RESURRECTION POWER FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

Ephesians 1:18&19 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.

That the Eyes of Your Heart May Be Enlightened

Paul is praying that they might know something not just intellectually, but in a way that touches their emotions and their will. If we believe what Paul prayed that they would believe, it will change both our attitude and our actions.

“The hope to which he has called you.” Heaven is a future reality for those who know Christ.

“The riches of is glorious inheritance in his holy people.” The preposition is in, not for. Even though we are sinners who could never be good enough to deserve heaven, God looks upon those who have asked Christ to save them as an incredible treasure.

His Incomparably Great Power for Us Who Believe

Ephesians 1:19b-21 That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and

Every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Colossians 2;15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Ephesians 1:22&23 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fulness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 2:6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

Resurrection Power for Victorious Living

Romans 6:1-3 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death.

Galatians 3:26&27 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

I Corinthians 12:12&13(NASB) For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Romans 6:4&5 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Romans 6:6&7 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless (NIV&NASB note and several translations), that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

“Rendered powerless.” Most literally, reduced to inactivity. I John 1:8 “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” We still have a sinful nature, but its power over us was broken when we accepted Christ and were placed in Christ, in His death, burial and resurrection. Unbelievers cannot gain victory over sin. We can live in victory (not perfection, I John 1:10). First of all, we must know and believe this truth. A freed slave who thinks he is still a slave is for all practical purposes still a slave.

Romans 6:8-10 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 1:18&19 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know…his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Romans 6:11-13 Therefore do no let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

The Major Hindrance to Victory

Romans 6:14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Living under law, whether it be the Old Testament Law, a set of rules imposed by a church or organization, or our own personal list, is attempting to live a life that pleases God by our own willpower. We can no more live a life that pleases God in our own strength than we could be good enough to deserve to go to heaven.

Romans 8:3&4 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Galatians 5:13-15 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Galatians 5:16-18 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Things to Consider

Have you been saved?

God wants us to know in a deep, life-changing way that the power of God that brought Jesus back from the dead despite all Satan could do to stop the resurrection is available to us to enable us to live a godly life.

When we asked Jesus to be our Savior, we were placed (baptized) into Christ and His death, burial and resurrection.

Although we still have a sin nature, it was rendered powerless to control us when we accepted Christ.

If sin continues to control us, it is because we have chosen to let it.

The primary hindrance to victory is trying to live the Christian life by self-effort instead of in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The primary evidence that we are living our lives in the power of the Holy Spirit is that we will “serve one another humbly in love.”