

Four Things I Must Know - Part 4
THE EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF HIS POWER TOWARD US WHO BELIEVE

Ephesians 1:17-19

Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, [18] the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, [19] and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power [20] which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

What Paul Prayed That We Might Know

1. The Father
2. The Hope of His Calling
3. The Riches Of The Glory Of His Inheritance In The Saints
- 4. The Exceeding Greatness Of His Power Towards Us Who Believe**

We need the spirit of understanding, knowledge and might to enlighten our hearts to know the immeasurable greatness of God's power towards us.

God is ALL POWERFUL.

There is no question about how strong and powerful God is. The scriptures declare this fact from Genesis to revelation.

Revelation 19:1

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

Psalm 62:11: *Once God has spoken; Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God;*

God is Omnipotent

To say that God is omnipotent means God HAS and IS All-Sufficient Power and is Almighty

God is omnipotent, whether we believe it or not. But it is important that we believe He is omnipotent. An understanding of and belief in the power of God will transform one's thinking and actions.

Revelation 1:8

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

God's Power Revealed

God's power is demonstrated and revealed in many ways to us throughout the scriptures

1. At Creation – God's power was made manifest at Creation**Jeremiah 10:12**

"He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion."

Jeremiah 27:5

"I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are on the ground, by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and have given it to whom it seemed proper to Me."

Jeremiah 32:17

"Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You."

2. In Delivering Israel from Egypt**Exodus 14:30-31**

"Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. When Israel saw the great power which the LORD had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses."

Exodus 32:11

"Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said: "LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?"

3. In His Relationship with Israel, as revealed through His Names

- I Am – denotes His strength, power and might in the present and immediate future
- Elohim – denotes multiplied power, thus showing that God is almighty
- EL Shaddai – "the Almighty." One who has "overmastering" or "overpowering" strength
- EL Elyon – the Most Exalted God
- EL Gibbor – "The Lord strong and mighty"
- Jehovah Zeba'ot – "the God of the armies of Israel" "mighty in battle"
- Adonai – Sovereign Lord, Ruler and Master

It is good that we know the greatness of God's power as revealed in these ways.

God's Power Revealed in Us Who Believed

However, Paul prayed that God would give us *the spirit of wisdom, knowledge and revelation, and that the eyes of our understanding being enlightened*, we would know the exceeding greatness of God's power revealed in us.

- Not only at creation, not only in delivering Israel from Egypt, not only in His walk with Israel, but particularly in us the ones who believe in Jesus Christ!

How Is The Exceeding Greatness Of God Revealed To Us Who Believe?

Paul gave the answer; he prayed that we might know the exceeding greatness of God's power towards us...

"...according to the working of His mighty power [20] which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

- God's mighty power worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead
- ...And seated Him at God's right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.
- ...And put all things under His feet,
- ...And gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

We need to know the *exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ at His resurrection!!!*

- The resurrection of Jesus Christ is what differentiates Christ from all other so-called deliverers. Without the resurrection, Christ would not have been exalted and glorified.... And neither would we.

WHY THE RESURRECTION?**Philippians 3:10-11**

"That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a foundation and pillar of Christianity. Take out this pillar and remove or break this foundation and our entire Christian doctrine and faith will collapse and come tumbling down. Paul discussed this in 1 Corinthians 15

1 Corinthians 15:15-19

Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

- If Christ is not raised from the dead, then He is not exalted and seated at the right hand of majesty. He would still be in the grave, and by now, not only rotten, but just dry, lifeless bones. In which case we would have no grounds for hope, or expectation of an inheritance. Life would be meaningless

It is without doubt or question, however that Jesus Christ did not only die, but God Almighty raised Him from the dead. Jesus rose again and is alive forevermore!!!

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time."

A Portrait of The Resurrection**Charles Spurgeon**

"If this earth could but have its mantle torn away for a little while, if the green sod could be cut from it, and we could look about six feet deep into its bowels, what a strange world it would seem! What should we see? Bones, carcasses, rottenness, worms and putrifying corruption. And you would say, Can these dry bones live? Can they again start up into being? Yes, "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump, the dead shall be raised." God speaks — they are alive! See them scattered! bone comes to his bone. See them naked! flesh comes upon them. See them still lifeless. "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain!" When the wind of the Holy Spirit comes, they live; and they stand upon their feet, an exceeding great army. Will there be any longer doubt among men of God's power in having raised His own Son from the dead? And not only so, but of having exalted Him to His throne in heaven above?"

- A Reference to Ezekiel 37 – A demonstration of the power of the resurrection.

Ezekiel 37:1-3

"The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."

Ezekiel 37:10

So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

What The Resurrection Means To Us

1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us a pattern and example of God's work of transformation in us, who believe. The same resurrection power is at work in us, raising us up from the corruption, decay and rottenness of sin and death, to a glorified life of victory in Christ Jesus
2. The resurrection is evidence that Jesus destroyed the penalty of sin, broke the seal of death, and has recovered the power of life in the Holy Spirit for humanity. By virtue of our oneness with Christ we are "quickened together with Christ, and raised up together with Him, and made to sit together with Him in heavenly places
3. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a guarantee, proof and seal of our own resurrection unto eternal life. Jesus Himself declared in John 11:25, *"I am the Resurrection, and the Life: he that*

believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die"

4. This is not only a future promise and expectation, it is also a present reality the believer must experience daily.

Resurrection power is promised to every believer in Christ and we receive it in the same way that Jesus gave it. That is by accepting the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for an atonement of our sins. This is how we receive the life of Jesus in us.

- God gives us both the ability and the power to accomplish this through His Holy Spirit.
- There is a process that a believer goes through of emptying our self of our life in order to receive more of His life. This is the process of sanctification and it is a work of the Holy Spirit which is accomplished through our cooperation.

The Working Of The Resurrection Power In Us

1. Resurrection power gives us Victory over sin

In Christ, we die to sin and are raised to new life in Christ. This is accomplished in our baptism. **Colossians 2:12** tells us, *"You are buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."*

Romans 6:1-13

"[1] What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? [2] Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? [3] Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? [4] Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. [5] For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, [6] knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. [7] For he who has died has been freed from sin. [8] Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, [9] knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. [10] For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. [11] Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. [12] Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. [13] And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.."

2. Resurrection power quickens and raises us to newness of life

The word *newness* in the scripture above means renewal, to be renewed. *We should walk in newness of life.* Renewal is to be a way of life; not a one time, or once in a while, event. This, however, is accomplished by the power and working of the Holy Spirit in us.

Romans 8:10-11

"And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He

who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to [or quicken] your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you."

The same form of life that raised Jesus from the dead is in all believers. The same power that raise Christ from the dead dwells in you and I

The resurrection power of Jesus is given through the Holy Spirit, who release His power through us as a river of life bringing constant renewal and revival.

Healing – this newness of life includes our healing.

3. Resurrection power empowers and enables us to grow and mature in the Lord

Colossians 3:1-10

[1] If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. [2] Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. [3] For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. [4] When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. [5] Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. [6] Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, [7] in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. [8] But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. [9] Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, [10] and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

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- But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another
- You have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

4. Resurrection power empowers and enables us to do the Kingdom work.

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Mark 16:17-18

And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

5. The resurrection power enables us to keep striving and labouring and not give up

Colossians 1:29

"And for this purpose also I labour, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me."