

Colossians 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power,
unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

Analysis

Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness. The participle *dynamoumenoi* (δυναμούμενοι, "being empowered") indicates continuous divine enabling, not one-time experience. "With all might" (*en pasē dynamei*, ἐν πάσῃ δυνάμει) emphasizes comprehensive strength—not partial or intermittent but complete sufficiency for every demand.

This power operates "according to his glorious power" (*kata to kratos tēs doxēs autou*, κατὰ τὸ κράτος τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ), literally "according to the might of his glory." The same power that created the universe and raised Christ from death operates in believers. Yet remarkably, this cosmic power produces not spectacular miracles but *hypomonē* (ὑπομονή, "endurance") and *makrothymia* (μακροθυμία, "patience")—quiet graces enabling perseverance through trials with joy.

Historical Context

The Colossian heretics apparently promised immediate spiritual experiences and mystical visions. Paul redirects attention to mundane but miraculous graces: enduring difficulty without quitting, maintaining patience when provoked, experiencing joy amid suffering. These reflect Christ's character and require divine power, though they lack dramatic appeal. True spirituality shows in sustained faithfulness, not spectacular experiences.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Where in your life do you currently need divine power for patient endurance rather than miraculous deliverance?
2. How does recognizing that patience and longsuffering require God's glorious power change your approach to trials?
3. Can you testify to joyfulness amid difficulty, or does your joy depend entirely on favorable circumstances?

Interlinear Text

ἐν	πᾶσαν	δυνάμει	δυναμούμενοι	κατὰ	τὸ	κράτος	
with	all	might	Strengthened	according to	G3588	power	
G1722	G3956	G1411	G1412	G2596		G2904	
τῆς	δόξης	αὐτοῦ	εἰς	πᾶσαν	ὑπομονὴν	καὶ	μακροθυμίαν
G3588	glorious	his	unto	all	patience	and	longsuffering
	G1391	G846	G1519	G3956	G5281	G2532	G3115
μετὰ	χαρᾶς						
with	joyfulness						
G3326	G5479						

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 3:16 (Glory): That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

Philippians 4:13 (Parallel theme): I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Ephesians 4:2 (Parallel theme): With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

2 Corinthians 4:7 (Parallel theme): But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Ephesians 6:10 (Parallel theme): Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Revelation 14:12 (Parallel theme): Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Acts 5:41 (Parallel theme): And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

2 Peter 1:6 (Parallel theme): And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

Exodus 15:6 (Glory): Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.