

Series: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

The Power of God the Holy Spirit

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Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.



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We talk about the power of God. God's power is omnipotent. God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, goodness, justice, and truth.

We can learn from seven Greek words used to describe different aspects of the power of God the Holy Spirit. I believe this will help us better comprehend the transcending power of the Holy Spirit to transform lives and turn situations in order to fulfill God's highest purposes on earth. I hope this inspires wonder and causes us to humble ourselves before Him in our worship of Him. If we better understand God using His divine power to redeem us and bring us into relationship with Himself, we may cooperate more fully with Him as He works to transform us into the image of Christ. So let's begin.

1. ARCHE (ar kay). This Greek word describes divine power in creation. It is the power that brings forth something from itself as the Source or beginning. In English we have the electrical term "arc" that defines a natural power source. The electrical arc is the point of ignition for machinery. **Arche** (Ancient **Greek**: ἀρχή) is a **Greek** word with primary senses-- 'beginning', 'origin' or 'first cause'. Later, 'power', 'sovereignty', 'domination', 'ruler', 'sphere of authority', 'supernatural power' and 'beginning' (aspect: time).

a. In Creation. John 1:1. In beginningness is how we translate *en arche*. In beginningness [or in the past when there was nothing] the Word was, and the Word always was with [*pros*, face-to-face with] God, and the Word always was God...All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made. In beginningness we see the Spirit of God moving, or hovering, upon, or over, the face of the waters. Let's read Genesis 1:1-3.

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; [or Let light be], and there was light. NKJV

We don't quite understand it, except deep within us, by the Spirit of God bearing witness with our spirit.

Hebrews 11:3. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God [at His command], so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. ESV

Hebrews 1:10 also has this word *arche*. **And You, Lord, in beginningness, have laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the work of Your hands. As**

created beings, we are a result of this *arche* power of God that initiated life as we know it.

b. The Incarnation. We see God's creative power resident in the Holy Spirit in the Incarnation. Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:18-20; Isaiah 7:14. The sinlessness of Jesus was not because His mother was sinless; she was not. The sinlessness of Jesus was due to the divine origin of His human nature, namely, the Spirit of God. (Hebrews 10:5)

Hebrews 10:5: ³Instead, those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, ⁴because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵Therefore, when Christ came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but **a body You prepared for Me.** ⁶In burnt offerings and sin offerings You took no delight. ⁷Then I said, 'Here I am, it is written about Me in the scroll: **I have come to do Your will, O God.**'" (Psalm 40:6-8)

⁸In the passage above He says, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings You did not desire, nor did You delight in them" (although they are offered according to the law). ⁹Then He adds, "Here I am, I have come to do Your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will, we have been sanctified through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all [time]. Hebrews 10:3-10 BSB

The *arche* power of the Holy Spirit, the power of the Highest, overshadowed Mary; the Holy Spirit came upon her, and it was the Holy Spirit who made possible the Incarnation of Christ. Again, Jesus Christ is a divine person with a divine nature who took on a human nature in a human body.

c. New Creation. 1 John 2:24. **Let what you heard from the beginning abide [or remain] in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides [or remains] in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. ESV**

The *arche* (ar-kay) power of the Holy Spirit is the first cause, the origin, of the new birth. The Holy Spirit initiates the good work of salvation; someone is born again, born-out-of-God.

1 Peter 1:23: For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. BSB

2 Corinthians 5:17. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.^a The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come! BSB

It is the *arche* power of God the Holy Spirit which creates eternal life within the believer. The Holy Spirit regenerates and with that regeneration of the heart, the person repents and believes the gospel, his eyes and ears opened. The creative power of God dwells within us so that Colossians 1:27 becomes our reality.

Colossians 1:27-29: To them [the saints] God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect [or fully mature] in Christ. To this end I also labor, striving with all His energy working powerfully within me. BSB

d. In prayer. The Holy Spirit wants us to experience the presence of God. His *arche* power ignites faith and causes us to desire the holy. Effective prayer has the Living God as its source. The Word of God has power and when we speak it in prayer to God, the Holy Spirit energizes those words to bring supernatural results according to God's own purposes. This is why I believe the most powerful way to pray is to bring God's word back to Him and to request and allow the Holy Spirit to apply those words as He sees fit as Sovereign.

2..EXOUSIA. (ex-oo-see'-ah) Strong's 1849. *Arche* often sparks *exousia*. *Exousia* means being willing to do something without being forced or pressured; it is the liberty of doing as one pleases. It also means with deliberate intent, with purpose. It means physical and mental power as well; liberty of choice; the ability with which one is endued and which one possesses and exercises; the power of authority and of right or privilege; the right to judge. It is freedom, but this freedom or liberty is to be used for the welfare and benefit of others. Authority is the right to impose obligation directly. It can also mean permission to use, as 1 Corinthians 9:12.

Exousia, then, is the decisive authority of God. It reflects the power and the right to influence and enforce. So there is authority and divine ability to perform a task.

Mark 2:1-12. ¹And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ²And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. ³And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. ⁵And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." ⁶Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷"Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— ¹¹"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." ¹²And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"
ESV

Jesus healed the man to demonstrate that he had *exousia* on earth to forgive sins. He had the authority and jurisdiction to forgive sins. Authority—jurisdiction—free will—deliberate—with purpose—as a ruler possessing authority, as one having the right to impose obligation.

John 1:12. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right (*exousia*) to become children of God. ESV

No one becomes a child of God without first receiving the power to do so. The Holy Spirit has the power to convict of sin (John 16:8). He causes people to confess Jesus as Lord (1 Cor. 12:3). The Holy Spirit calls, convicts, convinces, and converts by His power. If we reject the supernatural *exousia* power of God, we are rejecting the ability

to know the Living God truly. We must receive the supernatural authority and power of God. Ephesians 4:11, 12. Jesus gave the five-fold office ministries to the Church. 2 Corinthians 10:8. God gave Paul *exousia* and ability in order to edify the Church. The Holy Spirit leads others to grow in Christ through divine *exousia*. In Luke 22:53 the power of darkness is given permission; this is your hour.

Let's think about some more examples: Luke 19:17 (authority to rule over); Luke 4:6 (jurisdiction); Luke 4:6 (jurisdiction) but using terms like territory or land or even "peoples." 1 Corinthians 4:1 and 1 Peter 4:10 (one who has the authority/responsibility for, as a manager); Acts 5:4 (a state of control over someone or something); Mark 3:15 (to have the power to do something with the implication of authority); Ephesians 2:2, 6:12 (supernatural forces and power in control of those disobeying God, cosmic powers of this dark age); Ephesians 1:21 (Christ rules above all rulers, authorities, powers, and forces, and any kind of supernatural powers.)

Exousia also means the right to judge on the basis of having the potential to evaluate; the right, freedom of choice, freedom of action, and power to evaluate. 1 Corinthians 8:9.

3.ISCHUS (is-khoos'). Strong's 2479. **2479** *isxýs* (from the Gk root *is*, "force" and 2192/*exō*, "have") – properly, force to overcoming *immediate resistance*. (www.biblehub.com)

This Greek word means strength, capability. It expresses the valiant, almighty force of divine power with its ability to penetrate opposition. We might think of military force. Dr. Fuschia Pickett calls it "the bulldozer breath." The preached Word has this force (Acts 19:20). The supernatural power of the preached Word convicts and convinces people in the conversion process of the Holy Spirit to turn to Christ for forgiveness of sin.

In 1 John 2:14 John writes to young men because they are strong [*ischus*] and the word of God abides in them, and they have overcome the wicked one. This is divine strength to conquer supernatural enemies. In Luke 21:36 Jesus admonished the disciples to ask for this mighty strength so as not to be overthrown in the approaching disasters of the last time and so that they would be able to stand before the Son of Man. It is God's *ischus* power that delivers His people and brings them to their appointed end.

Ischus can also mean physical strength; being strong with the strength which God provides, as in 1 Peter 4:11. This is God's power working in our physical bodies to strengthen us.

Ischus is exceptional capability, as Mark 12:30. The idea here is to love the Lord as completely as you can as a total individual. Love the Lord completely with all you feel and all you think. It is not in us. This kind of love is better thought of as loyalty, supreme allegiance, fidelity, total trust leading to a radical (to the root) obedience. It is to obey Jesus' commands in heart, mind, soul, spirit, and life. To say that this kind of love for God is in us is to speak great swelling words and is boasting and making our own "I will" statements which we cannot guarantee.

The idea is: don't just go around telling people how much you love Jesus and how spiritual you are. Love is action. Don't boast about how much you love Jesus; God demonstrated His love for us by sending Jesus to live as sin-bearer, curse-bearer, and bearer of the wrath of God. Jesus lived the life God required and died the death

demanded by divine justice as Surety and Mediator of the New Covenant in His Blood. He rose again from the dead, an act which demonstrated that God the Father accepted the atoning work of Christ on behalf of those for whom He died. The gap between any love that we might have for the Living God is far less than His love for us; we must always maintain that by acknowledging the greatness of His perfect love.

Our great swelling words of devotion, loyalty, supreme attachment, allegiance, and some perfect love can result in having those words tested by God along with demands by Satan to sift us like wheat. (Matthew 16) Just do it, by the grace of God and in His strength. Apart from Christ we can do nothing. Yet, Paul says in **Philippians 4:13, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

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