

**Living in Resurrection Power**  
**(Week 2)**  
**Ephesians 2:1-10**  
**"But God..."**

**Introduction**

There are two important books of *The Bible* that every new believer in Christ should read. The first book is *The Gospel of John*, for in it we are taught exactly who Jesus is: He is The Word made flesh (**John 1**), which is another way of saying He is God in human form. So then, in John's Gospel we are made aware of the "identity" of Christ so that we may come to believe in Him:

**"But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is The Messiah, The Son of God; and that by believing you may have life in His Name."** **John 20:31**

While John's Gospel tell us Who Jesus is, the *Book of Ephesians* explains for us "who we are" in Christ! Both books are essential for the believer. When we come to faith in Christ based upon the revealed Word of Scripture, then we become the born-again adopted children of God The Father, and it is imperative for us to fully understand our new standing in Christ. We have passed from death unto life *The Bible* tells us, but just what does it mean to be "alive in Christ"?

In the **first chapter of Ephesians**, Paul explains the "Possessions" we have in Christ, our inheritance as it were, which contains "every spiritual blessing in Christ", as well as, eternal life and the power of The Spirit living in within us. In the **second chapter**, he explains for us our "Position" in Christ. What does it mean to truly be saved by the grace of God? When we come into God's family, how have things been changed in the practical terms of our every day living? Who were we before, and who are we now? These are the questions to which every believer needs the answers, and the Book of Ephesians does for us exactly that.

Paul goes to great lengths to contrast what it is like to be an unbeliever, juxtaposed against what it is to be believer. It is, spiritually speaking, a transformation from death to life. Spiritual realities for the non-believer are completely indiscernible, but to the believer, the spiritual realm becomes an even greater reality than that of the physical realm. I am reminded here of the story of Elisha and his servant in **2 Kings 6**. The city where Elisha lived was surrounded by the armies of Aram, who wanted to capture the old prophet. When the servant of Elisha saw the vast army surrounding them, he began to panic, but Elisha told him that there were more on their side than with the King of Aram. He then prayed that God would allow his servant to have a glimpse into the spiritual realm.

**"And Elisha prayed, 'LORD, please open his eyes and let him see.' So The LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he saw that the mountain was covered with horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."** **2 Kings 6:17**

I just LOVE that verse! It should serve as a reminder to us all that there is a whole other universe out there to which the unbeliever simply does not have access, but it remains nonetheless. This material world, with all its sin and death, is not the only reality for those who are in Christ Jesus. We also have the very hosts of heaven surrounding us. Our struggle is not a fleshly one. It is spiritual in nature (**Ephesians 6:12**), and as believers, we must become aware of our position in Christ, so that we may fully understand the battle that is ever raging around us. And, above all, we must remember that we have been empowered by The Spirit. It is the same power that rose Jesus from the dead, and it lives within us! God will see to it that we emerge victorious, after all, that is a portion of our inheritance. He predestined us to overcome (**Ephesians 1:11**). Our position in Christ is fully secure. We have been **Spiritually Resurrected** from death unto life. We are **Seated in the Heavenly Regions** with Christ, and we are **Saved to be His Representatives** in this fallen world. This is the secure position promised to each and

every believer. Have no fear, child of God... Like Elisha, we must pray that our eyes of faith be opened, so we may see that there are many more for us, than against us!

**"... If God is for us, then who is against us?"**

**Romans 8:31**

### **Spiritual Resurrection**

**"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you previously lived according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. We too all previously lived among them in our fleshy desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also. BUT GOD, Who is rich in mercy, because of His great love that He had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! Ephesians 2:1-5**

The description of the condition of fallen man given here is absolutely perfect. We were spiritually DEAD. A corpse has absolutely no discernment whatsoever of the things going on around it. By its very nature, death is unawares. The lost person simply goes about their lives with spiritual blinders on, living from day to day from a "this life is all there is" perspective, doing whatever feels good to them in the moment. You see, when Satan tempted man in the garden of Eden, he brought about the spiritual death of humanity. The living spirit of mankind that was once connected to The Spirit of God grew cold the day, that Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit. Though the body itself had life, the spirit of man was disconnected from its power source. It became dead to all things spiritual.

Now, when we go to a graveside service of a loved one, we may mourn and grieve over the departed. But, we all have one thing in common, when it comes to death. No matter how saddened we are, no matter how shattered we feel over the loss of our loved ones, eventually we all... walk away from death. To us there is nothing else that can be done. God, however, is not defeated by death! There are two words that Paul writes after describing the deadness of the human spirit... BUT GOD. What a powerful message in those two three-letter words. We were dead in our trespasses and sins. It all seemed hopeless. We were completely blinded to all things spiritual, and we were enslaved to our lustful passions. We were rotting corpses living according to the worldly and self-serving, demonic forces that consumed our very souls. Anyone else would have just walked away from such vile decomposition of spirit... anyone... But GOD!

**"But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."**

**Romans 5:8**

There's that phrase again, "But God". He didn't let our spiritual "deadness" stop Him from coming to the rescue. Jesus died and rose from the grave, *so that whosoever would believe in Him would also receive a spiritual resurrection to everlasting life!* No longer to be controlled by the wisdom of this world with its Humanism (living as if man were his own God), Materialism (living only to gain worldly wealth), and Hedonism (living for every form of sexual gratification and worldly pleasure). No, God has destined us for so much more than this shallow grave of existence. He wanted us to find real meaning in this life, and to spend our eternity in His presence. He refused to take no for an answer. He refused to just walk away from our dead spirits. He has resurrected us to something better. We now know that this life is not all there is. We have been given a glimpse into the spiritual realms, and now, we realize that there is so much more to be gained. We were dead... but now, we are alive in Christ Jesus! We have been resurrected, and saved, by grace! We will talk more about this wonderful grace later on, but suffice to say, were it not for the goodness of God, our situation would have been hopeless. We were dead, but now, we are made alive in Christ!

## **Seated in The Heavenly Regions**

**"He also raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might display the immeasurable riches of His grace through kindness to us in Christ Jesus."** **Ephesians 2:6-7**

Our new found position in Christ has elevated us to heights that we could have never hoped to achieve on our own. We have literally been taken out of the graveyard and presented before the very throne of God! You could do an entire sermon from these two little verses. I believe that most Christians have difficulty in truly understanding what it means to be "in Christ". *The Bible* tells us that we are "baptized in Christ":

**"For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ."** **Galatians 3:27**

So, what exactly does it mean to be "baptized in Christ"? It means that we have become a part of Him, just as He has become a part of us! Remember what He prayed for in the Garden of Gethsemane just before He went to the cross?

**"I pray not only for these, but also for those who will believe in me through their word. May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in US, so that the world may believe you sent me."** **John 17:20-21**

So you see, to be in Christ is to be one with Christ. That means, wherever He is... we are also, and wherever we are, He is with us. When Jesus ascended into heaven, He sat down at the right hand of God The Father (**Hebrews 10:12**). He is there in the throne room of heaven as we speak. We are made one with Him, so we are there (spiritually speaking), as well. We are in Christ, so we are wherever He is! In Christ, we are "seated in the heavenliness" which means we have been given constant access before the throne of God continually! He is there on our behalf, and He ever lives to intercede for us (**Hebrews 7:25**). When we pray in His name, we are guaranteed to have our prayers answered, because Jesus is seated in the heavenlies... and so are we!

And, here is some more good news. While we are there spiritually speaking, and not yet physically, one day, as part of our inheritance, God will demonstrate the riches of His grace by our physical presence before the throne! We will stand in our resurrected, glorified bodies in the presence of The Holy Everlasting God. That glorious day will surely come.

**"... so that in the coming ages He might display the immeasurable riches of His grace through His kindness to us in Christ Jesus."** **Ephesians 2:7**

We are there in the heavenly realms now, because we are in Christ. We see this reality now through the eyes of faith, but one day, we shall see with our own eyes, face to face! This is our position in Christ. The bond we have is inseparable. He is in us, and we are in Him. Wherever He is... we are! Do you now see what a privilege it truly is to be a child of God?

## **Saved to be His Representatives**

**"For you are saved by grace through faith, and this not from yourselves; it is God's gift — not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do."** **Ephesians 2:8-10**

All of us are born with certain abilities and talents. It is just how our Creator designed us. But, when we are born again into God's family, we are endowed with "spiritual gifts" as a part of our inheritance. When our "spirit" is resurrected from death unto life in Christ, these gifts complete who we were meant to be. When we combine our natural God-given abilities with the Holy Spirit's gifting, then we are made whole. We can go and serve as representatives of God's kingdom. The natural man is unable to do the "good works" that God has for us for they do not have all the "equipping to do so. But the Child of God has been remade. They are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do! Once again, we are shown in *Ephesians* that God had a plan for us, even before creation, a plan for us to do good works for His glory.

In order for us to become all that God desires for us, we must first be saved by grace through faith, according to the Scriptures. Paul reminds us that no person can boast about their salvation, for every part of it is a work of God. Some would say, "Now pastor, I had to believe in Jesus before God could save me." And this would be true, but look closely at what Paul says:

**"For you are saved by grace, through faith, AND THIS NOT FROM YOURSELVES: it is God's gift, not from works, so that no one can boast."**

**Ephesians 2:8-9** (emphasis added)

So what exactly does Paul mean when he says "**and this not from yourselves**"? The answer is simple, even though we must come to Jesus by faith in order to have our spirits resurrected from death to life, it is The Holy Spirit that endows us with the very faith we need to believe in the first place! Once again, our salvation is all about God and nothing about us. If The Spirit had not enabled us to believe, then we would have never accepted Christ on our own. No one can say "I found The LORD"... for it is He Who found us!

**"There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become worthless. There is no one who does what is good, not even one."**

**Romans 3:11-12**

And there it is! Why does no lost person ever seek God on his own? Because until God does a work in them, their spirit is dead, that's why! Which brings us back to where we started doesn't it? God did a mighty work, resurrecting our spirits that were dead, enabling us to believe and put our faith in Christ Jesus. Just as Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb and gave life where there was no hope, He also quickened our spirits, so that we could be given everlasting life. We have been inextricably placed in Christ for all eternity. It was a work of love initiated by The Father and carried out by The Son, and permanently sealed by The Holy Spirit. And nothing... nothing whatsoever, can separate us from that love. It is this love that gave us spiritual resurrection, seats us in the heavenly regions, and saved us to be His representatives. It is an immeasurable and everlasting love:

**"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our LORD."**

**Romans 8:38-39**

Which brings me to this final thought this morning. Have you been saved by the wondrous grace of God? Have you experienced first hand the richness of His mercy and His great love that will make your spirit alive in Christ Jesus? If so, then rejoice in the knowledge that you are in Christ, and He is in you, and that bond can never be broken. If you have not experienced this transformation for yourself, then why not put your faith in Him today? Your true purpose in life is waiting... for you. Find your spiritual resurrection in Christ today!

And all of God's children said... TRUTH!!!