

**God's Resurrecting Power**  
**Ephesians 1:15-23**  
**Resurrection Sunday: April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**By Ryan Perry**

**Ephesians 1:15–23**

*[15] For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, [16] I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, [17] 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, [18] having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, [19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might [20] that 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 rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. [22] And he put all things 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.*

**Let's Pray**

**Introduction**

We live in an amazing world that is full of wonder and majesty. As we look around us, we get to behold beautiful landscapes, giant and breathtaking mountains, and serene bodies of water that are all teeming with life and activity.

We get to behold awesome displays of nature through lightning storms, tornadoes, earthquakes, and even now, as we observe the budding of new life that is happening before our eyes.

But with all of these displays of beauty and grandeur, it's easy to forget that there are many unseen realities that have an effect on our lives and the world around us.

**Take the Earth's magnetic fields as an example:** It is all around us, protecting us from harmful solar winds and cosmic rays that otherwise would make this planet uninhabitable.

**Or what about sub-atomic particles:** For the longest time, we didn't even understand that the atom existed. But now we know that there are smaller particles within an atom that resonate at certain frequencies and help to keep the universe and everything in it together.

**Finally, think about micro-organisms:** Every moment of every day, there are things like bacteria and other tiny organisms that play a vital role in decomposition, supplying nutrients to our soil, and pollution clean-up.

Ever since the creation of the world, these unseen realities and powers have been sustaining our universe and planet, and yet, for most of human history, we had no idea that they existed.

Even now, in our day-to-day lives, we tend to forget that these things are even at work around us.

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Similarly, the apostle Paul is pointing out one of those unseen realities for us this morning. A reality that is true and present in the life of every believer, yet is so often forgotten in the grind of our daily lives.

**That God's resurrecting power is present and belongs to us as his people.**

And Paul, realizing this, prays in Ephesians 1:17-18a:

***[17] 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, [18a] having the eyes of your hearts enlightened,...***

He is praying that the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, would open the eyes and hearts of his people so that we can see the unseen spiritual realities around us.

That we would see, behold, and believe in the resurrecting power of God, and would experience it within our lives.

To that end, we are going to look at three things that Paul prays for within this section of Ephesians 1.

1. God's resurrecting power is seen through Christ (V. 19-22).
2. God's resurrecting power is ours through Christ (V. 23).
3. The benefits of God's resurrecting power (V. 18-19).

Now, normally I tend to start at the beginning of a passage and then walk through it verse by verse, but today we will start in the middle, because I want to give you a big and glorious picture of the power of God through Christ before we talk about the benefits of that power.

That we would stand in awe of our Triune God, so we can truly see and experience his power in our lives.

Let's begin by looking at God's resurrecting Power as it is seen through Christ.

**God's resurrecting power is seen through Christ.**

**Ephesians 1:19-22**

**[19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might [20] that 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 rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. [22] And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,**

When I talk about seeing the resurrecting power of God through Christ, this doesn't mean that we can't see God's power in other parts of the Bible. On the contrary, it is clearly seen all throughout Scripture.

From the creation account in Genesis 1 to the flood of Noah in Genesis 7-8. God's preservation of his people in Egypt and the ensuing plagues that followed in Exodus. His guiding of the Israelites through the desert and into the promised land in Exodus through Joshua. The way he blessed and disciplined his people all throughout the time of the kings and the prophets, to the miracles of Christ, and God's work through the disciples.

**These are all great reminders of God's active presence and power in creation and with his people.**

**But here's the thing.** All of his grandeur, power, and work are meaningless to us if he isn't also the God who raises the dead to new life. Because apart from the resurrection from the dead, there is no new life, there is no eternity with God, and there is no real and lasting hope.

Paul understands this, which is why he gives us this great picture of the power of God as it was displayed in and through the resurrection of Christ.

The first thing he tells us in verse 20 is the very truth that we are celebrating today. **That God's great power raised Christ from the dead.**

Now, unfortunately, this truth has become a little too commonplace and ordinary for us as Christians. It's something we talk about a lot, for sure, but I'm not always convinced that we give it the wonder that it deserves.

The fact that our mighty and loving God would even have his son leave the glories of heaven to come into a broken world is an extraordinary feat in and of itself. **It would be like you telling your child to leave the beauty and safety of the Coulee Region to go live and work on the border of Ukraine and Russia.**

But he didn't just come here to experience a fallen and war-torn world. Instead, Jesus became frail humanity and endured all of the hardship that it had to offer so that he could live the perfect life we couldn't, proclaim the kingdom of God, and then endure torture, suffering, and death on our behalf.

And in so doing, scripture tells us that the Father literally took all of the sins of all of his people, past, present, and future, put them on Christ, and made him take the punishment for them. As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:21:

***[21] For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.***

Can you imagine if that were your child? Who would sign their kid up for that?

However, the God of the universe didn't simply resign his son to death. **Three days later, he gloriously brought him back to life by his resurrecting power. And, in so doing, he showed us that Jesus, once and for all, truly defeated sin, the devil, and death.**

Now, that's pretty incredible, isn't it? But the story doesn't stop there. Paul goes on to tell us in the rest of verses 20-22 that God seated Jesus at his right hand of power.

Jesus, the one who became fully man and fully God, has been given the highest seat of power in the whole universe. A position that puts him above any other ruler that does or ever will exist, and it makes him the undisputed king and ruler of all things.

As Paul says in Philippians 2:9-11:

***[9] Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***

## **God the Father made God the Son the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.**

This is what the mighty resurrecting power of God accomplished in and through Christ, and it is anything but commonplace or ordinary.

And the good news of the cross and resurrection is that this extraordinary and life-giving power of God is not only infinite and mighty, but it is also ours through Christ.

## **God's resurrecting power is ours through Christ.**

### **Ephesians 1:22-23**

***[22] And he put all things 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.***

I can imagine that at least once a week, if not more, we all go to the grocery store. Whether we go to Walmart, Aldi, Woodmen's, Festival, or Sam's Club, we probably follow a similar routine. We think about the week ahead, we decide what we need, we make some sort of list, in our heads or on paper, and then we either go to the store or we order our groceries online.

## **And like clockwork, week in and week out, we do it again, and again, and again.**

But do you remember how stressful it was getting groceries just five years earlier in 2020?

There of course, were the stressors associated with social distancing because nobody wanted to get COVID, but even greater than that was the stress of seeing shelves of food, that were once always full, now bare.

Because overbuying and supply chain issues had made something that was always certain uncertain. And for the first time in our lives, many of us, who took for granted the fact that our food and toiletries were always in stock, had to ask the question, **"Will we be able to get the groceries and supplies that we need?"**

And now, five years later, we're probably back to taking these things for granted. Like the magnetic fields protecting us from cosmic rays or micro-organisms cleaning our planet, we forget that there is a massive global system that must work behind the scenes to get us what we need to survive.

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This is also true when it comes to the resurrecting power of God in our lives. We often forget that his power is present and that it is ours every single day, because of Christ.

So Paul reminds us, in verses 22-23, that God the Father not only made Jesus King of everything, but he also made him the king and head of the church.

This means that the church is not only ruled by Christ, but it is also being built and sustained by Christ.

Look with me at the following verses:

### **Colossians 1:18**

**[18] And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.**

### **Matthew 6:18**

**[18] And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

### **Colossians 1:17**

**[17] And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

The resurrecting power of God, which raised Christ from the dead, is now the same power that Christ is using to build and sustain His church.

This is why Paul says in Ephesians 1:23 that Jesus is the one **“who fills (supplies) all in all.”**

And if you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, God wants to remind you, this morning, that, through Christ, he has made you a part of his church, and his resurrection power is now living within you, by His Spirit, every single day.

As Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:19-22

**[19] So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, [20] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, [21] in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. [22] In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.**

This means you are never alone, that God is going to sustain you, and he has promised that the resurrection power that raised Christ from the dead will also do the same for you.

As Jesus says in John 11:25–26:

***[25] ...“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, [26] and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”***

**Romans 6:5**

***[5] For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.***

**This is why we are here this morning, and this is what we are celebrating this Easter Sunday.**

The power of God that brought Jesus back to life and allowed him to walk out of the tomb is the power that now lives in us and one day will grant us that same resurrection.

Sin will not consume us, death will not be victorious, because Jesus died for us, came back to life on our behalf, was made the ruler of all things by the Father, and one day he will bring us home to be with him.

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**But we’re not there yet.** We are still in these frail and aching bodies, it still feels like sin and death reign in the world, and for many of us, the resurrecting power of God feels like something that we will experience at the end of our lives, but not today. **Like sub-atomic particles, we know it’s there, but we’re not sure what it’s doing.**

And yet, though it feels unseen, the apostle Paul’s prayer highlights the truth that God’s resurrecting power is with us, it is for us, and it is working on our behalf.

Which brings us to our last point.

**The benefits of God’s resurrecting power.**

And as we look at Ephesians 1:18-19, we can identify three benefits of God’s resurrecting power that Paul highlights in this prayer. I will walk through them briefly.

God’s power is at work in us.

**Ephesians 1:19**

***[19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might...***

The first thing we need to understand from this verse is the exact thing that Paul has been pointing to in the resurrection of Christ. That God's power is infinite, and it's greatness cannot be measured. **There is nothing greater or more powerful than our God.**

But secondly, because we belong to Christ, his immeasurable power is ours now. Which means that God is working in our lives and is using his infinite power for our good, even when we don't feel it.

Look with me at the following verses:

#### **Jeremiah 29:11**

***[11] For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.***

God, through his infinite power, has good things planned for us as his people.

#### **Hebrews 13:20–21**

***[20] Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, [21] equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.***

Through Christ, God is equipping and working in us so that we can do what pleases him.

#### **2 Corinthians 12:9**

***[9] But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.***

You may be going through trials, you may feel weak and abandoned, and the storms of life may feel like they won't ever end. But the promise from God is that in those very moments, his power is completely for you, is working within you, and will carry you through it.

Like the unseen forces of nature that are always working around us, whether we realize it or not, our God is always there, and through his infinite power, he is and will always be working on our behalf.

We are God's precious inheritance.

#### **Ephesians 1:18c**

***[18c] ...what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,***



There are so many in the world who are confused about their identity and purpose. They're asking questions like, Who am I? What am I about? What brings me purpose? Where do I belong? What will bring me lasting happiness?

Now, I wish I could say that, as Christians, we are immune to that kind of questioning, but we're not. We can be just as confused as the rest of the world about our identity and purpose.

This happens because we so easily forget what God says about us. And what he is telling us in this verse is that, through Christ, he has made us his infinitely valuable inheritance, which means that we are his treasured possession.

We are his children whom he loves, cherishes, rejoices in, and even sings over. Look with me at Zephaniah 3:17:

**[17] The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.**

So no matter how you feel about yourself and no matter how confusing life may be right now, remember that you are precious in God's sight.

Through Christ, he has made you his child, which means that you are highly valued and prized by him. And any and all of the questions you may have about your purpose and identity are all answered by what he says about you.

Because he is the one who made you, knows you, and sent his son to redeem you.

Which brings us to the last benefit of God's resurrecting power in this passage.

We have an unwavering hope through Christ.

### **Ephesians 1:18b**

**[18b] ...that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,**

So even if the stock market crashes, war breaks out with China, or inflation sky rockets to an unimaginable level, we are going to be okay as Christians. Because our hope, for today and for eternity, is not in those things.

Rather, it is found in and through the finished work of Christ on the cross. The one who bore our sins, gave us new life, and was resurrected by the infinite power of God.

The one who now reigns as the King of Kings and the Lord of lords, and who told us before he left this world, that he is going to prepare a place for us in his kingdom.

That is where real and lasting hope is found. A hope that now and forever belongs to us because God, by his power, raised Christ from the dead. As it says in 1 Peter 1:3-5:

***[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4] to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, [5] who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.***

This is who our God is, and this is what his wondrous power has done for us as his people.

### **The Gospel**

And if you are here today and you haven't experienced this resurrecting power in your life, I want to implore you to come to Christ. See your need for a Savior, believe that He is the only one who can do away with your sin and shame. And turn to him in faith, so that you may receive the unwavering and unending hope of a new and forever life in him.

Because, through Christ, God's resurrecting power is always present, it is always working in the lives of his children, and one day, by that very same power, we will receive the outcome of that hope, the final prize, the resurrection from the dead.

**For Jesus, our God, is not dead, but he is risen. He Is Risen Indeed! Amen!**

**Let's pray.**