



Praying for Power Ephesians 1v15-23

Geoff Capes photograph and World's strongest man—that's what physical power looks like. *What does spiritual power look like? Who does God work in powerfully, and why?*

1) God's power is at work in you, his church... (1v19-23)

God's power is immeasurably and incomparably great (v19), and it is toward and for us who believe and trust in Jesus. God's power is a mighty, active power that is at work in you (v19-20). It's the same, life-giving power you see at work in the resurrection of Jesus (v20). This is, therefore, the power that will win the battle over sin, death and darkness. It is the resurrection power that put Jesus "far above" any other power or authority, in this age or the age to come (v21). It is the power of Christ's kingdom (v22). God has given Christ to the church, his body, to fill it with his power and presence (v23) and so to nourish and care for it (5v29). God's power is at work in You, his body, his church...

2) ...So pray to experience this power (1v15-18)

Paul's in lockdown, and is able (through God's power) to look up to God and his grace (1v3-14), and out to other people (v15-18). He's moved by the wonderful evidence of God's grace in their lives, so he gives thanks and prays often for them (v16). He is looking out and wanting to bless other Christians (v15-16). That's inspiring.

Paul prays that they/ we would know this incomparably great power of God that works in us through the resurrection power of Christ (v19-20). This is power by the Spirit of God that illuminates. The Lord is inviting us, through Paul's example, to pray for power that will change the way we see things spiritually. He prays for wisdom and revelation (in our inner beings) so that they/ we will know God better (deeper and more personally). He prays for eyes of hearts to be enlightened to know the hope we've been called to (v17-18) and to know the glorious inheritance that awaits us.

Let's concentrate on v17. Paul is utterly confident about his readers' salvation, that they know God and have already been given the gift of the Spirit (v13-14). It's a bit like a good friendship—the more secure you are in it, the more you want to enjoy and explore it, and get to know the person better. So, Paul wants and prays for more for them.

God doesn't give his Spirit at conversion and then not work powerfully in us until our bodily resurrection. It sounds a bit silly but extremely like that, but Paul wants us to be Expectant. He is praying that we will experience the power of the Spirit enabling us to know God closely and personally, to really enjoy him, grasp his love (3v18-19), and love him in return.

Nobody can tell us exactly how this adventure of prayer will be for each one of us (that would probably spoil the adventure!), but God always answers prayers like this. *How do you think our lives at Abbey would change, this year, if we all keep praying for God's power to work in us, through the resurrection life of Jesus, so that we can know the Lord better?*

