

Biblical Words for Power – Greek

A look at some of the most powerful verses in Scripture:

Ephesians 1:19-21 (ESV) “And what is the immeasurable greatness of his **power** (*dunamis*) toward us who believe, according to the **working** (*energia*) of his **mighty** (*ischus*) **power** (*kratos*), that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and **power** (*exousia*), and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.”

1. **Ischus** – Endowed power, as a King has a certain amount of power given to him because of his office/position
2. **Energia** – Energy, an outward display of power
3. **Dunamis** – Inherent power, ability
4. **Kratos** – Ruling power, dominion
5. **Exousia** – Authority, the right to engage

There was a day in the Universe when all of God’s ruling power and inherent power was put into the form of energy. It was when Father raised Jesus from the dead.

1. **Ischus** ισχυρος - *Power, glory. Ischus can be translated ability or force.*

Ephesians 6:10 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the **power** of his might.”

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his **power**.”

- a. Glory in the above verse signifies the visible expression of the inherent personal power of the Lord Jesus Christ. (W. E. Vines)
- b. The full extent of the power of the believer to love God. (Revelation 5:12, Luke 10:27)

Mark 12:30 “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy **strength**: this is the first commandment.”

Ephesians 1:19 “And what is the exceeding greatness of his **power** to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty **power**,”

2 Thessalonians 1:9 “They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his **might**,”

1 Peter 4:11, 2 Peter 2:11, Revelation 5:12

2. **Energia** ενεργια - *Energy, working*

- a. There is nothing like the energy of God flowing through the believer.
- b. There is a super-human energy that can come upon the child of God! His anointing flowing through us is more than we have understood.

Philippians 3:20-21 (ESV) “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the **power** that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Ephesians 3:7 “Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his **power**.”

Colossians 1:29 (ESV) “For this I toil, struggling with all his **energy (energia)** that he **powerfully (dunamis)** works within me.”

Ephesians 1:19 “And what is the exceeding greatness of his **power** to us-ward who believe, according to the **working** of his mighty **power**,”

- a. **energia** is translated “working” in Colossians 2:12 and “workings” in 1 Corinthians 12:6.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 “Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which **worketh** all in all.”

- b. in the above verses, we see the Holy Spirit manages the nine gifts (verse 4), Jesus is over the Five Fold Ministry (verse 5), and, in verse 6 we see it is the Father that “worketh all in all.” meaning, the very **energia** of God holds all things together and He releases the power to bring forth the nine gifts (1 Corinthians 12) and the ministry gifts (Ephesians 4:11)

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 “The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

- c. The Anti-Christ has a *pseudo energia* and is called the “lawless one” or “man of sin” who “refused to love the truth” and be saved “but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”
- d. Literally, Satan energizes the man of sin.

3. Dunamis δυνάμις - *Power, ability, inherent power, or power stored up within. We get our English words dynamite and dynamo from this Greek word.*

Luke 10:19 “Behold, I give unto you power (**exousia**) to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

- a. Jesus used two completely different words for power in this verse. The King James translation does not pick up the significance of this verse. The first word for power is **exousia** which translates to our English word authority. The second word for power is **dunamis**.
- b. Jesus was telling the disciples He gave them **authority** over the **ability** of the enemy and that nothing by any means could hurt them.
- c. When it comes to dealing with Satan, why is authority (**exousia**) better than the power (**dunamis**) the devil has against us? I like to use the analogy of a policemen directing traffic in an intersection. When the policemen holds up his hand for a big tractor trailer to stop, the big truck better stop! The policemen could not physically stop the big rig from running over him, but, his authority is recognized way beyond the town in which he serves in. The whole government and civil authorities stands behind the badge the policemen carries. It’s the same way as a Christian when we stand against the strategies of the devil, we use the name of Jesus against Him! All Heaven stand behind that name and the devil knows it! We have **exousia** against the **dunamis** of the Devil!

Ephesians 1:19 “And what is the exceeding greatness of his **power** to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty **power**.”

- d. **Dunamis** is translated:
 - mighty works - Mark 6:5
 - might - Romans 8:38
 - power - Romans 1:16,
 - miracles - Acts 2:22, Acts 8:13, Acts 9:39

Acts 1:8 (King James Version) "But ye shall receive **power**, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

- e. Jesus said **dunamis** is released after a believer is filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:4 (King James Version) "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

- f. Notice who actually did the speaking in the above verse. The people did! You open your mouth and do the speaking, and the Holy Spirit will bring words to you from within your being. Speak them out! Your mind may tell you that what you are saying is just, "gibberish." Press in and develop your prayer language into the languages of men and angels.
- g. **Dunamis** power comes to you in an experience subsequent to salvation.

4. **Kratos** κρατος - *Ruling power, dominion*

1. **Kratos** denotes the power to oversee, govern, or rule as a King rules over his kingdom.
2. **Kratos** also denotes supervision as a boss would oversee his employees.
3. Even further, in Genesis Chapter 1:27 we see Adam and Eve made in the image and likeness of their Creator.
 - a. Adam and Eve were given **dominion** over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, and over everything that "creepeth on the earth."

5. **Exousia** εξουσια - *Authority, the ability to make power to be felt, liberty, delegated authority by the Head of the Church.*

- a. Through Christ, the unalienable right that affirms free movement to the ability needed at the time.

Matthew 28:18 "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, all **power** is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

Mark 3:14-15 "And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, And to have **power** to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

- b. The origin of sickness and disease is from the devil; Jesus gave His disciples authority (**exousia**) over sickness and disease and to cast out devils by using His name.

Acts 10:38 "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with **power (dunamis)**: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

Ephesians 1:21 "Far above all principality, and **power**, and **might**, and **dominion (kratos)**, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:"

Luke 10:19 “Behold, I give unto you **power** (*exousia*) to tread on *serpents* and *scorpions*, and over all the **power** (*dunamis*) of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

- a. Jesus gave His disciples **authority** over the **ability** of the devil.
- b. Serpents are considered to be “low-level” devils
- c. Scorpions are considered to be “high-level” devils
- d. **Exousia** translates to our English word authority; speaking of the authority Jesus gave us as believers so that Satan’s strategies do not have to prosper against us.

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

- g. The Apostle Paul speaks to Timothy about a “spirit of *authority*”: that he should walk in instead of a spirit of *fear/phobia*.
- h. The above verse speaks of love, which is from the Greek word, “love,” that refers to the “God kind of love.” This is the love spoken of in 1 Corinthians 13. A love that never fails.

Colossians 1:13 (Amplified Bible) “[The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the **dominion** of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”

- i. “control and dominion” translated from the word *exousia*

John 1:12 (Amplified Bible) “But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the **authority** (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name.”

John 1:12, Acts 1:18

The above dictionary and discussion of Greek words is adapted from *58 Koine Greek Words that can change your life* by David P. Ward, New Creation Missions International.

Biblical Words for Power – Hebrew

A prophetic word that God’s purposes would not be carried out by human agency but by the grace of God’s Holy Spirit.

Zechariah 4:6 (ESV) “Then he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by **might**, nor by **power**, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts. Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’”

In the above verse, “might” is the Hebrew word **chayil** חַיִל which means “strength, efficiency, wealth, or army.” The word “power” is the Hebrew word **koach** כּוֹחַ which means “ability, strength, power, or might.”

Koach appears in the following verses, translated differently each time in the NIV.

Leviticus 26:20 “Your **strength** will be spent in vain, because your soil will not yield its crops, nor will the trees of the land yield their fruit.”

Joshua 17:17 “But Joshua said to the house of Joseph – to Ephraim and Manasseh – “You are numerous and very **powerful**. You will have not only one allotment.”

The word **koach** is used frequently to describe the power of God in Exodus and elsewhere, but it appears to refer to tangible strength rather than dominion or rulership.

Understanding the connotations of the word being used helps us understand the meaning of the Bible.