

Power to Save

(Ephesians 2:1-10)

How can I experience God's life changing power?

What special gift have you received recently?

[Read Ephesians 2:1-10]

Understanding The Need For God's Power (vv. 1-3)

1. What phrases does Paul use in describing what the Christians in Ephesus were like before Christ? Why do you think Paul reminded these people what their lives were like before Christ?

2. How might *your* life "before Christ" compare to the descriptions Paul gives? Why? How does knowing that you have been saved from these things make you feel?

Receive God's Power Through Faith In Christ (vv. 4-9)

1. From these verses, what was life for the Ephesians like after they began to follow Christ by faith? What are some benefits of a life lived with Christ that you didn't experience before you came to follow Christ?

2. Is anyone "good enough" to earn salvation?

3. What does it mean to respond in faith (v. 8)? Why do you think some Christians feel obligated to work their way to God even after they have been given the gift of salvation through Christ?

4. Why do you think people have difficulty understanding that salvation is a free gift? Why might “salvation by works” look appealing to some?

Apply God’s Power (Ephesians 2:10)

1. Verses 8 – 9 tell us that works do not save us; what does verse 10 add to that truth? Why should a Christian want to do good works?

2. What is the significance of the phrase “prepared in advance for us to do”? How does knowing you are God’s workmanship (i.e. His masterpiece!) make you feel?

Care & Prayer – How can we help you through prayer today?

- Do you need to place your trust (faith) in Christ and receive the gift of salvation? (Talk to your Table Leader)
- If you are saved, how might God be at work in your life?
- Who are those you know that need Christ?

LIFE Groups

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Power For Daily Living

(Ephesians 1:15-21; 3:14-21)

How can I live the life God wants me to live?

Awareness of the Greatness of God's Power (Eph. 1:15-21)

1. Do you ever think that other Christians are more successful at living the Christian life than you are? How does that make you feel?
2. In vv. 18 and 19, what three areas does Paul pray for the Ephesians to “be enlightened” and “know” more fully?

“hope” = His transforming, life-changing work in us and the ultimate reality of being forever in the presence of God in heaven
“riches of His glorious riches” = here the meaning is that Christians make up a rich and glorious inheritance for God. Like Israel in the OT, see Psalm 33:12...*believers are extremely important to God!*
[Focus of today's lesson] “**His incomparably great power**” = emphasizes the degree or magnitude of God's power

3. Although we may *not* be able to fully grasp the magnitude of God's power, what does he say it is like (vv19,20)?
4. God's “incomparably great power” reversed the ultimate effect of sin (death) and raised Him from the dead *and* seated Him in heaven. How does it make you feel to know that same power is available to *elevate believers to a new level of spiritual life*?
5. Why do you think Paul uses the phrase “the eyes of your heart”? Why didn't he choose “head”, “brain” or “intellect”?

True Inner Power (Eph. 3:14-19)

1. According to this prayer, what is God's design/process in spiritually strengthening believers? Through Who? Why is important that it be in our *inner being*? Does this happen by God's initiative... what part might we play? How does faith fit in?
2. How important does it appear that we be “rooted” and “established” in Christ's love? What happens to plants that are not “rooted”... buildings that are not “established”?

3. What is the difference between experiencing God's love and knowing facts about His love? How have you experienced God's power in your life?

4. How wide, long, high and deep is the love of Christ? How is "out of His glorious riches" v.16 similar to what we discovered in chapter 1:19, "His incomparable great power"?

5. When we pray, what kinds of requests do we usually ask of Him? How might this model of prayer affect the way we pray for others / ourselves?

Praise God for His Infinite Power (Eph. 3:20-21)

1. What are some things that are immeasurable, e.g. water in the sea? How does it make you feel to know that God can do and desires to do more than you can imagine?

2. What does Paul's "praise" affirm about God? Why do you think Paul was so assured and confident in making this grand expression?

3. Why is it important for us to include "praise" of God in our prayers?

Care and Prayer: How can we help one another through prayer today?

"I can't, but You can." This prayer expresses that we cannot live the Christian life on our own and acknowledges that Christ can live His life through us. Is there an "I can't" area you would like prayer for?

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Power to Overcome Evil

(Ephesians 6:10-20)

How can I overcome the power of evil in my life?

Know The Enemy (Eph. 6:10-12)

["stand" is a key word in this passage meaning "holding on to a position in the face of enemy attack" and suggests both victory *and* stability]

1. Who is the enemy referred to in this passage? How is Satan (the devil) described in these passages: John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 11:3, 14?

2. The battle that Paul envisions, what is it over, why is it taking place? How can evil corrupt the good? How does the devil scheme against believers or what spiritual "struggles" do believers face?

["rulers", "authorities", "powers", "spiritual forces" seem to refer to different ranks of evil in the hierarchy of Satan]

Put On The Armor (Eph. 6:13-17)

1. What responsibility does the believer have in spiritual warfare? What is the result for the believer who puts on the full armor of God?

2. Believers sometimes enter into spiritual battles and don't even realize it because they make two great errors:
 - A) Not believing that a personal, powerful enemy exists, and
 - B) Thinking we are adequate in our own resources to withstand the devil.What are the possible results of error number 1? Number 2?

3. How can the "armors" mentioned help us stand firm against evil and live faithfully for God?

belt of truth = being rigorously truthful with oneself, God, and others

breastplate of righteousness = maintaining moral purity

sandals or footgear = readiness to share the gospel of peace

shield of faith = actively trusting or reliance in Christ (God) "I can't, but You can."

helmet of salvation = operating with the *assurance* of salvation

sword of the Spirit = directed/guided by God's inspired Word, empowered by the Holy Spirit

Pray In The Spirit (Eph.6:18-20)

1. How does prayer fit into this spiritual battle?
2. When and what were the Ephesians to pray? What was Paul's specific request?
3. Review today's three-step plan in dealing with spiritual battles.

Care and Prayer: How might we help one another through prayer today?

As you reflect on this lesson, what might you do to be better prepared for battle?

Is there a spiritual struggle you are dealing with at this time?

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Power to Share Jesus

(Ephesians 3:1-13)

How can I make the most of telling others what Jesus can do for them?

Realize God's Inclusive Purpose (Eph. 3:1-6)

1. What was “the mystery” made known to Paul (2:11-18)? How was this mystery made clear to Paul?
2. What's a “Gentile”? Identify the phrases in 3:6 that reveal that “Gentiles” were to participate fully in God's plan of redemption. When did this mystery take on meaning for *you*?
3. Are we more likely to be concerned about the salvation of those similar to us or those different from us? Why?

Rely on God's Grace and Power (Eph. 3:7-9)

1. How does Paul look at himself, is he being hard on himself in verse 8 or just appropriately humble? Why is this “grace” so significant to him? (Acts 9:1-22)
2. To what does he attribute his ability to tell others about Christ? How would you compare Paul's passion to share this mystery to *your* own passion?
3. Respond to this statement: “*Our ability to share Christ with others is not based on our worthiness or power but on God's grace and power.*” How might Paul's words encourage *us* when we feel inadequate or unworthy to witness?

Recognize the Church's Role (Eph. 3:10-11)

[God's profound mystery and wisdom revealed in Christ even reaches *beyond* the visible world to spirit beings whom inhabit the invisible world!]

1. Basically what is God's *eternal purpose* (v. 11)? What is the church's role in this plan?

2. Explain the significance of Paul's use of "Christ Jesus *our Lord*" in v. 11.

3. How is *our* church actively seeking to accomplish what God wants it to do?

Remain Confident (Eph. 3:12-13)

[Paul expressed his confidence in God despite the suffering he was experiencing for sharing the gospel.]

1. How might Paul's suffering (imprisonment) affect his friends?

2. Describe the encouragement *we* can draw from Paul's confidence in God expressed in verse 12. Why is it important that *we* can approach God with freedom and confidence? What are some views of God that might keep *us* from doing that?

Care and Prayer: How can we help one another through prayer today?

How can what you have learned in Ephesians today help you?

Where has God called you to be an ambassador for Him?

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