

Series: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

The Power of "Kratos"

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Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.



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Just how powerful is God? Is anything or anyone more powerful than the Living God?

Last time we came across Ephesians 1:19, 20. This time we examine the word “*kratos*.” [kra – tahs]. Ephesians 1:19, 20 captured our attention because of its inclusion of so many “power” words.

Paul there mentions "the exceeding greatness of God's power to us-ward who believe, even according to the working of His mighty POWER"

I stop here because the “power” here is “kratos” in Greek. We saw how this fantastic verse uses a mega word, greatness, *dunamis*, *energeia*, *ischus*, and *kratos*. It goes on to mention *arche* [ar-kay] as well. We should rejoice at the overwhelming Power of God! The power that raised Jesus from the dead is extended to believers, to those in Christ, to the ones-believing.

STRONGS NT 2904: κράτος, kra’ –tahs, comes from a root meaning 'to perfect, complete.' We see it in our words “create” and “Creator.”

1. force, strength.

2. power, might: the might of his strength, [Ephesians 1:19](#); [Ephesians 6:10](#); [Colossians 1:11](#); mightily, with great power, [Acts 19:20](#).

The word “metonymy” is defined as a figure of speech in which one word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated. For example, we use Washington for the United States government, and we use the word sword for military power. Kratos is used as a metonym for a mighty deed, a work of power, as in Luke 1:51: work of power:

[Luke 1:51](#). He has shown strength [kratos] with the arm of Him, He has scattered the proud in the thought of heart of them. www.biblehub.com Greek to English interlinear.

3. dominion: in the doxologies, [1 Timothy 6:16](#); [1 Peter 4:11](#); [1 Peter 5:11](#); [Jude 1:25](#); [Revelation 1:6](#); [Revelation 5:13](#); [Hebrews 2:14](#) The strength of God’s dominion appropriated by believing ones is the source of endurance, of overcoming.

Jude 1:25: To the only God, Savior of us, through Jesus Christ the Lord of us, be glory, majesty, dominion (kratos), and authority, before all time and now, and to all the ages, Amen. www.biblehub.com Greek to English Interlinear.

The verb form, “krateo,” [kra – tay’- oh] means “to seize, to arrest, to imprison,” especially using force. It means to hold on to, to control, to keep, to accomplish.

A derivative means to become strong, to become powerful. It means to become strong psychologically, as in Luke 1:8, which speaks of Jesus becoming strong in spirit or developing in spirit. In Ephesians 3:16 it means to become strengthened through His Spirit in the inner person. 1 Corinthians 16:13 is to be understood in a non-physical sense; **that the believer is to be sufficiently strong as to be able to dominate or have dominion over or to overcome any evil influence.**

In 1 Peter 5:6 we find another derivative, pertaining to being powerful or mighty. We are exhorted to humble ourselves under God's mighty power or mighty hand, referring to power as an expression of the activity of a person or supernatural being of Luke 1:66 where the power of the Lord was with him. God gives the strength, the power to do something; He makes it possible to do ...

God's power is made available to believing ones so we can KNOW the exceeding greatness of it. God is the Source and believing ones are the focus of God's mighty power.

Ephesians 1:15-23:

¹⁵Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, ¹⁶Cease not 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 unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: ¹⁸The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, ²⁰Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: ²²And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, ²³Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all. Ephesians 1:15-23 KJV

“Kratistos” [kra-tis'-toss] means most excellent. This word pertains to having noble status, with the implication of power and authority, often employed as a title, like when someone says, “Your Excellency,” or “Your Honor.” Acts 24:3 where Paul refers to Felix as “Most excellent Felix...”

In Paul's prayer, Colossians 1:9-17, God gives the strength to be an overcomer, something to which Jesus calls us to be in the Revelation.

Jude acknowledges God as the eternal Victor over all the power of evil. Jude 25

Revelation 5:13 declares this “kratos,” in English, “power.” Eternal dominion belongs to God alone. Jesus Christ has triumphed by His great power. Every knee will bow to Jesus Christ; every name. The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our LORD and of His Christ. Jesus Christ is Ruler over the kings of the earth. He holds the key of David, to open and shut; He holds the keys to death and hades.

The Holy Spirit applies to the believing ones what Jesus Christ has accomplished. We have to want to appropriate what Jesus desires to give to us...not merely bananas and cereal and bread; but spiritual blessings, life in Christ.

Let's not make God too small. There is this bent in the heart, this tendency to want to kill the Creator and take His place. There is this sneaky desire to want to be as god and oftentimes we think we'd do a better job, unless we think about the enormity of the task and the foolishness of our high-mindedness. One way to counter this is to pray the doxologies in the NT. See the list at the end of this message, please.

We will close, however, with this good hope and this good news from **Colossians 1:9-23**:

⁹For 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; ¹⁰that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has delivered us from the power of darkness and ^[c]conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption ^[d]through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Reconciled in Christ

¹⁹For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

²¹And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²²in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— ²³if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister. Colossians 1:9-23. NKJV

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Amen.

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Doxologies in the New Testament (All texts here ESV)

Luke 1:68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel

Rom 1:25 the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Rom 9:5 the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

Rom 11:33–36 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! —For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? □ —Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? □ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Rom 16:25–27 Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

2 Cor 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

2 Cor 11:31 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever

Gal 1:4–5 our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

Eph 3:20–21 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Phil 4:20 To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Tim 1:17 To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Tim 6:15–16 he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

2 Tim 4:18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Heb 13:20–21 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

1 Pet 4:11 To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Pet 5:11 To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

2 Pet 3:18 our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen

Jude 1:24–25 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Rev 1:5–6 To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen