

Discover the Resurrection Power of Christ in Your Life Today! | Ephesians 1:15-20 | Christian Sermon

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 24 April 2025

[0 : 00] Resurrection power. Peter's stolen all my thunder really. But really my message follows on from what Peter was saying about the resurrection.! Translating it into the life of the believer.

! Christ is risen, risen indeed, and it impacts you and me in the here and now. Think of it, discovering the power of Christ's resurrection in the life of the believer.

That's you. Ever feeling crushed by life's weights, burdens or tests, feeling weak, wondering how you're going to get through. Here's hope today. A life-changing truth.

It's the power of the resurrection of our Lord, isn't it? The same supernatural power that raised Christ from the dead. It's not only real, but available to every believer.

That's you. Here's hope, strength and victory because of the cross, because of our risen Saviour today. And it's for you, each one that knows him.

[1 : 09] Let's go to Ephesians chapter 1. And to set the scene, it's a prayer. We see Paul, he's penning these words from the prison cell, from a Roman prison.

And yet he's not downcast. He's actually uplifting. And he's praying. It's a record of his prayer for the Ephesian believers.

And we pick it up from verse 15. It reads, He's pouring out his heart here.

Praying for the Ephesians to experience a spiritual awakening. What does he pray? It reads on. Here is the words, verse 17. We'll read on further, but just for now.

He's praying here for the spirit of wisdom and revelation. That they would know God. Now, this is not just a knowing God in a theoretical sense, but knowing God more deeply.

[2 : 46] That they would know God with that deeper understanding of what they have in Christ. It's not about a head knowledge, but a personal encounter with God's truth.

And he asked God to open, if you like, the eyes of their understanding, the eyes of their hearts, you could put it. And Paul prays here that they would know three things, three realities.

That they would know three realities. And they are three realities for you. Also, the hope of your calling. Secondly, the confident expectation is the sense of it.

God's called you. He's got a purpose for your life. Secondly, the riches of your inheritance. The immeasurable value that you have. You've got a place in God's own family.

You're part of the royal family. The real one. God's family. Amen. And then thirdly, we see the greatness. The immeasurable greatness of God's power for you, towards you.

[3 : 49] And this is where we're going to spend a bit of time on this one. Verse 19. The divine strength that's available for you because of the risen saviour today. And you look at the second one there.

You've got an inheritance. Many believers, though, they live like they're heirs to this vast estate, but they never claim their riches. Paul says, know these things.

Know these things. You're calling your inheritance God's power. We're going to look at God's power, especially just now. Paul says, get to know this. Know this power. And hear Paul's fervent prayer from verse 19.

Ephesians 1, 19. And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us, or towards us, who believe according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.

Consider God's awesome power this morning. The same power that shattered death's grip and exalted Christ above all. That's the power we're talking about.

[4 : 57] And it's directed, it says, to usward, towards us who believe. The greatness, the exceeding greatness of God's power is directed towards us that believe.

Let's focus on these two verses, 19 and 20, and this exceeding greatness, exceeding greatness of God's power. It's towards you that believe.

Paul wanted these ones to know this same power that raised Jesus from the dead. The same power that caused the resurrection to be, that caused the saviour to come to life.

Paul says, you can know the same power right here, right now. The power that raised Jesus from the dead and seated him in glory.

Many believers, though, saved, they live in spiritual defeat. This power is somehow lacking. And Paul says, I want you to know this power.

[6 : 01] I want you to know this, the greatness of it. But, yet some, they're like Elisha's servant. As it talks about him, where it seemed like they were outnumbered and done for in the occasion of 2 Kings 6.

And Elisha tells his servant, fear not. For they that be with us are more than they that be with them. Because Elisha saw the spiritual multitude of the angelic host, that God's army, the Lord of hosts, his army was there.

And it says, verse 17, And Elisha prayed and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw.

Wow! And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. So it's the same kind of picture here in Paul's fervent prayer. He prayed for the Ephesians that they may see, that they may know this, as Elisha prayed for his servant.

[7 : 09] And when Elisha's servant saw, wow, he realised, hey, we're not outnumbered. They're the ones that are outnumbered. Because God's behind us. His power. So consider God's awesome power.

The same power that shattered death's grip and exalted Christ above all. And it's for us. It's for you. Many believers lack this power, or this awareness of this power.

And it's like we need the same revelation that Elisha's servant had to see the unseen army, to see God is actually at work, to have that divine revelation, to grasp the reality of God's power and might. And it's there for you and me. Again, back to the verses there. We're going to unpack, especially verse 19 shortly, and look at some of the meanings behind some of the words.

And yet some Christians, they lack spiritual power. It's there for them, but they don't tap into it. But it's a bit like what happened to me lately. I don't know if you ever had this happen, but I plugged my phone into the charger, and it just wasn't recharging.

[8 : 22] I thought, okay, give it a few hours, and I'm not going to have a phone that's working. Now, thankfully, someone told me there's a trick. You can place it on one of those chargers. You don't have to plug it in. But the problem was it was clogged in here, so I went to YouTube and found the answer, like you normally do.

Stick a toothpick in there and pick it out, and eventually it started to make connection again. But that smartphone with all of that potential was useless.

That incredible potential with a dead battery, chuck it in the bin. And that's really the same picture, isn't it, for Christians? Don't worry, it's got a case, a hard case.

Don't do that with your phone, people. We can be like that dead phone. We can be like a race car, but you just drive in first gear. I'm sure Brother Rodney doesn't do that when he gets in his race car. God wants you to get that car in motion, and in the second, third, fourth, crank it up. Pedal to the metal like Rodney does. And God wants you to know the spiritual power that you have, doesn't he?

[9 : 33] And operate in its fullness. But sometimes we're just in first gear. We just haven't got to the next gear, even. Paul's saying that the power that conquered death is yours in Christ.

So that's the point. Let's look at this a little closer now. We're going to unpack verse 19, you see there. And it's interesting, there's a number of different words, of course, translated in our Bible that underlies these words that have got some special extra meaning, some different shades of meaning.

So we're going to look closer at these different words and find out what this power is all about. God demonstrates his power at the empty tomb. The marvel of the resurrection.

It's wonderful, isn't it? And Paul's telling here about this amazing power. And he talks through, if you like, different layers. He lays it out, layer upon layer upon layer of different words about God's power.

He's stacking these terms. You could think like a master chef. Layers the flavours. Just makes it, mmm, just so. All of the different flavours.

[10:41] And it's almost like a different, another picture you could paint is of a painter, of a vivid painting and using lots of different colours. And so he's illustrating it in different ways, the power of God, the power of the resurrection.

Think of it. Each word adds a death to the truth here. This is God's power we're talking about, not man's human strength. This is resurrection level power. The same force, when you think about it, the same power that created the universe, that parted the Red Sea, that raised our Lord from the dead.

The same power. And it tells us it's directed towards you. See the middle bit there? Towards you, that believe. Note then these different word meanings.

We see, firstly, it talks about the exceeding greatness of his power. The exceeding greatness. And so the Greek word there, hyperbalon, means surpassing or beyond throwing.

So if you had some object and you threw it, it's just going to go beyond that. You can't throw it. You can only throw a ball so far. But the power of God is exceeding greatness.

[11:52] It just goes beyond. It's boundless. That just keeps on going. That's the picture of the power here. That it just goes beyond. It's surpassing. It's boundless. It's overflowing.

It cannot be measured. And then the word greatness there, megathos, it talks about immensity, like the vastness of a starry sky. When you think as you go out at night, sometimes I do, and just stare into space and you see the wonder of the heavens.

As it's pictured in Psalm 147. He telleth the number of the stars. He calleth them all by name. Great is our Lord and his power. Of great power.

His understanding is infinite. Great is the Lord. The one who spoke the galaxies into existence and sustains all of creation. That's the greatness of our God, isn't it?

The greatness of his power. It's the power that said, let there be light and light was. And it's now at work in believers.

[12:51] Next, back to the picture there, the second point, his power. And this word power is dunamis.

Of course, we get the word dynamite from this. And it signifies explosive, miraculous ability. It's power in action. Power that accomplishes something.

It's active, effectual power. Again, like the passing of the Red Sea. Like the empowering of the disciples in Acts 1. As we read, It's used also in Luke 9, 43.

Our Lord performed a miracle. And they were all amazed at the mighty power, dunamis of God. And they wondered, everyone, at all the things which Jesus did.

Most gloriously, as we think of it today on Resurrection Sunday. But if the spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his spirit that dwelleth in you.

[14:07] The power we're talking about is the power that raised our Lord from the dead. And this dunamis power pulses within believers, helps us overcome sin, to face trials, to live victoriously.

Paul describes then too, the next word, working. And this word, working, is energia. We get our word energy from this word.

It's active, effective energy. That's the third word there. It denotes this active, operative force, like a mighty engine, in constant motion.

It's God's purposeful energy, sustaining all things, transforming hearts. We see it in Philippians 2, 13. For it is God which worketh.

And for believers, energia is the living force that empowers obedience, it fuels spiritual growth, and it's ever dynamically at work in us. The number four word there, kratos, it speaks of sovereign dominion.

[15:15] It speaks of dominion and ruling strength. God's sovereign power has exalted Christ far above all principality and power, and might and dominion.

It's his sovereign dominion. It's his sovereign dominion. That God's authority rules over all. And his strength overcomes every enemy. Think of sin, Satan, death.

Nothing can withstand God's rule. And then the last one there, number five, escus. It's unstoppable might. It's inherent enduring strength, or force.

The raw might of God. And Paul speaks of his might, a capacity, that vigor, that accomplishes great things. We see it there in Ephesians 6, verse 10.

In fact, there's three of these words here, in this one verse, Ephesians 6, 10, as the context talks about the armor of God. And Paul says, finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

[16:21] So, finally, my brethren, be strong, *dunamis*, in the Lord, and in the power, *kratos*, of his might, *iscus*. So you've got the three in that same verse too.

It's interesting, just the flavors there, isn't it? The extra little kind of dimension to these words. And we think about his might. It's his power that endures and stands firm.

It's that unyielding force that sustains believers. When we face trials and difficulties, we can trust God's promises to see us through. And the wonder of it all here is that God's power has a personal application.

It's towards us who believe. God's power is for the believer. And we might think, well, who am I? That God's power would manifest in my life.

I'm just nothing. I'm so weak. Like Paul confessed himself. And yet God says, my grace is sufficient for thee. My strength is made perfect in weakness.

[17:20] So we see that Paul, inadequate as he felt, he knew God's power. And God extends his power. When you say, I'm weak, he's strong.

And his power is infinite, it's active, it's sovereign, it's personal. It's the power that created the heavens. The power that made the sea dry land and delivered Israel.

And now, God's power works in us. Let's explore the proof of this power. We've seen about the prayer. We've seen about the power. Now look at the proof. The resurrection of Christ is the proof of it all, isn't it?

When you think Ephesians 1, 20. Risen! He's risen indeed, isn't he? Ephesians 1, 20, which he wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.

The resurrection is the cornerstone of Christianity, isn't it? When you think about it, and we could unpack so much really by just scratching the surface. Think about the resurrection again as we've already had it well put to us.

[18:26] But what does it mean in the practical way of our lives? The resurrection. God's proven his power over sin and death. And for us, it's an assurance of a future resurrection.

Over 500 eyewitnesses saw the risen Lord, then his disciples. Once despairing, now they were bold proclaimers willing to die for their testimony.

I think that says it all. In Acts 4, verse 20, it talks about how they were bold to declare the gospel. And even at risk of their lives, would they do that for some con artist or for some fake kind of Messiah?

No, they knew it was real. They knew he was risen. They were first-hand eyewitnesses of the resurrection. And so the witness of the resurrection is just, it says it all, doesn't it?

It's a historical fact. It's testified multiple witnesses. It's an undeniable truth, the resurrection. It was no trick or hallucination, but it was real.

[19:35] And it provides a victory too, a triumph. It defeats Satan and death and we have justification. We're made righteous before God and death itself is shattered as Christ emerged from the tomb.

Our Lord, victorious, all-conquering. As it tells us in Romans 1, 4, of the Saviour, our Lord was declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead.

We think our Lord fully human as we saw at the cross in his death and a fully divine deity in his rising to life from the dead. Willing to die for our sins, rising as the all-conquering Saviour.

Crucified, mocked, buried. His body lay in a sealed tomb guarded by soldiers. His disciples were crushed, His enemies triumphant. But on the third day, the earth shook and the stone rolled away. He was gone. Praise God. And they found the stone rolled away and they entered in and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. God's power surged through the tomb, raising Christ bodily, victorious and eternal.

[20:56] And the resurrection shows His triumph over sin, death and hell. He is not here for He is risen. He is risen indeed. He is risen indeed.

As He said. And if God raised Christ, then no situation is beyond His reach. Brother, sister, as a Christian now, His power is working in you, for you, towards you. Nothing is too hard for God. No matter our struggles and earthly pains, yes, they'll come. But we've got Christ. We've got Christ and His power. We've got His grace. We've got His strength. And the resurrection of our Lord guarantees our own resurrection, doesn't it? The Spirit who raised Jesus will raise us. As we talked about, Romans 8, 11. Here is His victory. We can know sin's power, broken, and spiritual death, overcome. And think of it, brother, sister, that the resurrection is a present reality for us. [21 : 53] Our Lord didn't escape death, He conquered it. And the empty tomb, the eyewitnesses, are testimony of that truth. Death defeated.

Christ's deity validated. Eternal hope. Promised and assured for those that will trust Him. Because He has risen, the same power works in you that believe. What's more, not only is He risen, but there's more. But wait, there's more. He is exalted. He is exalted. As it reads further, which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places. Notice that, that Christ is risen and exalted in heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion. And this fulfills Psalm 110, 1, where the Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou at my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool. Jesus didn't just rise, He ascended and is enthroned now as the King, as our King, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. And when, in ancient cultures, the right hand signified supreme honour and authority. [23 : 10] So when it says Christ's seating is at the right hand of God, it means He shares the Father's sovereign rule over creation. His enemies are defeated, reduced to a footstool and His triumph is certain.

It's telling us that His redemptive work is complete. Having purified our sins, He sat down signalling the debt is paid and His redemptive work complete and perfect. We see that there in Hebrews 1, verse 3, of our Lord, it tells, who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person and upholding all things by the word of His power when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high. Think of it. Christ is seated. Interesting that in the Old Testament tabernacle and temple there were no seats. So you didn't have cushy seats like you've got here. There was no seats for the priest to sit down because the priest's work was never finished. So sat down means mission accomplished. [24 : 17] Mission accomplished. The priest doesn't have, the high priest doesn't have to do anything now. He can sit down. His mission is accomplished. And so He purged our sins, He cleansed our sins, then He rested.

It wasn't because He was tired, because His mission was finished. He's accomplished everything at the cross, the resurrection, now the exaltation. He sat down. When you think about it, when it tells us He sat down, it's telling us that His work of atonement is finished. His position is glorified and authoritative and His ministry continues from a throne of grace. Everything has been done to save your soul. The work of atonement, He's glorified now, risen, seated as King, and His throne is the throne of grace. Christ's position has profound implications. We think further of the authority of our Lord as He's exalted now as King, seated on His throne. He's got authority. He reigns over all powers, seen and unseen. [25 : 21] He's interceding for us. He's still busy because He's praying for you. I know I could use some prayers. And He's interceding for me and He's interceding for you, for us, isn't He?

And He's presenting His sacrifice against Satan's accusations. And what's more, there's an assurance too that God has raised up Christ and He seated us with Him in the heavenly places. It's like a king's son sharing his father's rule. We fight from victory, not for it. We've got victory because Christ has won the victory and the king is on the throne and we reign with Him. So when trials come, know that your king is seated on the throne. Amen? Know that He's on the throne and the throne of grace is available 24-7 for you. We can trust the one who has ultimate authority and ability to act on our behalf. Lastly, consider the implications for the believer today.

[26 : 20] Christ is risen. What does it matter for me today? For you that trust Him? The same power that raised up Christ to glory is working in us, empowering us and our lives.

We are risen, raised with Christ, no longer defined by past failures or sin. We're a new creation in Christ by His grace. And it tells of resurrection power, the power that brings life out of death, the power that conquers sin, death and hell and power that now dwells everyone who believes.

The power that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you. Brother, it's in you. It's in your seed. It's in your skin. The Spirit of God, the power of God that raised Christ from the dead is in your human person.

Christ in you. His Spirit dwells in you, it tells us, doesn't it? And think of this latent power that you have. It's a latent power. Sadly, it's a power that we don't always tap into.

Sometimes we trust in, I know, I've got to be confessing here, sometimes I trust in the strength of Andrew Craig. That's pretty weak, really. Rather trust in the strength of the risen Saviour.

[27 : 33] Amen. Trust in the strength of the Holy Spirit. We miss that. I know I miss that. I don't always tap into that. There's abundance that we don't draw on, isn't there?

It's like we've got the power on standby. You know, it's latent. It's like the power socket without the button turned on, isn't it? It's latent power on standby, but we don't energise it, we don't engage it, we don't activate it.

Brothers, sisters, sometimes we like that. There's this unharnessed energy as God's people, as God's children. There's this neglected power resource, but heavenly power is just waiting.

Just waiting to be accessed. There's a truth here. Now, I don't mean it to sound going pentecostal or anything, but, you know, there's truth here. We're not afraid of the Holy Spirit.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, just not the wacko stuff. But God's power is real. Amen? God's power is real. It's available. It's for you. It's working toward you. We see God's power is at work in us.

[28 : 37] Think of the things that God is doing or can do if we just activate. Just let God have His way to empower you to live a holy life, for God to give you strength in your weakness for daily trials, for God to give you boldness to witness and spiritual fruit.

Friends, there's so much we can miss out on if we don't activate that spiritual power, the victory over sin, the power to overcome. But if the Spirit of Him that raised Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken, make you alive, your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.

There's so many promises of the victory that we can walk in that the same Spirit, the Spirit of Him, the same resurrection power that raised Christ can quicken your mortal body, can make you alive towards God.

That's what we want, isn't it? The Spirit-filled life, He empowers us for holiness. Think of all these things, you can unpack some of this later, to know the strength that we have in our natural human weakness, to be as Gideon, God called him as, he was hiding in Judges 6, 14, and God says, you mighty man, and Gideon's looking behind, who's he talking to?

Yeah, you, you're the mighty man, you're the Gideon, and we can be like Gideon as much as we're hiding and feeling inadequate and afraid, God's saying, hey, you're the mighty man, I'm going to make you mighty, and we can go forward in faith as Gideon did, in God's strength.

[30 : 21] Think of it, friends, this morning, of the power that can sustain you, that strength beyond your own. hey, just realise it today, as Paul prayed, know this power, this resurrection power, and know it through your trials, that God's grace is going to see you through, carry you forward, knowing that his grace is sufficient for any struggle, and we can know a hope that keeps us strong, an eternal perspective.

There's a guarantee of our future resurrection, we've got power for purpose, we're equipped to serve, we've got a mission, we've got a calling, and he'll help you fulfil it, we've got a service to deliver as ambassadors for Christ, of the risen King, we're carrying his power into a broken world, and friends, step out in faith, the power that raised Jesus lives in us, can we connect to the source, as it were, can we realise the victory that we have and walk in it, and let eternity shape our thinking, our living, that will set our affection on things above.

There's so many truths we can unpack just to think of that, realising that power, the power of the resurrection, and to know that we can walk in it, and live in that resurrection power, and we can know as Paul confessed it, I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me.

Now, the resurrection is not just a doctrine, but a transformative power for life. We can believe it. Christ is risen.

We can receive it. We can ask God to help that happen in our heart, and we can live it, walk in it, that victorious, spirit-filled life.

[32 : 16] And it happens as we yield to him. And we can live, as it were, as resurrection people, in the sense that, hey, we've been made children of God.

We've got an inheritance. We've got a wonderful blessing of God's enabling. All of those power words that we talked about, but we've got to connect to the source.

So pray through. Like Paul, pray for the eyes of your heart to be open. Hey, this is something I haven't seen before. This is another dimension. Hey, this is, there's more of them than the, there's more of God's people, there's more of God's power than anything that's opposing us.

If God be for us, who can be against us? When the servant's eyes got open and he saw, yeah, hey, they're totally outnumbered. What have I got to worry about? You know, trust God's sufficiency, that we walk by faith, not by sight, that we trust God's sufficiency, that we rely on the Holy Spirit.

He is the agent of resurrection power. And like a light bulb shining when connected, stay plugged in, as it were, that you would draw from him your strength.

[33 : 32] And cultivate your faith. Resurrection power. It's happening. It's real. In 2025 even. Amen? It's happening now, today, right now, in your soul, that trust in.

Sometimes you've just got to have the eyes of our understanding opened to say, hey, actually, yeah, I've got, I'm more powerful than what I think I am. Not because of me, but because of him.

Amen? So let's not live in defeat, but in divine strength. The tomb is empty. Amen? Amen. And the one who raised Christ from the dead, well, it was Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

He lives in you, doesn't he? And we can live as resurrection people. Think of it, the power that rolled away the stone is yours today. So trust God's power to work in you.

Expect God to intervene, to be acting, activating in your soul. Live in that resurrection power.

[34 : 32] You can know a power beyond your own as you surrender to him and know his victory today, this morning, as you surrender.

And friends, as Paul closes, he says these words, now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. Be encouraged this morning to realise the power, have the eyes of your understanding open, and realise that resurrection is not just a historical event, but it's a transforming power.

His power is still at work in you that believe and he's for you. Let us pray. Lord, we thank you that we can trust your power, your strength. Lord, we pray each one might have that heart's trust to know for sure that they're saved, to know for sure they've had that free gift of your salvation as they've trusted you to forgive their sins, to save their soul, to pay the price, the penalty of every sin. Lord, to know that gift of salvation granted by grace and received by faith. Lord, we praise you for it. We pray, Lord, help us further to have our eyes of our understanding open, to realise who we are in Christ, that we have got an inheritance, we have got a calling and we have got an exceeding great power because of your rising from the dead.

[36 : 12] Thank you, Lord, as we remember that day when they found the tomb was empty and they said, he is risen. We thank you, Lord, that you are risen indeed.

And Lord, that that same power is still manifested in the people of God, that we can also know that we are, as it were, seated in heavenly places, that really we've got a whole new different dimension of living because of that great work of Calvary and of that empty tomb today.

We praise you, Lord, in Jesus' name. Amen. Praise God.