1:46-49 NKJV**

Final Notes: Several Greek words may refer to miraculous events, and in a number of instances these terms are used in pairs in order to emphasize rather than to distinguish different kinds of miraculous events. All may indicate a supernatural component with important religious implications, especially since the performance of such miracles implies divine power. (Louw & Nida, page 681)

Dynameis [duna-mace] always points to new and higher forces that have entered and are working in this lower world of ours. Delitzsch wrote: "Every miracle is a display of power of the world of salvation about to enter the moribund created world." The term megaleia [mega-lay' a], which occurs only in Luke 1:49 and in Acts 2:11, is closely related to this idea. Like dynameis, megaleia portrays miracles as outpourings of the greatness of God's power and glory. <http://studybible.info/trench/Wonder>

Let us also rejoice in God our Savior and our Lord, for He who is mighty has indeed done great things for us. His name is holy. He is the One, True God, and to know Him and Jesus Christ whom He has sent is eternal life (John 17:3). Amen.

*Mary Craig, D. Min.*

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