

Empowered by the Grace of God
Higher Call 2/5/2012, Dave

I. Introduction: some key verses and some definitions.

A. Jn. 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

1). right or authority. *exousia*: From [G1832](#) (in the sense of *ability*); *privilege*, that is, (subjectively) *force, capacity, competency, freedom*, or (objectively) *mastery* (concretely *magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control*), *delegated influence*: - authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.

Used in Matt. 7:29. Jesus taught as one having authority. Also in Matt 8:9. The centurion said "I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me." He recognized that he had the backing of Rome in his position. Rome was the "badge" authority as the name of Jesus is ours.

B. Eph. 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

1) grace. *Charis*: From [G5463](#); *graciousness* (as *gratifying*), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including *gratitude*): - acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace (-ious), joy liberality, pleasure, thank (-s, -worthy).

This word is often translated "favor" Luke 2:52, Acts 2:47, Acts 7:10

2) gift (Eph.2:8). *Doron*: A *present*; specifically a *sacrifice*: - gift, offering. Sacrifice is the key word in this definition.

C. Rom. 12:6-8 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1) gifts (Rom.12:6). *Charisma*: From [G5483](#); a (divine) *gratuity*, that is, *deliverance* (from danger or passion); (specifically) a (spiritual) *endowment*, that is, (subjectively) religious *qualification*, or (objectively) miraculous *faculty*: - (free) gift.

This is the word, closely related to grace in Eph, that we typically think of as an empowering gift. 1Cor. 12:4 & 31.

My definition of grace in Eph. 2:8-10: Grace is the unearnable, unmerited favor of God to do things we can't do on our own. Grace empowers.

II. God has given believers both power and authority to do the works of the Kingdom.

A. Empowered:

1) Through the promised Holy Spirit. John 14:12-18, Acts 1:8, Joel 2:28-32 and the prophetic fulfillment in Acts 2:1-21.

Power in acts 1:8 is *dunamis* From [G1410](#); *force* (literally or figuratively); specifically *miraculous power* (usually by implication a *miracle* itself): - ability, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) *miracle* (-s), power, strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work.

2) Through the "power" commission in Mark 16:14-20 These signs shall follow, and they did!

3) According to our call and uniqueness as it pleased Him to fashion us. 1Cor. 12:12-18, Rom. 12:1-8.

B. Authorized:

1) As humanoids. Gen 1:26-28. The command to have dominion and to rule hasn't changed.

2) As children. Jn 1:12

3) Through the "authority" commission of Matt 28:18-20. "all authority has been given to me. Go ye therefore..." And they did!

4) According to our call and uniqueness as it pleased Him to fashion us. Also 1 Cor. 12:12-18, Rom. 12:1-8.

III. Power and authority recognized by man.

A. In the church. God has chosen "governors of grace" to liberate and equip people in their God given graces.

- 1) By the recognition of leaders. I Tim. 4:14, II Tim. 1:6
- 2) Through serving. Matt. 20:20-28, Luke 22:24-30. True authority is expressed in serving and using power to benefit others.
- 3) Through stewardship and faithfulness. 1Pet. 4:10&11, Matt. 25:14-30, Luke 16:10-13, 1Tim 3:3&4, 8-13. The process of stewardship tests our hearts in what God can trust us with.

B. In the world. Only to the degree we are given permission will our authority be effective.

1. Nazareth (Luke 4:16-30, Mark 6:1-6), Jerusalem (Matt. 23:37 & 38), Capernaum, Chorazin, and Bethsaida (Matt 11:20-24) are all examples of cities who rejected Christ and didn't recognize His authority.
2. The lost don't care about what you know until they know how much you care. Rom 12:9. No hidden agendas.
3. Live unoffended. Rom. 12:14, Matt. 5:43-48. Bless those who don't deserve it.

IV. Some concluding thoughts.

- I. 1). We have been given unmerited favor to do great and impossible things in His Kingdom. Grace carries responsibility.
- II. 2). The empowerment levels we live life in is proportionate to how we steward the grace given to us.
- III. a) Psa. 105:17-19... Joanna's vision of the broken clock last week.

Discussion questions:

- 1) Have you ever been frustrated by the process of empowerment?
- 2) How can you speed the process up?
- 3) Do you know your main place of service? Your "metron?"