

## **How to Experience God's Power in Your Life**

**Maybe you'll remember the story about the lady who lived in the boondocks. She lived way out from civilization and the way she operated in her home was through the light that would come when she lit her candles or lanterns that she used to give her some sight. The lantern, perhaps? But after a while they got electricity connected to her home. But the electric company noticed something, and that was that there was hardly any movement in the meter connected to her house, showing the amount of electricity she was using. They wanted to know whether there was a problem, so one of the representatives went to her home. They knocked on the door and she came to the door, and he said, 'excuse me ma'am, I'm from the electric company and I want to know is everything alright'? She said, 'yeah, everything is fine'. 'Is your electricity working'? 'Yeah, my electricity works fine'. 'Then I don't understand, because you're meter hardly moves. If you don't mind, tell me how you use your electricity.' She says. 'Well, it's simple. I turn my electricity on long enough for me to light the candles on the lantern.' I'm sure you would concur that she had power she was not fully using. She had power available that she was not fully taking advantage of. It wasn't a matter of possessing it, it was a matter of the utilization of the connection she already had.**

**Many of us, as Christians, regularly ask God for more power. We ask God for more of His power for whatever life is throwing our way; Circumstances, situations, sins, whatever it is that we need enablement for, we regularly ask for power. Today, I believe what the Lord wants me to tell you, based on what He's told us in His word, is that finding or having more power is not your problem. Because if you are a Christian, you've already been hooked up to the power company, the Power Source. So whatever lack of power you and I may be experiencing, it has to do with release, not its presence. In Ephesians 1, Paul has spent the 1st 14 verses talking about all that God has done for us. He talks about the lavish grace that God has given us. Grace you can't earn, you can't buy. It's a gift. And it is**

**lavished on us. He concludes in vs 13 and 14 talking about the power that has been placed in every believer: The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the presence of Christ that operates to bring the life of Christ into the experience of the Christian. And so having done that, He wants to lead them into understanding the power that they already possess. What I'd like to suggest to you, and what Paul is going to explain in a moment, is that the power you're looking for you already have, so stop looking for it. You don't have to chase or look for power, you have to release it.**

**If you want to release this power that you already possess, if you want to see it activated in your life and circumstances, you have got to set yourself up for that. Paul says, 2 Ephesians 1:15-16 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;**

**He starts off by praying for the church in Ephesus and he says 'I'm talking about you all of the time'. And he gives 3 reasons why he's bragging on these Saints. He says, first of all, your testimony has gone public. We've all heard about you all'. If you are a secret agent Christian, don't expect God to release his power. If nobody knows you're a Christian but you, don't expect God to release his power. He says, "The thing we know about you is we have heard about your faith in Christ Jesus. In other words, your witness has gone public. You're not Christians in name only. It has become public knowledge that you are followers of Christ. He goes on and says, 'we've heard about your faith in Christ. We have heard about your confidence in Christ that allows you to function differently than the world around you and your witness has gone public'.**

**The Paul says, 'We've also heard about your love of the brethren. We've heard that you are connected to the family of God and that you have a love for the forever family. We've heard that you care about people. You serve people, you help people, you support people. You're not only wanting heaven to serve you, but as heaven serves you,**

**you're concerned about serving others. And we have heard about you. It has gone public and therefore we are praying for you and we are giving thanks. We are giving thanks that you are the real deal. We are giving thanks that you're not playing Christians and part time saints. We give thanks for you. So, he's excited about these believers and he wants them to have more of an experience with God.**

**So this leads him to go deeper. 3 Ephesians 1:17 "...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him... In other words, we want God to give you a greater experience of Him: wisdom, knowledge, and revelation. We want God to burst through in your life at a higher level. We want you to experience more of God. I don't just want you to know about Him, I want you to experience more of Him.**

**4 Ephesians 1:18-19a 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, 19a and what is the surpassing greatness of His power..."**

**He says, I want you to have your eyes open. I want you to be enlightened to the power and things of God that have already been made available to you. *He's not praying that they get it. He's praying that they see it.* He is telling us the problem is you don't see all that you have, and because you don't have the enlightenment, the revelation, the understanding to see it, you don't have the knowledge of what you already possess. He's getting ready to tell them and us, that the power you're looking for you already have, you just don't see it. So, he prays that their spiritual eyes and understanding will be opened. It reminds me of 2 Kings 6, when Elisha is being attacked and they want to destroy him. Elisha servant says. Master, they're coming against us, they're going to kill us and we have no way out. Elisha looks up to heaven and says Lord, open his eyes. And when the scales were removed from his eyes, there were myriads of angels and chariots of fire that were circling the house, protecting them. The problem was that the servant couldn't see it, Elisha could see it, but because the servant couldn't see it, he didn't know the power that**

was available to him for the problem he was facing. So, your prayer and my prayer is not give me more power, but 'Lord give me more sight', because if I have sight, I will be able to be enlightened, and be able to see what's available to me for the circumstances that I happen to be in. God's Word tell us when the Holy Spirit gives you enlightenment, you will see the hope of his calling.

***Ephesians 1:18 18 "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling..."***

We all look for our calling, Paul said no. You need to see HIS calling, because if you see HIS calling, you'll know you're calling, because He will have revealed to you what HE has in mind for you. Then you'll know which way to go because you're not seeing what you are looking for, but you will see what HE HAS already seen. God is saying, "I want you to open up your eyes so that they can see what has been provided.

A business man who is frequent flyer on American Airlines tells this story. "The other day I got a book from American Airlines. American Airlines sends me books like this often and I always throw it away and don't pay attention to it, when I get them." He says, "But I decided let me just thumb through this book from the Airlines. Now, as you know, most airline food is not that pleasant or exciting. But I'm reading this book and I discover I can order a separate meal in advance of the flight for something different than the flight is offering. That would be much tastier than what they're offering me because of my status with them. I've been eating bad food when I got a book telling me of the inheritance that I have as a frequent flyer with American Airlines. But because I didn't pay attention to what it was offering me, I had to be satisfied with what showed up.

Many of us are satisfied with things as they are because our eyes haven't been opened to things as they can be, and as God has planned and purposed. He says 'I pray that your eyes will be open, that your sight line will be expanded so that you will be able to see what God has planted in you already'. Remember, you don't need power, you



**need release of power that you already possess if you have God, the Holy Spirit, already operating within you.**

**5 Ephesians 1:19-20 "...and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead..."**

**His power, not your power. Not only is it power, it's great power. And it's surpassing great power. It's power that's great, that surpasses everything. *In accordance with the working of the strength of His might.* He says the power that God has deposited in the believer is the power that raised up Christ from the dead. The surpassingly great power, that is so powerful that it overrode the grave, and that power has been placed in you. Jesus Christ on Sunday overrode the problem of Friday. Friday was a problem. Jesus Christ was crucified on Friday. Death is the final decision as far as our humanity is concerned. Normally when death happens, the parties over. When death happens, there is no solution. When death happens, finality has made its mark. But early on Sunday morning God raised Jesus Christ up from the dead, which means that He overrode the final decision by our greatest enemy, which is death. He says, I want your eyes to be open so that you will know and see and understand that the surpassing greatness of the power of God, available to believers. Jesus was raised from the dead, which means his resurrection overcame death. Whatever is killing you right now, whatever looks like you can't win right now, whatever is keeping you in defeat right now, whatever has got you buried 6 feet under in your sin or circumstances right now? What God told me to tell you is that you have the surpassing greatness of this power that does resurrection stuff. It is power that goes beyond how deep in the grave you find yourself in. This is why, as a follower of Christ, you don't throw in the towel because he's good at resurrections and raising things up from a dead situation. Things that look un-overcomeable. Things that look like you'll be defeated forever. Things that look like you are underwater with, no way out. Things that put you in a Lazarus kind of situation, and you need the stone to roll away, to call it up out the**

**grave. Don't you quit, don't you give up, don't you throw in the towel, because He wants to release resurrection power into your life and situations. That's why your story is not over when there's a resurrection. It may look like it because there's a burial, but since he is the God of resurrection, then that story, your story, is not over.**

**6 Ephesians 1:20 "...which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,"** First of all, we know we have a death because we've got a resurrection. He raised Christ from the dead. And remember, he's talking to believers, having their eyes open. He's talking to us, and telling us of the surpassing greatness of God's power. He says, there's a death, there's a resurrection. But then he says there's more. There is an ascension, because, he says, he was seated on the right hand of the Father. Jesus died on Friday, He arose on Sunday, 40 days later, he stepped on the cloud and ascended up into heaven, where he is now seated on the right hand of God. When the author of Hebrews talks about this Jesus Christ and where he is seated, puts it this way. **7 Hebrews 1:1-3** 1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. **8 3** And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...

**Jesus Christ, when he rose from the dead, went and sat down next to God and according to verse 20 Eph 1, in heavenly places. What does it mean heavenly places? A synonym is spiritual realm. Heavenly places mean the spiritual realm and He says, Jesus Christ is now situated on the right hand of God. He is seated in the spiritual realm. Why do you need to know that if you need power? Because you need to know where the power plant, the source of power, is located, he says. In the spiritual realm, heavenly places, you have the Holy Spirit, so that's connection to the spiritual realm. He says God's power, the**

**word of His power, emanates from where He is sitting. He is sitting on the right hand of the Father with the word of Power (Heb. 1:3). Which means if you are an earthly minded Christian you will not experience heavenly places power, because the power does not come from earth, the power comes from heavenly places or the spiritual realm.**

**You may be thinking, 'I need that power of help from up there. But I'm living down here'. He's way up there. He's in that spiritual place next to the Father. And all that sounds good, but I'm living down here in earthly places. Oh, you think so? 9 Ephesians 2:4-6 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,**

**So guess where you are located? You may not have known you're located there because the enemy doesn't want you to know you're located there, because if you ever discover you're located there, your eyes will be open to what you really have access to. We died with him, and we were raised with him. We are seated with him in the same place he is located; heavenly places. But Pastor, I'm here in church, here on the earth. I'm here physically. What do you mean, I'm situated in heavenly places? Have you ever used Zoom? You know what that means? That means you can be situated in Tucson, but talking to somebody in Chicago. It means you can be situated in Tucson and talking to somebody in a whole other country. While you are physically in one location, you are relationally in another location because you are operating in two locations at one time because technology has given you the ability to transcend your physical location. The Holy Spirit has given you the ability to transcend your physical location so that while you are on Earth, you are seated with him, in heavenly places. God wants you to open up your eyes so that you can take access to the power that is available to you.**

**How powerful is this power that is available to us? 10 Ephesians 1:21 "...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.” Did you catch that? Not only in the age to come, eternity, heaven, but, he says in this age, the life you're living right now, the problems you're facing right now, the need you have right now, the weaknesses you're experiencing right now, the defeats you're undergoing right now.**

**He says that this power is available now, for this age. How much power? It says far above all rule, all authority, and every name that has been named. So every pain, every problem, every need, every circumstance, every failure, every sin, every addiction, there is power for freedom, answers, provision, hope, guidance, direction. Not because you go looking for new power, but because you access and release the heavenly power that's available to you because you've met the prerequisites and you're operating from a spiritual frame of reference. The moment you start operating from earth, from a worldly perspective, you are now dependent on your power. You're dependent on your power because he's seated in heavenly places, that is, in the spiritual realm. That's why the spiritual must always precede the circumstantial and the physical. You don't ignore how real the challenges are, you just don't let them define you.**

**He goes on a little bit further. 11 Ephesians 1:22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church... All things have now been made subject to Jesus Christ. Let me show you God's philosophy of history and by the way, you need to understand God's perspective and thoughts on history. 12 Ephesians 1:9-10 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth... God's philosophy is that everything is going to be summed up under the authority of Jesus Christ.**

**13 Ephesians 1:22 “...and gave Him as head over all things to the church... In other words, this power is not universally available. Is**



**not available to everybody. This power to rule and overrule has only been given to the Church. God only has committed himself to his people. 14 Individually, our connection with Christ will determine the amount of power from Christ we release into our life and into our circumstance. That's why he says, If you deny me, I'll deny you. If you acknowledge me, I'll acknowledge you. Your commitment and your allegiance to Jesus Christ will determine power descending from his throne where you're seated next to him down to your physical circumstances on earth. And you know how you know when God is real? When he overrules something you could not conquer or overrule. When he resurrects something that was dead. When he resurrects something that was hopeless and helpless, and he resurrects that thing. When your Lazarus comes out of the grave, you aren't going to wonder about how real God is, because you will have seen resurrection power in life's realities. So you must identify with him because he's head over all things, but he's only been given to the church. When Jesus died it was Satan's goal to keep him dead, because if he could keep him dead he wouldn't have to deal with him anymore. Satan wants to keep us defeated so he doesn't have to deal with us anymore.**

**So if you're here today, don't you give up? Don't you throw in the towel? Why? Because you already have the power available and accessible. You just have to make sure you got the connection to utilize the power that you already possessed by virtue of your of your connection.**