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## Ephesians - Part 5 (Hidden Things)

### **Ephesians, chapter 3:**

Verses 1-6: 1. For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for (or, for the sake of) you Gentiles, 2. If ye have heard of the dispensation (administration) of the grace of God which is given to me for you: 3. How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote before in few words, 4. Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5. Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; 6. That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

The mystery, or hidden thing, to which Paul refers is identified in verse six as the Gentiles becoming fellow heirs with the Jews. Ephesians two, along with Colossians two, give more details of how this is accomplished by means of the cross. While there are hints of this in the Old Testament (Hos 2:23; quoted in Rom 9:25), it was not understood by prophets or the people, but began to be revealed after the advent of the Messiah. The revelation of this idea was given the apostles and prophets in Paul's day.

The phrase by the Spirit is an example of the hundreds of seemingly insignificant phrases translated based on one's belief rather than an accurate Bible concept. The actual Greek is in spirit. What difference does it make? By the Spirit implies a person, as a third person of a triune God. In spirit tells you that the revelation was to the minds of the apostles (cf Jn 6:63), the same way truth is revealed to us today as we study the Bible. In English, the word **the** could be added as an indefinite article. Here is another example: **John 4:24:** God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. Actual Greek: Spirit the God. With the correct idea of spirit as a way of thinking, the English would read, God has a spirit, or God is spiritual. God communicates in the spirit, mankind in the flesh (Rom 8:7). We worship God in spirit by receiving & sharing His thoughts (Isa 55:7-9).

Verses 7-9: 7. Whereof I was made a minister (to the Gentiles), according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. 8. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach (good news) among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; 9. And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

The Greek word in verse 7 translated power <sup>(G1411)</sup>, is "power derived from one's ability." So the phrase by the effectual working of his power, rendered as the working of His ability indicates that by means of the gift of God's graciousness, He gives each individual the ability to understand and overcome sin. This knowledge, hidden from the beginning of creation, was revealed after the cross, and Jesus is the channel through which it comes.

Verses 10-13: 10. To the intent that now (unto) the principalities and powers in heavenly (places) might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, 11. According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: 12. In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him (Christ's faith, Gal 2:16). 13. Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.