

Walking On Water, A Study of Ephesians
Part 11 The Gift of the Holy Spirit, Resurrection Power
Ephesians 1:13-23

As we move on in our study in Ephesians come to Paul's great prayer found in verses 15-23. It is a long pray that is packed with truths but lets begin this morning by reading the opening in verses 15-18.

Ephesians 1:15-23, “¹⁵ For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in my prayers; ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. ¹⁸ *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened...*”

Here we see Paul's heart for the Christians in Ephesus. He spent the first part of his letter explaining the good things God did, and what He did through His Son Jesus. Here, we see Paul praying for the Christians in Ephesus to have a deep, deep understanding of what occurred inside of them and what it means to be in relationship with the God of the universe.

16 “I do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in my prayers...”

I wanted you to know this morning, like Paul, besides myself, there are few others who are praying for all of us, for you to have a deep understanding and appreciation of what Christ did for you on the cross.

I know you have noticed but the skies around here have not been real clear of late. Michal and I did some driving around on Friday and our eyes were itchy, our throats scratchy and it felt like we had an allergy

thing going on. But in reality it was what? Smoke in the air. A lot of smoke in the air. But you know the smoke we are experiencing is nothing compared to the smoke other states like California, Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

I can't imagine what it must be like in some of those places and cities out west where their visibility is extremely impaired and the quality of the air is having an affect on their health and their attitudes.

This is what Paul is talking about when he says, I am praying for you.

¹⁸ *I'm praying that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know.* I am praying that the eyes of your heart will not be impaired by the smoke screens of this life. I am praying that you will be able to see everything God has for you so you can enter into the fullness of joy, the fullness of love, the fullness of peace and the fullness of the power of the Holy Spirit. I am praying for you so understand that God is for you and not against you and all He have is good for you.

Last week we covered verses 13-14 where Paul spoke about the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit who was given as a deposit of our future inheritance. The Holy Spirit who put a seal on us, in us for eternity. We are God own possession for eternity because He put His stamp on us in the form of the Holy Spirit.

This Holy Spirit is a gift, a gift from heaven that God gives us to guide us, protect us and empower us to overcome the sin tendencies that all humans have.

This power, this authority that is given us through the Holy Spirit was something that Jesus had and that He shared with us.

A few weeks ago I shared a sermon about the authority Jesus received.

Review some scriptures with me.

1. Jesus was given the authority, the ability to rule and reign the earth and the heavens by God.

Quickly scan these scriptures.

Matthew 11:27, “All things have been handed over to Me by My Father...”

Matthew 28:18, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

John 3:35, “The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.”

Colossians 2:10, “and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.”

1 Peter 3:22, “...(Jesus) who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers have been subjected to Him.”

Now, in Ephesians 1, Paul reinforces these scriptures by saying this in verse 19b-23.

Ephesians 1:19b-23, “These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His (God’s) might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

We see here that God gave His Son power, authority and dominion over everything and everyone. Past, present and future.

Now here is the crazy thing about the power and authority Jesus was given. He didn't handle His authority like so many people we see today. He didn't keep the authority His was given all for Himself, He shared it with those who came into relationship with Him.

Look with me at what Jesus did with His apostles and then some of His disciples.

2. Jesus shares His authority

Luke 9:1-2, “And (Jesus) called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healings.”

Well, that was the apostles you say. Of course that was true of them.

Look at this next passage. **Luke 10:1, 9, “Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come...to heal those in it who are sick...”**

Wouldn't it have been great to be one of these seventy or the twelve. Again you might say, well, that was those who walked with Jesus. I expect they were empowered personally by Him.

Well, Let's look back into our passage in Ephesians.

“¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will 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 surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.”

For believer's there is a power placed inside of us. There is a power that comes with the presence of the Holy Spirit inside of you.

Jesus not only shared His power with His apostles and disciples, He shared His power with you. Let's look at some scripture.

3. Jesus shares His authority with me

Acts 1:8. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."

In another prayer in Ephesians Paul writes, **Ephesians 3:16b, "(I pray that you may) be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner (person.)"**

Paul also wrote in **Philippians 3:10, "...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death..."**

Colossians 1:29, "For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me."

2 Timothy 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline."

These are just a sampling of the scriptures that speak of the power we are given through the presence of the Holy Spirit. But this power is not just any power but it is the same power God used to raise Jesus from the dead.

When Paul prays that the heart of the Ephesians Christians heart's would be enlightened, he prays they would be enlightened to know

a. what is the hope of His calling,

- b. what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,**
- c. the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.**

The hope of God's calling you into relationship with Him. Not just a relationship that will carry onto to eternity but a relationship that is active and productive for His kingdom expansion here on earth today, tomorrow.

That is the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. Having you as His inheritance for all eternity and the riches, the works, the furthering of His kingdom, the salvation for others that you are able to spread during you stay here on earth.

And the surpassing great power to do His good work.

And how we are able to do His great work is not on our own power but the power He places inside of us via His Holy Spirit.

But as I said earlier, this is not just some ordinary power, this is same power God used to raise Jesus from the dead.

Ephesians 1:19b-20, "These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might (power) ²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead..."

Resurrection power is what God is talking about. Think about this for a moment. Jesus was brutally beaten, nailed to a cross where He died. He had a spear thrust through His side. His broken body was then removed from the cross and then laid in a rock cave with another rock rolled across its entrance.

For three days His physical body laid there and did what bodies do. I have a friend who just recently found an acquaintance dead in his home. He had been there for five days and he said it was not pretty. They authorities called a hazmat team to remove him and clean up the mess.

Death is a messy business, especially 2,000 years ago. Jesus' body was in this state after three days but then something wonderful, something miraculous occurred. God's power extended from heaven down into the grave and re-animated a dead and deteriorating body.

I don't know how all that worked but the results were incredible. Jesus' Spirit returned to His resurrected body and He walked out of the tomb, walked among people for 40 days, teaching and encouraging them.

This is the same power God has placed inside of you. It is just as powerful, just as miraculous and has the ability to overcome, resurrect any obstacle you are faced with.

But here's the deal. Let's re-read

Philippians 3:10, "...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death..."

In order to have that resurrection power working in and through you, you must be conformed to Jesus and that means sufferings and death.

Suffering doesn't always mean that you will experience attacks from others but it might. It does mean you won't always get to say what you want to say or do what you want to do.

Having the power of God working in you is not just for accomplishing big things for God and for His kingdom but it might mean suffering when you are wrongly accused and you don't reply in anger but instead you absorb it and reply with a kind word.

The power, resurrection power we are given means that, as the example I used last week, when Michal does or says something I don't agree with and I am tempted to speak out or act harshly I don't. Instead I respond with love, joy, peace patience, kindness and self-control.

And the amazing thing is, when I respond to Michal or to anybody or any circumstance that is facing me in this way, the power, the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit is released and it brings healing into that person, relationship or circumstance. The relationship that was going bad is resurrected. The thing that I hoped was going to go a certain way but I exercised patience with went another way, it was resurrected, transformed into another, different thing. A better thing, a God-breathed, miraculous thing.

This is the resurrection power that we have given.

4. I have received resurrection power

Church, you are blessed more than you know and I pray that the eyes of your and my heart will fully be opened so that we can know, see, experience and live in the resurrection power. The power to walk on water, the power overcome any and every circumstance as we release the Holy Spirit's love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and self-control.

In closing I wanted to share a video. It is our closing song so please stand and if at some point you feel like singing, please do.

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