

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

The Reality of Resurrection Power June 27, 2017 Suzi Armstrong

As believers we live a life that is dependant upon resurrection life working in us. We were united with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. Unto Full Stature calls this 'living in vital union with Christ'. This is how Paul lived, he resolved to know nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Paul drew his life, his energy, his strength and all power through being united with Christ. We are united with Christ, meaning we share in what He has. The reality of resurrection power is that the very power that raised Jesus from the grave is at work in us. This mystery was revealed to Paul, Christ in us the hope of glory. We can live, move and have our being in resurrection power.

Resurrection power is the power of transformation. It lifts us, or raises us, out of an operating power based on the world systems and puts us into a kingdom operating power. This new power, the power of resurrection, is based in Christ Jesus. It changes everything. Resurrection power has already overturned death structures that want to entrap and hold us. Resurrection life breaks the grip of death bringing life eternal.

1 Corinthians 15.20-22

²⁰ But now **Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits** of those who are asleep. ²¹ For since **by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection** of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also **in Christ all will be made alive.**

Romans 6.4-6

⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For **if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,** ⁶ knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would **no longer be slaves to sin.**

- How is it that we are no longer slaves to sin? Through the reality of resurrection power we have been lifted out of an old life and put into a new life.

2 Corinthians 5.17 NKJV

Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;** old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new.**

- All things becoming new is the reality of resurrection power at work in our lives.
- Resurrection power lifts us out of the old and puts us into a new operation. We are no longer operating from a command center of sin and death. We now operate from a command center of new life in Christ, resurrected life – lifted out of the old and put into new power.



Ephesians 3.20-21

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, **according to the power that works within us,** ²¹ to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

- God is power is working in us.
- We have been enabled by God Himself to have resurrection power working in us through Christ.

Look at the lives of Peter, Paul, Barnabus, Timothy, Stephen; they all walked and lived in resurrection power, not the power of a natural life bound by the world and sin (powers and principalities of the air that control the world systems). Their lives were radically different. The power at work in them confronted current culture and brought transformation to cities. Through resurrection power these men brought heaven into the earth – God’s kingdom was expanded. The impact of heaven was shaking the nations and cities. The power of the gospel message is filled with resurrection power. It is a “game changer”. When we are born again our DNA changes, our blood line changes, our inheritance changes – we are made citizens of heaven through resurrection power. How we walk, the power of our words is transformed. Who we are through Christ in us and the power of His resurrection impacts the earth and everything in it.



Acts 19.11-20, 23-32 NIV

¹¹ **God did extraordinary miracles through Paul,** ¹² so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

- Resurrection power is the power of the miraculous.

¹³ Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.” ¹⁴ Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ One day the evil spirit answered them, **“Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?”** ¹⁶ Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

- Resurrection power was not working in and through the sons of Sceva.
- Resurrection power comes through Jesus Christ alone. It cannot be bought or imitated. It is supernatural power from God.

¹⁷ When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. ¹⁸ **Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done.** ¹⁹ **A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.** ²⁰ In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power...

- The impact of transformation on the hearts of men impacted an entire city.
- The reality of resurrection power on a city.

²³ About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. ²⁴ A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in a lot of business for the craftsmen there. ²⁵ He called them together, along with the workers in related trades, and said: “You know, my friends, that we receive a good income from this business. ²⁶ And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that gods made by human hands are no gods at all. ²⁷ There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited; and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty.”

²⁸ When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

²⁹ Soon **the whole city was in an uproar.** The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia, and all of them rushed into the theater together...

³² **The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there.**

- Resurrection power impacts a city on every level.
- The frequency of heaven was released into a city and the city began to respond, shifting and changing.
- Lies, accusation, the love of money confronted the expansion of the kingdom of God through resurrection power.
- The voices of accusation and condemnation come to oppose resurrection power working in and through us. These voices lie – do not believe them.



John 11.25-26 NLT

²⁵ Jesus told her, **"I am the resurrection and the life.** Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. ²⁶ Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?"

Acts 4.33 NLT

The apostles **testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all.**

Romans 8.11 NLT

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by **this same Spirit living within you.**

- Resurrection power is in us.

Ephesians 1.19-20 NLT

¹⁹ I also **pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power** for us who believe him. This is the

same **mighty power** ²⁰ **that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand** in the heavenly realms.

The city is at the gate. God is looking for a people who will stand in resurrection power and receive the city. Like Paul who spoke to Ephesus, we speak into our city the word of the Lord. We speak the transforming power of God into our city. Hope is alive in Detroit! Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. Detroit, you are free because resurrection life resides in your streets – heaven is invading Detroit. God's kingdom is being established in Detroit. We, the church in Detroit, will stand in our place bringing life where there is death.

