

The Power of God In Us (Ephesians August 11, 2013)



One of the reasons so many Christians struggle with the assurance of their salvation is that they read passages like Ephesians 1:4 where we are told that:

God chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

That is pretty clear – God chose us to be holy and blameless. Then they look in the mirror and what do they see looking back?

Instead of holy and blameless what they see looking back at them is sinning and struggling.

They look and they see a fallen man or woman battling the world, the flesh and the devil – and quite often the battle is not going well.

They think like this – if I was one of the chosen – the elect – I would be godly. Since I am not that godly – either God's Word is not trustworthy or I am not one of the chosen. And any shred of the assurance of their salvation is stripped away.

There are a number of reasons that Paul wrote Ephesians but one of the main reasons was to encourage Christians who are struggling to know that the power of God to become all that God called us to be – is indeed at work in them.

Paul makes it clear – holiness is a battle – a fight against the spiritual forces – but he wants us to know that the full resources of God Himself are available for us to engage this battle.

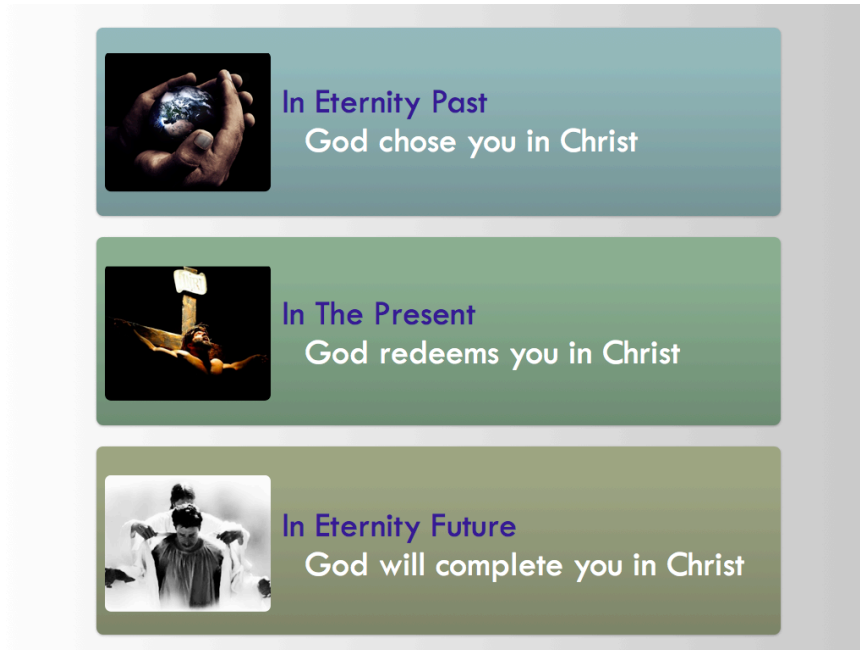
This is a wonderful letter – encouraging and practical.

So turn with me to Ephesians.

After beginning with a greeting, Paul gets down to business in verse 3.

In verses 3-14 – he outlines what God’s plan is for His children. It is an amazing plan that stretches from eternity past to eternity future.

He begins in the PAST in verses 3-6a.



In Eternity Past – God chose you in Christ

These verses speak of our ELECTION.

God chose His beloved children – *in Him – in Christ* – before the foundation of the world. God loved us enough to give us EVERY spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. Not only that but He chose us to be holy and blameless. WHY? VERSE 6 – To the praise of His glorious grace. He chose us to magnify His glory.

Then Paul moves on to the PRESENT in verses 6b-11.

In The Present – God redeems you in Christ

These verses speak of our REDEMPTION.

In Him – in Christ – we have redemption through His blood.

The cross of Christ was planned from eternity past – for us today – it happened 2,000 years ago – but when you trust in Christ’s death – you have redemption – your trespasses are forgiven – you are saved.

You were important enough to God that He sent his only beloved Son to die on your behalf. He not only created you He purchased you at the price of His Son. God did not purchase us at so high a cost to leave us wallowing in our sin. He purchased us to live godly lives.

Finally, we have a glimpse of our FUTURE in verses 12-14.

In Eternity Future – God will complete you in Christ

This is your INHERITANCE.

In Him – in Christ – we have obtained this inheritance.

We are sealed by His Holy Spirit to become what God called us to be.

God planned what you would become from eternity past, He is working it out now and in eternity future – that plan will be complete.

This plan of God for us leaps off these verses.

Ephesians 1:3–14:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he **chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he **predestined us for adoption** as sons through Jesus Christ, **according to the purpose of his will**, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, **according to his purpose**, which he set forth in Christ **as a plan for the fullness of time**, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, **having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will**, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the **guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory**.

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Look at all of these plan words. *Chose us, predestined, purpose, purpose, plan, predestined, purpose, counsel of His will, inheritance.*

God has determined to make you holy and blameless. God is going to fulfil His purpose in you. Nothing can thwart that purpose.

I also want you to notice that God's plan extends beyond individuals to how the church is involved in taking the saving gospel to the world.

Look with me over at Ephesians 3:8-12:

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To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

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God's plan is for the church to take the wisdom of God – the gospel – to the world.

Jesus describes the kingdom of God as a mustard seed that grows throughout the world. Jesus says **nothing** can stop the spread of the gospel.

So there you have the plan of God.

Christians becoming holy and blameless.

The church powering throughout the world with the gospel.

That is the plan.

However, Paul knows that in fact it what we see looks far different.

In Ephesians 3:13 we see that some were getting discouraged and losing heart. Paul, the chosen Apostle to the Gentiles is in prison and suffering – so what about this plan of God?

Then in chapter 4 – the implication is that the church which is tasked with taking the gospel to the world is divided and far from united.

Then Paul implies that many in the church – instead of being holy and blameless – were struggling with besetting sin. Chapter 4 verse 17:

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.

He speaks of struggles with sensuality, greed, impurity, lies, theft, vulgar speech.

Chapter 5 verses 3-5:

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Verse 8:

Walk as children of the light.

Verse 11:

Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness.

I suspect pretty much everyone here understands where the Ephesians were coming from.

You read the plan – holy and blameless – unstoppable gospel – and then you look at the world – sin and struggle in us – and opponents of the gospel seemingly winning the battle.

And you wonder – did I misunderstand the plan of God – or am I not in the plan of God?

But Paul wants you and I and every Christian to know that God not only has a plan – He has provided the power to see that plan reach its fruition. And nothing can stop the plan of God.

And so – for every imperfect, struggling, questioning, losing confidence Christian – Paul writes Ephesians.

So how do we plug into this limitless power?

Basically, Paul says we do two things.

First, we pray that God would let us know the depth of that power in our inner being.

Second, we choose to unleash that power through the church and the spiritual disciplines.

This morning I want to look mainly at the first half of Ephesians where Paul prays that God would let us know the depth of that power in our inner being.

The first half of Ephesians is dominated by two incredible prayers that Paul prays for the Ephesians and by extension – all Christians.

If you are struggling to see the power of God in your life or in the world – if you are struggling with sin – if you are struggling with faith – if you are struggling with the reality of the gospel – then these prayers are for you.

The first of these two incredible prayers begins in chapter 1 verse 15 and continues right through to the end of chapter two.

Look with me at Ephesians 1:15:

For this reason.

What reason? The reason that God has a plan for us. Because God wants us to become holy and blameless. Because God has a purpose for our lives.

Paul knows that despite their struggles the church in Ephesus has those who are called by God.

Because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

But what is it that Paul prays for them?

He prays that – the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him. v. 17.

What does this mean? Basically Paul prays that through the Spirit of wisdom and revelation – God would give us a greater knowledge of Him. This is a prayer for us to have a greater understanding of just who God is.

The Bible is very clear. One of the greatest hindrances to our growth as children of God is a wrong, inadequate, diminished view of God.

Today too many churches teach a limited God. One who does not set the agenda but is at the whim of men. A God who wishes men were holy but has no power to make them holy. A God who creates and sits back. A God who is too domesticated, too like men.

But this is not the God of Scripture.

Listen to Proverbs 9:10:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

There are so many places we could go to find more of the knowledge of God.

Contemplating His creation. The cross. The book of Job.

One of my favourite places is the second half of Isaiah. Isaiah 40-66 is a brilliant exposition of the glory of the almighty God.

The first half of Isaiah ends in chapter 39 with the prophet telling King Hezekiah – the day is coming when your house, your nation – everything will be carried off into captivity to Babylon. Your own descendants will be carried off and made eunuchs in the palace of the King of Babylon.

And it is clear that the thought that leapt into the minds of Israel is no – this cannot be. The plan is for Israel to become the chief nation – for Messiah to make us great – **not** to be carted off into captivity.

God are you not good, are you not powerful – what is up?

And just like us – the questions about the greatness and goodness of God arise.



Perhaps

God cannot

God will not

God should not

Perhaps:

God cannot

He is not mighty enough to work out His plan. Perhaps God simply cannot work out His plan for Israel, for the church for me.

God will not

He is not the good and gracious God we thought. Perhaps God has changed His mind.

God should not

He is going about this all the wrong way. How can God run my life this way? How can God work out His plan of salvation like that?

God answered these near blasphemous thoughts in Isaiah 40-66 – one of the greatest sections in the Bible showing the absolute glory of God.

He begins Isaiah 40 with these words:

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Where does this comfort come from? He says:

Behold your God.

Grown in the knowledge of who it is that called you.

If you say – **God cannot** – then remember:

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?

Who is the Lord's counsellor?

Before Him nations and Kings are a drop in the bucket.

Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

To whom will you compare Me says the Holy One?

If we are every tempted to think – perhaps God cannot – then remember who He is. The creator and sustainer of all things. The One who can do anything. Nothing is impossible for Him.

If you can tell God how to create and maintain His universe – then you can think about questioning His power.

What if we say – **God will not?**

God have you chosen not to fulfil your plan?

Isaiah 40:27:

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"?

Israel asked are you going to forget us – disregard us – let us be carted off into captivity? Are we hidden from You?

Here is God's answer:

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isa 41:8-10)

Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you, declares the Lord; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 41:14).

Wow – that is strong language. Fear not worms – God has not and will not deviate from the plan. He has not forgotten Israel.

And for those who say – **God should not.**

Israel did not think God should send them to Babylon. Israel had an idea how the plan of God should flesh out and it certainly did not include captivity in Babylon.

We have an idea how the plan of God should flesh out in our lives – and it doesn't include suffering, loss, sacrifice.

But God works all things together for good.

Isaiah 43:14:

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "For your sake I send to Babylon and bring them all down as fugitives, even the Chaldeans, in the ships in which they rejoice."

Babylon is no mistake – it is all part of His plan.

God is sovereign do not question His ways.

Isaiah 45:22:

Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

Isaiah 46:8–11:

Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

I know the beginning from the end – I know what I am doing.

He then reveals what He will do – He will bring Babylon to nothing – and He will redeem Israel – and He will do it in the most amazing of ways. Isaiah 52 and 53 – He will send His servant – the Lord Jesus – to die for the sins of the many.

In this way He will bring peace and usher in the new heavens and new earth.

Why this digression to Isaiah? If you want to know more about who God is – if you want to have a fear and awe of God – read the second half of Isaiah over and over and you will have a greater knowledge of who God is.

The power available for you to live holy.

When you know in the depths of your soul who God is – your fears, struggles and questions are settled.

This is what Paul prays for the Ephesians that they would have a greater knowledge of the God who called them.

When you know the power of God and that He loves you and He will fulfil His plan – then you rest easy at night.

To this end, Paul asks three specific requests in Ephesians 1.

FIRST – in verse 18, He prays that the eyes of their hearts might be enlightened.

What do you think of when you hear that phrase ‘eyes of their hearts?’ Do hearts have eyes? Do hearts see? What did Paul mean?

To the Greeks and Hebrews the heart was not the seat of the emotions, it was the centre of the intellect. This is another way Paul asks for God to give them a spirit of wisdom and revelation and knowledge about God. To have the windows of their mind opened so they can wake up and see the spiritual power that is available for them who are in the kingdom of God’s beloved Son.

SECOND – verse 18b. The second thing Paul prays for is that they would know what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

God sees the beginning from the end.

We tend to get caught up in the here and now.

We see our struggles with sin – our struggles to share the gospel.

We see homosexuals and liberals and Islam on the march and Christians cowering.

But Paul says – ultimately they won’t triumph. Ultimately there is a glorious inheritance – heaven – and you are called to be God’s people in heaven – and nothing can derail that. It will come to pass.

How often has the plan of God seemed derailed?

Worldwide sin in the days of Noah.

Infertility in Abraham.

Joseph in prison and Israel starving.

Israel enslaved in Egypt.

Israel trapped at the Red Sea.

The powerful enemies in the days of the judges.

Israel decimated and carted off into captivity in Babylon.

Jesus betrayed, crucified and dead.

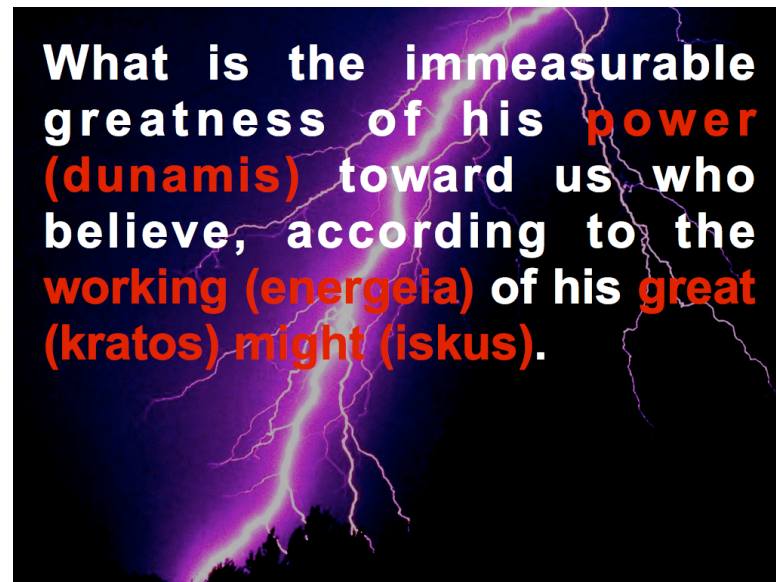
But these are all a part of the purpose and plan of God that leads to His glorious inheritance.

God is so almighty that He works all things together for good.

Joseph in prison, Jesus dead – all part of the plan.

God is in control. You need to know this.

THIRD – This is the third thing that Paul prays for in verse 19 that they may know:



What is the immeasurable greatness of his **power** (**dunamis**) toward us who believe, according to the **working** (**energeia**) of his **great** (**kratos**) **might** (**iskus**).

I speak to Christian after Christian who says things like this to me:

My sin is too strong
The world is too powerful
I just don't see the power of God

This irks Paul so much, that in this one sentence he uses not one – but **four** different words to describe the power of God available to us.

1. □□□□□□□□ – Here translated 'power.' It's the word we get dynamite from.
2. □□□□□□□□□□ – Here translated 'working.' It's the word we get energy from.

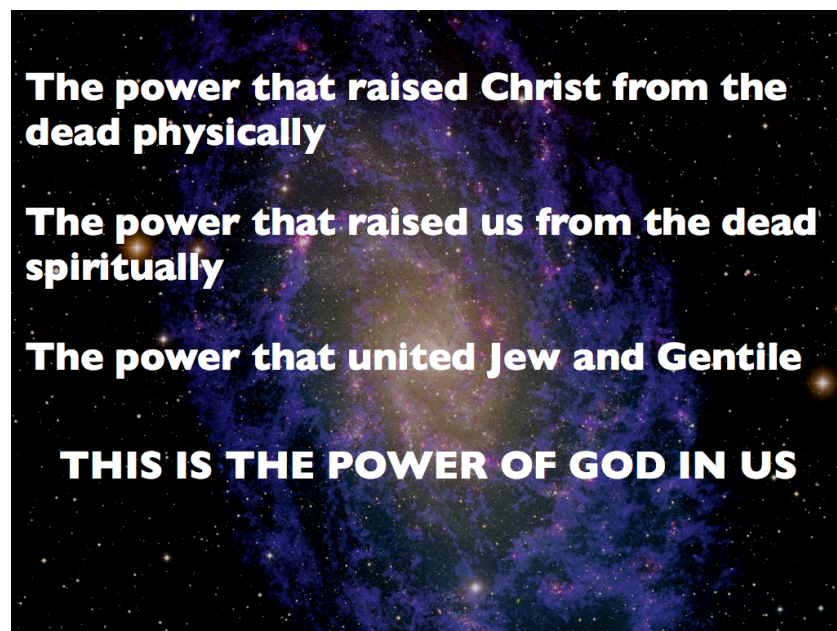
3. ἰσχυρῶς – Here translated ‘great.’
4. ἐν δυνάμει – Here translated ‘might.’

He wants us to know this power.

Verse 3 said that we have access to every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places because we are in Christ. Just think about that – every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies. The power of God – the Creator – the Sustainer – the Redeemer – is in us.

One word wasn’t enough for Paul, he wanted to drill it into our thick skulls so he used *four* words to tell us that the inexhaustible power of God is available to us as children of God.

Then, just in case some of us might ask, “Well just how much power does God have?” “How good are these heavenly resources?” Paul gives *three* incredible illustrations of the power available to those who believe.



1. THE POWER THAT RAISED CHRIST FROM THE DEAD PHYSICALLY – VERSES 19-23.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus repeatedly said, the Son of Man will be handed over to the Scribes and Pharisees – they will kill Him – but on the third day He will rise again.

To show this was no idle boast – Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead – and proclaimed – I am the resurrection and the life.

The day came that he was handed over to the Scribes and Pharisees – they killed Him – put Him in the tomb – but on the third day His disciples were not gathered waiting for His resurrection.

Why? That kind of power was beyond their reckoning.

Jesus appears to Mary – the disciples say – you are dreaming woman.

Jesus appears to the disciples – and Thomas says – I don't believe it.

Jesus appears to five hundred – and the Jews say – can't happen.

The burial stone shattered, the folded grave-clothes, the empty tomb, the testimony the witnesses – Jesus rose from the dead. Death lost its sting.

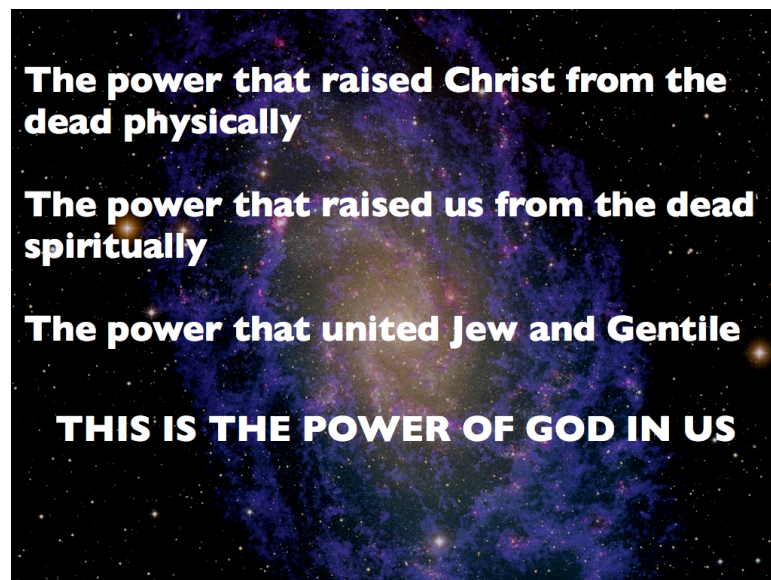
This is power beyond imagining.

Rich men and women have their heads cut off and frozen after death – in the faint hope that many, many years from now someone might have the ability and desire to bring them back to life.

For now – resurrection remains science fiction on the extreme end of fancy.

But with God it is already fact.

And the power that raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at the right hand in the heavenlies – that same power flows in us – to work out God's plan in your life.



2. THE POWER THAT RAISED US FROM THE DEAD SPIRITUALLY – VERSES 2:1-10.

Verse 1. Once you were dead in your trespasses and sins. You were dead and without hope. You had no way of rectifying the lost state you were in. You couldn't do a thing.

Corpses cannot help themselves. They can't even twitch. Sin had you dead and buried. You were helpless – unable to do a thing.

But, God could and did. Verses 5-6:

Even when we were dead in our trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Look at the parallels, Christ was physically dead. God raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenlies. We were spiritually dead and God raised us from our spiritual death and seated us with Him in the heavenly places.

Once I was a creature of this world. I loved my sin. I lived for this world. I gave not one moments thought about God.

I could not imagine turning from my sin.

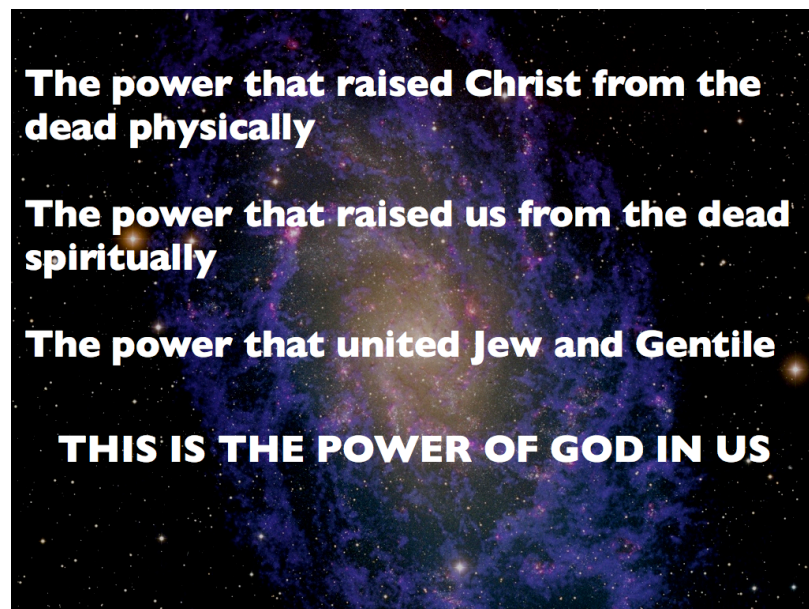
Today, I am still far from what I will be – but I hate my sin – I am hanging out for heaven – and I want to serve God.

That is a miracle.

Every one of you who knows Christ is a miracle of divine power.

No power in this world can turn man from idols and sin – except the power of Christ in us.

And there is a third example of the power of God.



3. THE POWER THAT UNITES JEW AND GENTILE – VERSES 2:11-22.

In our society 2000 years later, we can hardly even begin to imagine what it meant to be a Jew or a Gentile in the time of Christ. The closest analogy would be the antagonism between Jew and Muslim.

Jews saw Gentiles as unclean, impure, dogs – not chosen by God – outside the covenant.

To Jews alone the promises of the covenant belonged. Even the great temple in Jerusalem graphically described this division between the spiritual have's and have not's. As you entered the Temple, you first came to the Court of the Gentiles. No Gentile could cross the barrier that separated the Court of the Gentiles from the Court of the Israelites. A sign was hung for all to read. It said:

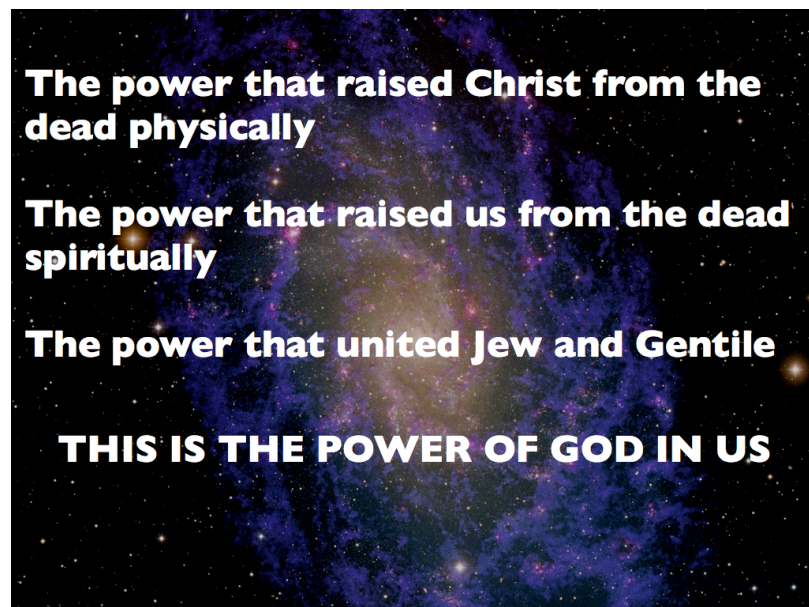
No Gentile may enter within the barricade which surrounds the sanctuary and enclosure. Anyone who is caught doing so will have himself to blame for his ensuing death.

Read through the book of Acts some time. You will grasp the rudiments of this antagonism. The shock as Peter even dared visit a Gentile. The Jewish rejection that a Gentile could be saved. But, the barriers that man cannot break down, God can. Verses 13-15:

Ephesians 2:13–15:

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace.

In the church at Ephesus – there would be those of Jewish background and Gentile background – united as one people of God. Brothers in Christ. That is power.



And Paul's point is this:

That is the power of God that works mightily in us.

What are you struggling with? Greed, porn, dissatisfaction, your marriage, your health?

Do you struggle to share the gospel, live for eternity, overcome adversity?

Whatever it is – it pales before the power of God that can raise the dead, the spiritually dead and unite Jew and Gentile.

But Paul is not done with this prayer. He continues it in chapter 3 verse 1:

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles.

But then he gets side tracked for twelve verses as he describes his stewardship to that the gospel to the Gentiles.

He resumes his prayer in verse 14 and what a prayer it is. He picks up the theme of praying for power.

Again he starts – **For this reason**.

This is the third – **for this reason** – and I believe that all of them go back to the plan of God for us in chapter 1 verses 3-14 – God's plan for us to be holy and blameless – to become all that He called us to be.

Because we need to know this – Paul prays.

Note that the heart of his prayer is almost identical to that in chapter 1.

He prays in verse 16:

That according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being.

What is your inner being? In 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Paul says though our outer man is wasting away, our inner man is being renewed day by day.

The inner man is that part of us which is not physical – our soul, our spirit, our heart – if you will.

In my years I have met Christians who have been mightily strengthened with power in their inner being.

They walk by faith and not by sight. They live for eternity. They trust God in trials. They talk about heaven and Christ. Their prayers lift you to the heavenlies. You are encouraged and strengthened just being around them.

This power comes from God through His Spirit and it results in Christ dwelling in our hearts through faith.

Some might want to point out that Christ already dwells in our hearts through His Spirit – He has since we were saved.

That is not what Paul means.

He is speaking of knowing in the deepest fibre of our soul – that the power of Christ is in us.

When you struggle with sin – do you know – Christ is in me with the power to fight this?

When you struggle to share the gospel – do you know that the power to assail the gates of hell – to persevere to the end – to be transformed into His image – this is the power within me?

By His power we can overcome sin. By His power we can live holy. By His power shattered marriages can be restored. By His power the prodigal child can be restored. By His power the one suffering in prison for Christ can endure. By His power the martyr can face eternity.

We can't do it. But by the power of Christ in us – we can.

Paul prays that we would be strengthened in our inner man to know this power and to draw on this power – to fulfil the plan of God for our lives.

And then:

Being rooted and grounded in love, [you] may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.

Those words are so familiar they slip past us. But they should blow your mind away.

Read Isaiah 40-66. There we have some of the most wonderful descriptions of God. His eternality, His power, His sovereignty, His glory.

Then we read of this same God – choosing not to grasp those privileges – but to take the form of a servant – Isaiah 53 – and humble Himself to the point of death on a cross – for the Ones who failed Him, persecuted Him and killed Him.

Meditate on these things.

The glory of God – the enormity of your sin – the cross of Christ.

And then you will begin to scratch the surface of the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.

The most knowledgeable Christian who has ever lived has barely contemplated the depths of the love of God. But a broken sinner before a holy God knows something of the fullness of God.

God be merciful to me – a sinner.

And why is this important?

Verses 20-21:

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

God had a plan from eternity past. It involved a sacrifice beyond our imagining – the death of the Lord Jesus.

God did not send His Son to die and leave us powerless to fulfil the plan of God and become holy and blameless – to see the gospel go forth – to see us transformed in our inner man.

No – He wants this more than we do. And His power is at work in us to achieve it.

Paul has spent three chapters telling us about this power. He has prayed two of the most unbelievable prayers – praying that we would grasp this power.

But Paul knows that then we have to put this power to use.

In chapters 4-6 he tells us how to unleash the power of God. This section has many names. Some have called it Spirit-filled living; others have named it walking worthy.

Through unity in the church, godly leaders, holy saints, strong marriages.

Then finally, Paul tells us why we have to plug into the power of God – because our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Paul tells us how to fight that spiritual battle.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

These are the practical ways we unleash the power of God within us.

Brothers and sisters – if you are in Christ – then God has a wonderful plan for your life.

It begins in eternity past and ends with you perfect – holy and blameless in eternity future.

Today – we aren't perfect – we won't be till heaven – but the power of Christ to fight sin and live holy – and share the gospel – and live godly in Christ – that power is ours – today.

Don't despair – pray for the power of God to be manifest in you.

Too many Christians live defeated spiritually. They have almost given up the fight.

It need not be. That is not what God wants for you. That is not the plan of God for your life. The power of God to live holy is ours.

May we know the depth of His love and the power of him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.