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## The Two Greatest Prayers of the Apostle Paul CHAPTER TWO A SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION

### **Manifesting the Transcending Power**

Not only is the church in resurrection, it is also transcendent. If anything continues to suppress or entangle us, we are not in the reality of the church. The church is utterly transcendent. We must realize that all of our problems are opportunities for us to experience God's transcending power. In the midst of all our problems, we should say: "Hallelujah! Deep within me, there is the transcending power that seated Christ at the right hand of God, far above all." Our wives may be opposing us, or our husbands may be bothering us, but we are sitting in the heavenlies, transcendent (Eph. 2:6). All things are ours, even life or death (1 Cor. 3:21-22). All things are for the church. We need all the troublesome situations for God's transcending power to be manifested.

As Christians, we may try not to make any mistakes. At times, we may have been in fear and trembling, looking to the Lord and praying, "Lord, save me from making any mistakes." But regardless of how much you prayed in this way, you made a big mistake. It seems that the Lord did not hear or answer your prayer. Actually, however, He did hear your prayer and answered it. He knew that you needed that big mistake. In His sovereignty, the Lord will allow us to make some mistakes.

Today in the church, there are many young brothers and sisters who have recently been married. Every brother who loves the Lord, looks to the Lord for a good sister to be his wife. Every sister who loves the Lord also prays that the Lord would prepare a good brother for her. Eventually, every brother gets a good wife, and every sister gets a good husband. Each wife is exactly what the brother needs, and each husband is exactly what the wife needs. The Lord has never made a mistake. Eventually, however, the honeymoon is over, and the wives and husbands begin to "grind" each other. Then the children that we have help in the grinding process that we need to pass through. As the many grains of wheat, we need to be crushed and ground to make the bread, the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 10:17). If certain persons and situations are grinding us and we complain, that means we are not transcendent. Because we are all under the grinding stone, we need the transcending power.

This power is within us. If we experience God's transcending power in all of our circumstances, the church life will be manifested.

### **Manifesting the Subduing Power**

Ephesians 1:22 says that God has "subjected all things under His feet." This is God's subduing power. All things have been put under Christ's feet, and today it should be the same with the church. We only need to be desperate and pray: "Lord, all the things have to be under me. You are the subduing power and You are within me." The more that things are subdued under our feet, the more the church comes into being. The church life may not be so manifested in your locality because many things have not yet been subdued. Some may be subdued by bad or even unclean habits. Others may be subdued by the modern way of dressing. In their dress, they may follow the flow of this age, the present course of the world. How can we have the proper, adequate church life if we are subdued by many things? Paul said, "All things are lawful to me, but not all things are expedient. All things are lawful to me, but I will not be brought under the power of anything....all things are lawful, but not all things build up" (1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23). This shows that Paul had the real freedom and was not subdued by anything. We should not have outward regulations in the church life, but we need the subduing power to live a subduing life. Then when others come among us, they will realize that we are those who experience God's subduing power. Nothing in the current of this modernistic age will subdue us. Rather, all these things will be under our feet. If we fully experience God's subduing power, the church life will be fully manifested. God's power is to the church, and this power issues in, produces, the church.

### **Manifesting the Overruling Power**

Then the fourth item of God's power is the overruling power. Christ is the Head and we are His Body. We are one with the Head. He is overruling all things, and we share in His overruling. When all things are under the rule of the Head and His Body, the church is manifested.

### **Our Need to Be Desperate**

Now that we have seen the power that produces the church, our only need is to be desperate. We should pray, "Lord, I am desperate to be saved from anything of death and from anything that would suppress, subdue, or overrule me." Then we will see the power that is within us. The word dynamo is an Anglicized form of the Greek word translated "power" in Ephesians 1:19. A dynamo is a generator. We must realize that within us there is a generator, a dynamo. It is dynamic and powerful, but it needs our cooperation. We have to have our capacity enlarged by being desperate. Then we will see the manifestation of the church in our locality.

## **CHAPTER THREE TO BE STRENGTHENED WITH POWER INTO THE INNER MAN**

### **THE INNER MAN**

In this chapter we will consider the second prayer of the Apostle Paul in the book of Ephesians. In the previous chapters, we have seen that in Paul's first prayer, the key is our spirit. Now in the second prayer, the key is the inner man. The spirit is for our seeing, for the revelation, and the inner man is for the experience. Our spirit is for us to use as an organ to see the things of the church, but the inner man is not just an organ. The inner man is a person. By this person, we can experience Christ that the church may come into being. Actually, the inner man is simply our spirit with something added. When Christ as life comes into our spirit, it becomes a person. The inner man is our regenerated person with God's life as its life.

We all have to see the difference between the spirit as an organ and the inner man. According to 1 Thessalonians 5:23, man is of three parts: spirit, soul, and body. Our soul is our human life. This is why in the New Testament, the same Greek word *psuche* is translated "soul" in some cases (Luke 12:20; Acts 2:43) and "life" in others (Luke 12:22-23; John 12:25).

Because our human life is in our soul, our soul is our person, our being, and our self. Therefore, the Bible refers to people as souls. In Acts 7:14, seventy-five persons are called seventy-five souls. A soul is a person because a human being's life is in the soul, but the spirit by itself is merely an organ. Just as our body is an outward organ to contact the outward, physical world, our spirit is an inward organ to contact the spiritual world. Before being saved, each of us was a soul, a being, a person, with two organs: the body as an outward organ and the spirit as an inward organ. But now Christ has come into our spirit as life, and this life is not *psuche*, the soul-life, but the divine life. Whenever the New Testament in the original Greek speaks of this life, it always uses the word *zoe* (John 1:4; 1 John 1:2; 5:12). *Zoe* is the divine, eternal, uncreated life of

God, which is Christ Himself. Christ is our life in our spirit (Col. 3:4; Rom. 8:10). Without this life, our spirit would only be an organ, not a person. As saved ones with Christ as life in our spirit, our spirit has become a man, a person, a being. It is not merely an inward organ, but it is now an inner man. This is the inner man referred to by Paul in Ephesians 3:16.

Before we were saved, we had only one life, the soul-life, but now we have another life, the divine life in our spirit. Because we now have two lives, we have a problem. By which of these lives will we live? If we live by the soul-life, *psuche*, we will be soulish, but if we live by the divine life, *zoe*, we will be spiritual. We should all desire to live by the life in our spirit, by the new divine life, *zoe*, and not by the old human life, *psuche*.

In Ephesians 1 our spirit is revealed as an organ for us to receive revelation concerning the church. In Ephesians 3 our spirit is a person, the inner man, for us to experience Christ for the church. Because chapter one refers to our need to see the spiritual revelation, it reveals the spirit as an organ. Chapter three shows us that we have to live according to what we have seen. For this we need the inner man, a person. As a person, our spirit is for us to live by and for us to experience what we have seen.

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### **Burdens for Church Prayers**

- For GTCA burden, especially for saints' participation in the move in Stockton and San Luis Obispo.
- For daily exercises in God's ordained way training: Personal contact with the Lord, Pursuing the truth, Participating in the study group, Praying with companions and in the church prayer meeting, Prophesying on the Lord's day and Going to the meetings on time.
- For gospel preaching on West Valley College campus, as well as for English-speaking testimony in Campbell.
- For young people that they would have morning revival, pursue the truth and become gospel seeds on campus.
- Pray for 8 points for GTCA, <http://beseeching.org/8-points-of-prayer-from-special-prayer-time-jan-17-18/>
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### **Announcement**

- Morning Revival: The prayer of the age, week 5
- Prayer meeting will be held at Campbell meeting hall starting at 7:30 pm.
- GTCA on two weekends 2/5-6, 2/12-13, Please register via brother Peter Liu.
- 2011 International Chinese Speaking Conference will be held on 2/18-20 in Anaheim, CA.
- Spring Young People Conference (3/18-20) Please register via brother Ezra Tai.