

Miraculous Mosaic #33: Knowing God Better: Working Power
Ephesians 1:19
February 27, 2005 - Dave Desforge Preaching

Scripture Text: Ephesians 1:17-20

¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ **and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength,** ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

Much of this morning's sermon focused on the difference between Paul's view of faith – we'll call that the "grace perspective" - and how that differs from other perspectives – we'll call them "works perspective." It is amazing how often and easily this "works perspective" works its way into our own thinking and the practice of churches in the US.

Indiana Jones and the Walk of Faith

- 1) What can we learn about biblical faith from this morning's movie clip?

- 2) Why is it important to remember that Indy's step did not *create* the bridge?

- 3) Why is it important to acknowledge that Indy's step *did* effect his personal experience of the bridge? How is biblical faith like that?

- 4) What is meant by the phrase of "faith in faith."

"Us Who Believe"

The "works perspective" takes this phrase and makes it "instrumentality" ie. "How it works." The grace perspective takes this phrase to mean "identity ie. "Who we are in Christ."

- 5) Why is that distinction important?

Super Glue

An example of the “works perspective” was the illustration of a special glue that requires two elements. The basic component doesn’t get “sticky” until the activator is added. He suggested that too often we see God’s power as the basic glue and our faith as the activator that makes it really work.

- 6) Is faith “what it takes” to get the power of God to work in a life situation?

- 7) What would that “works perspective” or superglue illustration look like when applied to:
 - Starting a business

 - Raising a child

 - Confronting a strained relationship

- 8) How would a “grace perspective” look different in each of these particular circumstances?

- 9) Compare these two perspectives on prayer:
 - a. Faith prays because God is working.

 - b. God is working because I prayed.

- 10) Have you ever felt like – or been told that – God is not working because you are not praying?

Praying Together

Are there circumstances, people or behaviors in your life where you are hopeless, and need encouragement in your faith to believe God is at work?