

The Power Of The Resurrection Can Be Ours Now

Philippians 3:10-11 [NIV] *“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”*

What was Paul referring to in this statement?

Was Paul referring to His resurrection on the last day? No!

1 Corinthians 15:51-54 [NIV] *“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: Death has been swallowed up in victory.”*

“We” refers to Christians all who accepted Jesus Christ as our Saviour and we are promised and guaranteed a resurrection from the dead.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 [NIV] *“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.”*

Our resurrection is not a result of good works but faith in what Jesus Christ has done.

This statement was **not** Paul hoping to make the final resurrection, for this would be contradicting all he has taught elsewhere.

Paul must be referring to something other than the final resurrection.

What Paul was desiring was “*resurrection power*” now.

Paul knew that this could not be his now without two things happening to him that happened to Jesus Christ.

a) There can be no resurrection without a crucifixion.

Paul was willing to die in order to have a resurrection.

The resurrection Paul was after was not a resurrection of the body; it was the death and resurrection of the person inside of the body!

We cannot have “*resurrection power*” without being crucified; in other words, our ego has to be slain.

The term “*somehow*” indicates that Paul was willing to go to extreme measures in order to experience “*resurrection power*”.

Paul knew this would involve suffering just as Jesus Christ suffered before He was crucified.

We have to ask ourselves certain questions.

Are we willing to go all the way to the cross with Jesus in order to have “*resurrection power*”?

Are we prepared to experience what Jesus Christ suffered?

We must be willing to live as Jesus died!

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

This is what it takes on our part to experience “*resurrection power*” now.

One day all Christians will be glorified like Jesus was glorified after His crucifixion and resurrection.

Romans 8:29-30 [NIV] *“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”*

1 John 3:2 [NIV] *“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”*

John as well as Paul understood what the future of those in Christ would be.

Philippians 1:20 [NIV] *“I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.”*

What Paul was saying is that he could not wait until the resurrection to be like the resurrected Christ, he wanted to be like Him now, and have a share in the “*resurrecting power*” with Jesus Christ now.

Philippians 2:5-8 [NIV] *“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!”*

Paul knew that this was the path we have to tread if we are to have “*resurrection power*”.

John 5:19, 30 [NIV] *“Jesus gave them this answer: “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.” ... “By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.”*

Jesus was **not** “*His own man*”. Jesus knew that He would be humbled and shamed as part of the suffering that preceded His death.

We also have to “*suffer with Christ*”.

What did Jesus suffer on the cross?

Christ endured shame

Hebrews 12:2 [NIV] *“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

Jesus did not enjoy this. Remember this was the Almighty Creator God who was enduring all this.

Christ endured:-

The shame of physical nakedness on the cross.

The shame of suffering with the criminal scum of the earth, the lowest of low.

The shame of being regarded as a deceiver.

Matthew 27:63 [NIV] *“Sir, they said, we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’”*

The shame of an apparent failure.

Matthew 27:39-44 [NIV] *“Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, ‘You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!’” In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.”*

The shame of being misunderstood.

Christ endured injustice in silence.

Isaiah 53:7 [NIV] *“He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.”*

Jesus Christ could only speak as the Father gave Him impulse to do so.

Luke 23:9 [NIV] *“He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer.”*

John 19:8-9 [NIV] *“When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer.”*

Jesus was not allowed to say one word even when those who hated Him got the upper hand.

Jesus was even silent when those who followed Him were bewildered with what was happening to their Master.

1 Peter 2:21, 23 [NIV] *“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.” ... “When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.”*

It takes courage to leave injustice to One who is invisible and at most times silent, to resolve.

Jesus Christ endured being a sacrifice.

The sacrificial animal was a wasted animal, a forgotten commodity you never expected to see again.

This means Christ regarded Himself as expendable.

Revelation 12:11 [NIV] *“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”*

Jesus Christ did not love His own life so much as to want to hold on to it, remember He was only in His early thirties when He died.

Luke 23:34 [NIV] *“Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.”*

Jesus Christ totally sacrificed His personal feelings to extend total forgiveness to others.

Luke 23:28 [NIV] *“Jesus turned and said to them, Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children.”*

Even in extreme personal pain Christ continued to minister to others out of love for their welfare.

Jesus Christ endured solitude.

Matthew 26:56 [NIV] *“But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.”*

Jesus was deserted by everyone at the very time when any human being wanted the companionship of others.

Matthews 26:40-44 [NIV] *“Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.” When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.”*

The physical needs of Jesus’ closest friends took priority in their lives over His psychological needs. How often the same thing happens in our lives. It takes the love from God in us to be willing to give up our needs to supply the needs of others when we are physically exhausted.

Matthew 27:46 [NIV] *“About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”-- which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

Jesus experienced the result of sin, being cut off from our Creator so that He could be the Perfect High Priest.

2 Corinthians 5:21 [NIV] *“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

Although without sin, Jesus experienced the separation that sin brings. Jesus could not be our Saviour in every aspect of our lives unless He had plumbed the uttermost and ultimate depths of human experience.

When we feel God has forgotten us, when we are immersed in a situation beyond our understanding, we know Jesus Christ our High Priest has been there and knows exactly what we are experiencing.

There is tremendous comfort in knowing that there is no human experience we may have that God has not experienced through Jesus the Christ.

Jesus did not finish His life at this low point, but showed that victory can come out of any situation through faith.

John 19:30 [NIV] *“When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”*

The three English words “*it is finished*” are translated from one Greek/Aramaic word “*tetelestai*” which is a victor’s shout, the cry of a man who had completed a task, won through a struggle, come out of dark into light and grasped a crown.

The root word “*tēleō*” means the final payment on a debt.

Luke 23:46 [NIV] “*Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.*”

Jesus died a victor who in spite of experiencing the depths of despair by being for a moment cut off from God, and carried through that experience a faith in God by committing His future into the Hands of God. Once again, the perfect example for us to follow is found in the personal physical life of Jesus the Christ.

Paul took all the above sufferings of Christ into account when He said He was willing to share in the sufferings of Christ.

Philippians 3:8 [NIV] “*What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ*”

2 Corinthians 4:17 [NIV] “*For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*”

Paul’s desire for “*resurrection power*” in his life was value far beyond any loss or pain he may have to suffer.

What about us? Are we willing to share to this extent in Christ’s sufferings to experience “*resurrection power*” in our lives?

Before we answer this question we need to understand what “*resurrection power*” really is.

What is “*resurrection power*”?

“*Resurrection power*” is experiencing the power of the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead.

There are three Greek words that may be translated “*power*”.

a) “**Ἐξούσια**” [ex-oo-see-ah] authority, privilege, freedom, influence, right.

Matthew 28:18 [NIV] “*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority [Ἐξούσια] in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”*”

The Church as the Body of Christ and each of us as the Temple of Holy Spirit, Christ in us have the authority and privilege to be God’s instruments to spread His Good News to all nations.

John 1:12 [NIV] “*Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right [Ἐξούσια] to become children of God—*”

When we receive Christ into our lives we have the right [power] to become [a process] sons of God.

b) “**Δυναμις**” [doo-nam-is] ability, might, miraculous power, strength.

Luke 24:45-49 [NIV] “*Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power [Δυναμις] from on high.”*”

The power of the Holy Spirit to preach repentance forgiveness to all nations.

Acts 1:8 [NIV] *“But you will receive power [Dunamis] when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

We have this power, offered after Jesus was risen from the grave and given after His ascension to God’s Throne in Heaven.

Acts 4:33 [NIV] *“With great power [Dunamis] the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.”*

“Resurrection power” at work in the disciples to preach the Good News of Christ’s overcoming death in His resurrection.

c) “**Kratos**” [krat-os] vigour, power, strength.

Ephesians 1:19-20 [NIV] *“and his incomparably great power [Kratos] for us who believe. That power [Kratos] is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,”*

The Holy Spirit can give to us, by dwelling in us, the power of a new resurrected life, a “born again” Christian.

Ephesians 6:10 [NIV] *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power [Kratos].”*

An essential power for us to combat the attacks we will receive from the powers of darkness.

This power is depicted in scriptural context to the “full armour of God”.

There are various kinds of power at the natural level.

- a) Political power:- control over people.
- b) Social power:- control over those you know.
- c) Financial power:- control over what you can purchase.
- d) Intellectual power:- control by outwitting people.
- e) Ecclesiastical power:- control over parts of the church.
- f) Religious power:- control over people’s lives by fear of the unknown.

[Remember, true Christianity is not a religion but a relationship].

“Resurrection power” is supernatural power, power superior to any natural power.

Hebrews 2:14 [NIV] *“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power [Kratos] of death-- that is, the devil—”*

It is the “resurrection power” that defies Satan who has the “power [kratos] of death”.

1 John 4:4 [NIV] *“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”*

“Resurrection power” is greater than the power of the devil [“spirit of the antichrist” see context]. With this power of the resurrection within us we will not be intimidated by the devil.

Resurrection power is experiencing the presence of Christ as real as the disciples did who walked with Him on earth.

1 Corinthians 15:5-6 [NIV] *“and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.”*

These people personally experienced the resurrected Christ. They saw Him with their human eyes. This didn't require faith to believe in Him.

“Resurrection power” will make Jesus as real to us as He was to those who saw Him resurrected.

John 16:16 [NIV] *“In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”*

We don't have to feel deprived because we were not among those who saw the resurrected Jesus with their own eyes. We have this promise “you” all disciples of Christ “will see Me”.

Acts 2:25 [NIV] *“David said about him: I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”*

We will not see Jesus on a natural level but we will see Him on a supernatural level.

Psalms 16:7-8 [NIV] *“I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”*

This is the psalm that is quoted by Peter. Seeing Jesus is the result of the same action that David took.

God went before David, that is **David was led by God.**

God was at **David's** right hand, the right hand is symbolic of our **power.**

We experience “resurrection power” by:-

Romans 8:14 [NIV] *“because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”*

Go in the same direction as the Holy Spirit leads us.

John 15:5 [Good News Bible] *“I am the vine, and you are the branches. Whoever remains in Me and I in him, will bear much fruit, for you can do nothing without Me.”*

It is Christ in us by the indwelling of Holy Spirit that gives us the power to achieve.

To whom did Jesus appear after His resurrection?

To Herod, Pilate or the Sanhedrin?

This would have meant personal and immediate vindication of whom He said He was. Such an appearance as a resurrected Jesus whom they had crucified would have put His chief enemies in their places!

Instead, Jesus only became visible to those who already believed in Him, Mary Magdalene and the rest of the disciples.

Faith is involved in seeing Christ, experiencing His Presence through the indwelling of Holy Spirit, the power of the resurrection.

Receiving “resurrection power” is dependant on being entirely controlled by the Father's Will.

Philippians 2:5-8 [NIV] *“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!”*

Every aspect of the life of Jesus Christ was subject to the will of the Father, from a child to the cross.

Luke 2:45 [King James Revised] *“And he [Jesus] said to them [the physical parents], why is it that you sought me, did you not know that I must be about my Father’s business?”*

“Father’s business” literal Greek translation *“in the affairs of my father”*. Subjection to His Father’s Will was more important even at this age [a teenager] to subjection to His physical parents. But so He would be sinless Jesus remained subject to His physical parents until He became an adult [30 years of age by Jewish custom of that day].

Luke 22:42 [NIV] *“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”*

Jesus was subject to the father’s will right to the last.

John 14:15-17 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”*

Obedience to Christ’s Will, His Commands is the condition to our receiving the Holy Spirit. *“Lives with you”*.

For the Holy Spirit [“resurrection power”] to be “in you” two things must happen in our lives.

a) The Holy Spirit must be “ungrieved”.

Ephesians 4:30 [NIV] *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*

Preceding this verse we have a list of changed attitudes that are part and parcel of *“putting off our own self”*.

b) The influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives must not be suppressed.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 [NIV] *“Do not put out the Spirit’s fire;”*

The Holy Spirit will not accept rival interests, He will only dwell in us as Director not servant.

The Holy Spirit will always act as Himself in us, that of God.

We may have received the Holy Spirit as a gift upon repentance and belief in acceptance of forgiveness through the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Romans 11:29 [NIV] *“for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable.”*

And God will not, except in the case of complete rebellion [read the example of King Saul] take away the influence of Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,”*

The sign of true spirituality is the production of fruits of the Spirit in our lives.

It is these fruits in our lives that Paul was desiring in himself and others, and these **only come** as a result of having “*resurrection power*”, the **Holy Spirit in us**.

“Resurrection power” is the simultaneous combination of the Word and the Spirit.

John 7:17 [NIV] *“If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.”*

True and sound doctrine, what we say, and testimony, how we live, is the result of God in us speaking through us and living in us.

A simultaneous witness of Word and Spirit.

John 7:38 [NIV] *“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”*

The fruits of the Holy Spirit in us will flow out to others from us. One of those obvious fruits is joy.

Hebrews 2:4 [NIV] *“God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”*

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is that of teaching the Word of God and another is of miracles and healing. Again we see the combination of Word and Spirit.

For effective witness there has to be a simultaneous combination of the Word and the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:4 [NIV] *“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,”*

It was the “resurrection power” in Paul that made his preaching and writing powerful, particularly his writing.

1 Thessalonians 1:5 [NIV] *“because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.”*

Deep conviction comes only from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the “*resurrection power*” that Paul was willing to make any sacrifice to receive.

Conclusion

Philippians 3:10-11 [NIV] *“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”*

Paul wanted to experience this “*resurrection power*” in his life.

He wanted to experience Jesus in the same real way as the first disciples.

Paul knew that such a goal was only attained by being completely subject to the Father's Will.

By allowing the Holy Spirit to be Director of his life.

Paul realised that in order to experience this “*resurrection power*” he had to be prepared to die and be resurrected to a new life in Christ.

Paul was also willing to endure the suffering and shame that Jesus received in His physical life here on earth.

Paul went on in his letter to the church at Philippi to give them, and us, a challenge.

Philippians 3:15-18 [NIV] *“All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained. Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.”*

The way forward in our Christian life is to seek and use for the glory of Christ our Saviour “*resurrection power*” in our lives.

Nothing else should have any priority in our lives.