

## ***THE POWER OF GOD TOWARD US WHO BELIEVE***

*(Ephesians 1:19-23)*

Are you passionate for God or are you lukewarm toward God? Do you sense a declining zeal in your love for God, an increasing pattern of sin and a pull towards being spiritually cold and complacent? Are you getting discouraged by the relentless assaults of the evil one against your faith? If you have experienced these symptoms of lukewarmness in your own soul, the prayer of Paul in Ephesians 1:19-23 is for you. The focus and emphasis of Paul's prayer is for God to give believers in Christ spiritual understanding and enlightenment to know, appreciate and appropriate the glorious blessings that they already have in Christ. One of those spiritual resources is the surpassing greatness of God's power toward us who believe. Reflecting from Paul's pastoral prayer, let's consider these principles of how we experience the reality of God's mighty power at work in us.

***1. Since God raised Jesus from the dead, we are given the power to \_\_\_\_\_.***

In order to illustrate the magnitude of this divine power, Paul reminds the Ephesian believers that God's mighty power is gloriously demonstrated through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus (Eph. 1:19-20; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:24). This resurrection power which has defeated and broken the power of sin, Satan and death is the power that is available to every believer. Therefore, in Christ Jesus, we have been given the power to overcome and subdue sin. As Paul exhorts the believers, we must put off our old self, which belongs to our former manner of life and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness (Eph. 4:22-24). In Romans 6:9-13, we are commanded not to let sin control the way we live nor to obey its evil passions. We must instead present ourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life and use our whole body as instruments of righteousness (Titus 2:11-12). In other words, it is the mighty power of God that raised our Lord Jesus from the dead that enables us to live a vibrant, victorious and powerful life in Christ.

***2. Since God exalted Jesus as head over all things for the church, we are granted the power to be \_\_\_\_\_ as we face life's battles.***

After illustrating the greatness of God's power through the resurrection of Christ, Paul turns our attention to the glorious exaltation of Jesus which includes His ascension into the heavens where God the Father seated Him at His right hand (Eph. 1:20-21). God the Father has granted the power to His Son Jesus to rule and reign, so that all powers both in heaven and earth are subject to the authority of Jesus. Our Lord Jesus is exalted to the place of absolute, supreme power in the entire universe and His authority is not just for a period of time, but for all eternity.

Furthermore, God's Word says that all this dominion, power and authority are given to Christ by the Father for the sake of the church, which is His body (Eph. 1:22-23). With Christ being the sovereign head over all things for the benefit of the believers, we must be encouraged to know that God has granted us sufficient strength and absolute security in Christ to face and win our spiritual battles for the glory of God and by the power of His might! (Eph. 6:10-12)