

Series: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

The Working Power of the Holy Spirit

March 19, 2023

Dr. Mary Craig (Message delivered by Stephen Craig)
Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.



[Click/tap to hear more from the live recording](#)

We turn now to two closely-related words for power related to the working power of the Holy Spirit. One is *energia* and the other is *ergos*.

Many may be familiar with the word in English, “ergonomics.” *Ergonomics* is the study of the relationship between people and their working environment, especially the equipment they use. We think of it mostly as connected to the workplace environment and how to make items, like a desk chair, more comfortable in order to increase efficiency of work output by providing a performance benefit.

Now let’s look at the NT Greek word *Energia* [Strong’s 1753, pronounced en – erg’ – i ah. It means a divine energizing force that works effectually and powerfully. It means working, efficiently, and is used only of superhuman power in the NT, whether that power is of God or of the devil. Morphologically it is having the characteristic or quality of work/energy within.

King James Word Usage - Total: 8

working 4, effectual working 2, operation 1, strong 1

This word is used 8 times:

Ephesians 1:19: "who believe, according to the *working* of his mighty power,"

Ephesians 3:7: "unto me by the effectual working of his power."

Ephesians 4:16: "joint supplieth, according *to the effectual working* in the measure of every"

Philippians 3:21: "body, according to the working whereby he is able even"

Colossians 1:29: "labor, striving according to his working, which worketh in me"

Colossians 2:12: "*him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him"

2 Thessalonians 2:9: "coming is after the working of Satan with all power"

2 Thessalonians 2:11: "for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe"

Ergon –to function, to work, with possible focus on the energy or effort involved; act, deed; the result of someone’s activity or work; workmanship, result of what has been done, as in 1 Corinthians 9:1. John 10:32; 1 Corinthians 12:6; Mark 13:34 Forms of this word mean to engage in an activity involving considerable expenditure of effort—to work, to labor, to do business.

Paul prays in Ephesians 1 concerning the Ephesians. He wants them to know “**what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places.**”

Ephesians 1:19, 20

We have transcending greatness. We have four Greek words for “power” here in addition to that. Each has a different shade of meaning, but all have the force of strength, power, might, and dominion. We have, *dunamis*, *energeia*, *ischus*, and *kratos*. First is *dunamis*, the exceeding or transcending greatness of His power, or ability [*dunamis*] to us-ward who believe, or to the ones-believing, according to the working or operation [*energeian*] of His mighty [*ischus*] power [*kratous*] which He wrought or operates [*energeo*] in Christ, the Anointed, when He raised Him from the dead... Or—according to the operation of the holding or might [*kratous*] of the strength [*ischuos*] of Him.

And then go on... rousing Him out of dead ones and seats Him in right of Him [or at His right] among the celestial ones up over every arches [sovereignty or origin] and *exousias* [authority] and *dunameos* [power, ability] and masterdom/lordship and every name being named not only in this eon [age] but also in the one impending. And subjects all [things] under the feet of Him gives Him head over all [things] to the *ekklesia*, the out-called or called-out ones, which any is the body of Him or His body, the fullness of Him that fills all in all. [or the complement of the all in all being filled or completing.]

So we have *dunamis* occurring after exceeding greatness. “Huperballo” is where we get our word “hyperbole” from. It means “to throw” something beyond the goal, way beyond the goal. We’ve had “greatness.” Here it is *megethos*, meaning huge or vast in dimension, so transcending greatness...huge. Vast in dimension.

Dunamis is about inherent power, ability. 1 Corinthians 1:24 speaks of Christ the power of God, the *dunamis* of God. Jesus has all power; the Father and the Holy Spirit have all power. Any power we have is given to us. It is infused into us. In Revelation 1:16 this power is compared to that of the sun.

Dunamis is there in 2 Peter 1:3, 4. God’s *dunamis* power Paul preached by the *dunamis* of the Spirit of God. Romans 15:19.

Now let’s get to en-erg’-ei a and en-erg’-eo, noun and verb. These words refer to the working power of God, a supernatural power. The Greek word for “work” is *ergon*. *Energeia* speaks of activity, zealous labor as opposed to idleness or inactivity.

God is the first worker. Genesis 2:2, 3. We have *ergon* [work] here three times. God is not idle or inactive. His working power spills over into our lives. Titus 2:14 “works” here is *ergon*.

Any energy we have is largely derived from the Word of God. Hebrews 4:12. The Word of God *energes* [energizes]. It is powerful. This is why I say we are as spiritually strong as how much Word of God is in us. We are called to be strong in the LORD and in the power of His might.

This *energeia* somehow attracts faith and love. Galatians 5:6. We are given grace to obey through faith which works by love.

In Ephesians 1, there is also *ischus*, or strength. We’ve talked about that one, too. It comes from a root verb, *echo*, meaning “to hold on.” God holds on to us. God is strong and strengthens us. We are to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 2:2. To the ancients “*ischus*” inferred martial power, military power, being combat

ready. 1 John 2:14. The young men have ischus; they are strong. Why? The word of God abides in them and they have overcome the wicked one. In Luke 11:21, 22 Jesus presents the “strong man” as the devil; but the “stronger man” is the Lord Jesus Christ. God’s ischus power is glorious. 2 Thessalonians 1:9

Of course, we talked about ischus denoting physical strength as well.

Ephesians 1 speaks of “kratos” power, but we will deal with that in another message.

Divine *energia* cuts through the darkness like a laser beam of light. The energizing power of the Holy Spirit comes in to convict us, to make the Word alive to our hearts, so we can be energized and break free from bondage to sin.

The Holy Spirit energizes repentance. He gives us divine strength to witness. God’s working, works in us. Colossians 1:29

Philippians 2:13 uses two Greek words to speak of the energizing power of God which works in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

God’s energy invigorates. It keeps us alive and active. It rejoices in the conquering mood of the Holy Spirit. It causes us to live effectively. Acts 2:4.

Exodus 33:20-23: ¹⁸**Moses said, “Please show me your glory.”** ¹⁹**And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The Lord.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.** ²⁰**But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.”** ²¹**And the Lord said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock,** ²²**and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by.** ²³**Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”** ESV

We might think of energia as God giving of Himself in such a way in order to do His work. We are fallen beings saved by God’s grace through the power of the Holy Spirit. For us, God reveals Himself in such a way that His presence does not destroy us.

According to passages like 1 Corinthians 12:6; Ephesians 4:16; and Philippians 2:13, God’s *energia* resides in every true believer. Many of us have seen God energize us to do His work and His will as He inhabits us. We are actually doing and living, but God is doing and living in and through us. We need to stay aware of this when around other people. Some Christians say we experience God within us in His *energia* but will one day experience Him in pure essence or being in eternity. Something to think about: What would happen to us if God manifested in His pure essence? God is very gracious and merciful to come to us in a way that is life-giving and not lethal, for He is, after all, a consuming fire.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-11. ⁸**And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.** ⁹**The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,** ¹⁰**and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the**

truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹²that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. NKJV

Jesus will come and consume and destroy the one whose coming is after the working [*energeia*] of Satan. The word translated “brightness” is “*epiphaneia*” [ee piff a nay a] from which we get the word “epiphany.” Implied is that Jesus shows up, shines forth, shoots down the enemy, and strengthens our faith. The word translated “strong delusion” is actually “*energeia*.” Who sends out this “*energeia*”? God. God sends out this strong delusion that they, those who did not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved but should believe the lie.

Stand fast!

¹³But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, ¹⁴to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

¹⁶Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, ¹⁷comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work. NKJV Amen.

Mary Craig, D. Min.

© 2023 Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. www.marycraig.org www.mcmtffr.org



Thank you for giving to MCM! Donate: Mary Craig Ministries, Inc., P. O. Box 4610, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338-4610 or through PayPal® online at www.marycraig.org. Go to marycraig.org for the latest articles and words received. Take a look and see all that God is doing through this ministry, in world missions, in evangelism, the Barnabas Project, Craighouse® Christian Fellowship, home visitation, Kinetic Koinonia, media, and more. Worship with us 4:30 p.m. Sundays via teleconference. Reach MCM at 954-491-7270. Send in your prayer requests. Follow MCM Bible teachings and Rev. Jim Craig’s sermons; go to www.marycraig.org and click on “Audio Bible Studies” or “Divine Appointment” radio ministry; or go to www.mcmtffr.org for audio sermons, teachings, and handout sheets. Free. Go to www.marycraigverses.org for “Enjoying God for Life,” daily encouragement and growing in your faith. Go to www.marycraig.smugmug.com for some pictures of MCM world

missions.

Visit Mary Craig Ministries YouTube Channel:

www.youtube.com/@marycraigministries or www.mcmvideochannel.com. Subscribe for free.

Free books by Dr. Craig to download, print, or just open and use, here: www.marycraig.org/Catalog.htm .

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. is a USA 501 (C) (3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1993. Federal ID 65-0429517