

Series: Ephesians

Title: His Power to Resurrect and Glorify

Text: Ephesians 1: 19-23

Date: August 15, 2013

Place: SGBC, New Jersey

The power of God is exceedingly great power. It is always effectual—"the working of his mighty power"—means his power is effectual, invincible, irresistible power. Let's read Ephesians 1: 19-23.

**Ephesians 1: 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 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*, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.**

When we came to this passage, I said that I had five things to show you. Instead of doing so in one message, we have looked at each one individually.

1) **We saw the power of Christ's resurrection**—the power that raised Christ from the dead was not sheer omnipotent power alone, but the power of satisfied justice and canceled sin accomplished by Christ for his people, the power of God's faithfulness to his Son and to his people and the power of God's grace and love for his Son and for his elect. That was power to usward who believe because God raised all the elect representatively in Christ when he raised Christ.

2) **We saw the power of his exaltation.** God the Father being satisfied with his Son not only raised him, but exalted Christ. He had glory as God the Son but now is exalted as the GodMan: God put all things under his feet, made him Head over all things to the church. That is power to usward who believe because we are the church, the fullness of him, who filleth all in all.

3) **We saw his power to quicken and convert us who believe.** This is the main thing spoken of as we saw in chapter 2. We were dead in trespasses and in sins. Under the POWER of the prince of the power of the air, same as now works in the children of disobedience. But the POWER of satisfied justice, of faithfulness, of grace and love that raised Christ, also brought the gospel to us, regenerated us and brought us to faith in Christ. It is a MUST that all for whom Christ died be born again and given faith. Christ said that in

John 3: 5: Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, EXCEPT a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God....7: Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye MUST be born again.

John 6:45: It is written in the prophets, And they shall be ALL taught of God. EVERY MAN THEREFORE that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, COMETH unto me.

Hebrews 11:6: But WITHOUT FAITH it is IMPOSSIBLE to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Romans 14: 3:...WHATSOEVER is not of faith is sin.

4) **We saw his power to keep us unto that day.** Same power as mentioned before. Not one for whom Christ died shall be lost. It would be unjust to pour wrath on them again. Christ has satisfied justice for us. If one is lost, God would lose most of all, because the glory of God and his Christ is at stake. By his power, he shall lose nothing.

John 6:39: And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of ALL which HE HATH GIVEN ME I should LOSE NOTHING, but should raise it up again at the last day.

5) So tonight, our subject is the fifth point which is: **His Power to Resurrect and Glorify.**

**Proposition:** God will raise 'usward who believe' from the dead and glorify us with Christ by the same power that he raised Christ and glorified Christ.

2 Corinthians 4: 14: Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also BY Jesus, and shall present us with you.

Philippians 3: 10: That I may know him, and the POWER of HIS RESURRECTION,... 20: For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the SAVIOR, the LORD JESUS CHRIST 21: WHO SHALL change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like to his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

In John 5, Christ was persecuted by the Jews, for curing an impotent man and giving him power to carry away his bed on the Sabbath; so Christ professes not only is he the Lord of the Sabbath, but Christ Jesus is also the Lord of life and death; He tells them the resurrection of the dead shall be brought to pass by his power.

John 5: 22: For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: 23: That all *men* should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. 24: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. 25: Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. 26: For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; 27: And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

He had authority as the Son of God, now also he has authority as the Son of man.

John 5: 28: Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29: And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. 30: I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

## **I. FIRST, IT IS A CERTAIN FACT THAT GOD SHALL RAISE THE DEAD.**

We have many examples in history of God raising men from the dead. In the Old testament: the son of the widow in Sarepta (1 Kings 17:22), the Shunammite's son (2 Kings 4:35), the man "cast into the sepulcher of Elisha," (2 Kings 13:21). Then in the New Testament: Jairus's daughter (Mark 5:41); Dorcas (Acts 9:40); The widow's son (Luke 12:11-15) and Lazarus (John 11:39, 44)

Any man who denies the resurrection of the dead is yet himself dead in trespasses and in sins. The resurrection of the dead is what every believer hopes for—it is fundamental, vital—the hope set before believers is to enter into the joy set before us, which is eternal bliss with Christ our Beloved!

1 Corinthians 15: 12: Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13: But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14: And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and your faith *is* also vain. 15: Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16: For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17: And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18: Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19: If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20: But now

IS Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21: For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.

It was Christ pictured in the firstfruits offered to the Lord under the law. The sheaf of the firstfruits was waved before the Lord, the morning after the Sabbath after the Passover (Le 23:11) Christ suffered on the Passover, his body rested in the grave on the seventh day sabbath, and on the morrow after that, Christ rose from the dead, the very day that the first fruits were offered to the Lord. (De 26:2, Le 23:10-11) So in verse 20 the Holy Spirit moved the apostle Paul to write, “But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.”

The firstfruits were first: first to come out of the earth, first ripe, first reaped and gathered in, and first offered unto the Lord. By the firstfruits the rest of the fruits, the rest of the harvest—not the tares and the chaff—only the firstfruits were sanctified.

Likewise, Christ is the First: first to rise from the dead to an immortal life and first to present himself to God and be accepted of God by his own merit. Just as the firstfruits sanctified and gave right for all the rest of the fruits which would be harvested so Christ is the Righteousness and Sanctification of his people. He secures, guarantees the resurrection of each of his people: from spiritual death in the first resurrection in regeneration and resurrection of our bodies from the grave. Firstfruits were the best and Christ is the best.

Colossians 1: 18: And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19: For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

**Application:** Some will say, “I don’t understand how a body returned to dust can be raised again?” Never judge that it is impossible for God to do a thing simply because you do not understand how God can do it. “Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the POWER of God.” (Mt 22: 29) “The things that are impossible with men are possible with God.” (Luke 18: 27)

1 Corinthians 15: 35: But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

Paul uses an everyday example of planting seed in a garden.

1 Corinthians 15: 36: Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: 37: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: 38: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

Why would we doubt when we see resurrection in our gardens every day? Enough for this first point: we see, there shall be a resurrection from the dead.

**II. SECONDLY, WHO SHALL BE RESURRECTED? ALL SHALL—John 5: 28: Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which ALL that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29: And SHALL COME FORTH; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.**

It is certain ALL shall be raised. No matter where their graves may be: in land or in sea, the earth shall spew them out. Whether quickened to spiritual life or dead in trespasses and in sins, just and unjust shall all be raised. Christ is the Judge of quick and dead. (Acts 10: 42) “There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.” (Acts 24: 15) Even those elect who died in their mother’s wombs shall be resurrected in that day.

1 Corinthians 15: 22: For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

There is a great difference between believers and unbelievers, the godly and the wicked, in this life right now. So there will be a great difference also in the resurrection.

Verse 29 of our text says, “There is the resurrection of life.” “Those that have done good” shall participated in this resurrection. None of Adam’s natural seed does good. These are those born again by God’s invincible grace by the Holy Spirit of God, given faith and repentance by God, who have turned from self, from their unrighteous law-keeping, from this world and cast all their care solely upon Christ. These are they who trust Christ is our Scapegoat—who took all our sin to a land not inhabited and put away our sin forever. (Lev 16: 21-22; Is 53: 8) Those who have done good do so by trusting Christ is our Righteousness—he justified us and made us the righteousness of God in him (1 Cor 1: 30; 2 Cor 5: 21) The resurrection of life shall be enjoyed by those who trust Christ is our Sanctification—he alone makes us to differ, by his Spirit we have been made holy, separated into Christ, from darkness and death—by whose love we are obedient to trust him and look no where else. (1 Cor 1: 30; 4: 7; Col 1: 12-14) These—the true believers in Christ Jesus—shall be raised incorruptible in the likeness of Christ our Head—to the resurrection of life, to eternal joy with Christ forevermore.

But there is also the resurrection of damnation as we read in verse 29 of our text, “they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” These have sought acceptance some other way than Christ. Or they have added something to Christ. These are they who turned to philosophy or who went after their sin rather than seeking Christ will he may be found.

Jude 14: Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15: To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

The WICKED, also, shall be raised by the power of Christ. They shall be dragged before Christ in judgment with unspeakable horror. Christ shall bring forth every sin—known and unknown—and the just Judge shall execute vengeance them.

Isaiah 2: 17: And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. 18: And the idols he shall utterly abolish. 19: And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. 20: In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made *each one* for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; 21: To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. 22: Cease ye from man, whose breath *is* in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?

**Application:** Take heed to this word. Each and every one of us shall be raised from the dead: even you who are screaming, in your hearts, “No God.” Try to picture that mountain on fire in the day God gave the law on Mt. Sinai. They exceedingly feared and quaked. “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;” (Ex 19: 17-18; 2 Cor 5: 11) You shall meet the Lord Jesus Christ face-to-face to be judged by that Righteous One. Do not meet God in any righteousness of your own; do not meet God trusting in a profession you made years ago; do not meet God being anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-Gospel. Let go of you, and the very best deeds you have done, and kiss the Son, lest he be angry. (Ps 1: 10-12)

**III. THIRDLY, THE POWER AND AUTHORITY OF THE RESURRECTION WILL BE JESUS CHRIST: THE SON OF GOD, THE SON OF MAN—**John 5: 25: Verily, verily,...the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. 26: For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself...27: And hath given him authority to execute judgment also because he is the Son of man....

The same Voice of Jesus that walked this earth, same Power of God that speaks now and regenerates his child to spiritual life, shall in the resurrection, speak and irresistibly, powerfully bring forth the dead from their graves.

John 5: 28:...all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29: And shall come forth; (**Turn 1 Thess 4**)

1 Thessalonians 4: 15: For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

Sleep means those believers who have died, whose bodies are asleep, opposite to us believers who shall yet be alive when Christ returns.

1 Thessalonians 4: 16: For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a SHOUT, with the VOICE of the ARCHANGEL,...

Christ is the Archangel so the Lord himself shall descend with the Voice of the Archangel.

1 Thessalonians 4: 16:...and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

The godly shall be raised out of their graves, by virtue of the Spirit of Christ, which now dwells within us.

Romans 8: 10: And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. 11: 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.

**Application:** Brethren, you and I who have the Spirit of Christ owe nothing to our flesh: “The flesh profiteth nothing.” (Jn 6: 63) We owe all to the Lord Jesus Christ who loved us and gave himself for us. Sinners saved by grace have been made righteous by the Righteousness of Christ only, received by faith alone, apart from works we have done. We have been sanctified by the Spirit of Christ our Sanctification and we are kept by him. (Php 1: 6; 1 Pet 1: 5) The only way we shall be raised is that we shall be resurrected by the Spirit of him that raised Christ from the dead.

Romans 8: 12: Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13: For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14: For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Scripture tells us we—believers—shall awake in Christ’s likeness.

1 Corinthians 15: 39: All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds...41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. 42: So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

Saints, these corrupt bodies will be raised INCORRUPTIBLE. Now, we live in “the body of this death.” (Rom 7: 24) Our body of flesh is dying day-by-day.

**Illustration:** We start out a sweet smelling infant. Then we begin to have body odor—we have to cover our bodies with perfume to cover our stink because we are dying. Eventually, our bodies will become so offensive to our friends that they will bury our bodies in the ground out of their sight. Even then these bodies will continue to decay until they eventually rot into dust. But, at the resurrection, our bodies shall rise incorruptible, incapable of sickness, no more to die. No more of these bodily pains. We will be everlastingly young and healthy.

1 Corinthians 15: 43: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory:

Remember when Moses came down from speaking with Christ face-to-face in Mt. Sinai and his face shined with glory--“when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” (1 Jn 3: 2) Our whole body shall

be full of the brightness of Christ's glory, "fashioned like unto his glorious body", (Php 3: 21) "conformed to his glorious image." (Rom 8: 29) "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun." (Matt. 13:43)

1 Corinthians 15: 43:..it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

Raised by this exceeding great power of God and we will be given great power in our bodies. We will be able to give the highest service to God and the Lamb, no weariness or weakness of any kind, no infirmity whatsoever! Here is why

1 Corinthians 15: 44: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.

Right now, our spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. But then our whole body will be as our spirit is now. Our body will be as ready to serve and worship and praise the Lord as our spirit—for it will be a spiritual body. None of the carnal things that hinder us now will hinder us then. "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more," (Rev. 7:16) "In the resurrection, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven." The angels need no sleep, they serve him night and day. (Rev. 7:15)

This is a far different description from those who were too haughty and arrogant to need Christ in this life—in hell it says of them..."The smoke of their torment ascends up forever and ever. And they have no rest day nor night." (Rev 14: 11)

Here is why we shall have this conformity to Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15: 44:...There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45: And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit. 46: Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47: The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven. 48: As *is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy: and as *is* the heavenly, such *are* they also that are heavenly. 49: And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 50: Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

What if we are yet alive when Christ returns? The living believer shall not die then be raised. But our bodies shall be changed like the saints raised from their graves.

1 Corinthians 15: 51: Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52: In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53: For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Then the victory!

1 Corinthians 15: 54: So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55: O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56: The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57: But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Now, here is Paul's application to us who believe—**

1 Corinthians 15: 58: Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Someone told Brother Henry Mahan years ago, “We have it backwards. We rejoice for that infant just born and weep for that saint who dies. Our sorrow ought to be for that poor infant just born into this world of sin, our rejoicing for that saint who dies in the Lord.”

For you without Christ, whether you have never professed Christ or you are trusting in your profession, I will only say this to you. No man knows the day or the hour when Christ shall return. It may be tonight. Therefore, “Redeem the time.”

1Ch 22:19: Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God;

Ecclesiastes 12: 1: Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

Isaiah 55: 6: Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

My brethren, an eternal day with our Savior is just around the corner! Wait! Hold to him. Continue doing what you know is right in the Lord. He is coming!

**Amen!**