

**“Empowered People”**  
November 18, 2018

Ephesians 3:20-4:6

**CORE:** It’s one thing to believe that God has limitless power (*“exceeding abundantly”*). It’s yet another thing to believe that His *“power works within us.”*

Paul identifies these marks of genuinely EMPOWERED PEOPLE:

1. **They’re HUMBLE.**

- Empowered people know where their power comes from—that *“(God) is able to do exceeding abundantly...as His power works within us!”*
- They fully trust in Him and totally depend on Him—to reveal His power both TO them and THROUGH them!
- They know whom to thank: *“to HIM be the glory in the church!”*

2. **They LIVE ABOVE THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES.**

- Paul was a Roman prisoner when he wrote this letter—yet, he calls himself *“a prisoner of Jesus”* (not Rome—masters of shame).
- Even the worst situations, the greatest mistreatment, the strongest prison—can’t take away their true identity!
- They refuse to live as victims!
- They refuse to be stuck in the past or distracted by present circumstances.

3. **They LIVE AUTHENTICALLY.**

- *“Walk worthy”*- describes a balanced scale—consistency between our words & our actions
- There is power in our words—but even the most positive confessions lose their power in an inconsistent life!
- Under the OT- *“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure” (Jeremiah 17:9)*
- Under NT- *“I will put My law in their minds and write it on their hearts.” (Jeremiah 31:33)* Radically new life!!!
  - *Romans 6:14-* *“Sin no longer has dominion”* in a transformed life!
  - *TPT-* *“Sin will not conquer you, for God already has!”*

4. **They LOVE DILIGENTLY.**

- *(4:3) “Make every effort”- to fully invest all you have; diligently.*
- Empowered people join supportively with people in their process!

- They manifest the following qualities necessary for healthy relationships:
  - ***“Humility”***- being ***inwardly secure*** due to ***upward dependence***—setting us free to be ***“others-focused.”***
  - ***“Gentleness”***- power under control; using strength to build up & not destroy (*i.e., lioness carrying cub in its mouth*)
  - ***“Patience”***- faith to see others in light of God’s vision for them
  - ***“Forbearance”***- grace for set-backs, delays, & mistakes; Lit.- ***“to remain firm when offended/disappointed”***
- The **primary assault** of the enemy on the church is **to divide relationships**
  - He knows that ***“Every city or house divided against itself will not stand.” (Matthew 12:25)***
  - In ***Genesis 11:6 (at the Tower of Babel) the Lord said: “Behold, they are one people...now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.”***
  - Unity releases a force—**a powerful multiplication of authority!**
  - How much MORE POWERFUL are lovers of Jesus operating in the ***“unity of the Spirit?”***
- The Holy Spirit is ***“the Spirit of truth” (John 16:13)***—therefore true unity must be **built on truth** (not just warm feelings)!
  - In ***Ephesians 4:4-6***, Paul lists 7 unifying convictions—the core foundations of the Gospel of Jesus.
  - In essence—there is only ONE way to have a relationship with the Father—and that is through the one and only Lord and Messiah Jesus! Only then can we become one with Him—made new by the one and only HS—joined in His Body—baptized/saturated with His new life! Filled with His living hope!!!
- Those empowered by the Lord will always promote unity & fight division!
  - On the night before He was crucified—Jesus prayed repeatedly for the unity of His people—to be united both with Him and with one another!
  - Those connected to His heart will carry this same devotion!

### **SUMMARY**

We are empowered to walk in all of these...

- Humility
- Freedom from “victim mindset”
- Authenticity
- Pursue unity

...in order to fulfill our high calling in Jesus!