

# FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

## Power That Rocks Cities August 22, 2023 Suzi Armstrong

Resurrection power is the power of transformation. It lifts us, or raises us, out of an operating power based on 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. Through the work of Jesus on the cross, resurrection power has already overturned death structures that want to entrap and hold us. Satan was defeated. Resurrection life breaks the grip of death and gives life.

Resurrection power and the glory of God are linked together. Scripture says that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. It also tells us that Jesus is the King of Glory, the head of the angel armies and He is the Lord mighty in battle. We are in a war – it is an important time to see how the power of God and His glory come together in battle. There is fire in the glory and our God is a consuming fire. He makes the words in our mouth like fire to consume the enemy. Angels harken to His word and move in His power and move in His glory. The resurrection of Jesus was in glory. John 17.22 states, the glory which You have given Me I also have given to them, so that they may be one, just as We are one.

### **Ephesians 3.20-21** NASB

<sup>20</sup> 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,** <sup>21</sup> to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

- God's 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, and 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. Things were being shaken during New Testament times. The power at work in them and through them confronted the culture of the time 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 and 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

<sup>11</sup> **God did extraordinary miracles through Paul,** <sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> 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." <sup>14</sup> Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. <sup>15</sup> One day the evil spirit answered them, "**Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?**" <sup>16</sup> 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 comes through Jesus Christ alone. It cannot be bought or imitated. It is supernatural power from God.

<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> **Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done.** <sup>19</sup> **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.** <sup>20</sup> 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.

<sup>23</sup> About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. <sup>24</sup> A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in a lot of business for the craftsmen there. <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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."

<sup>28</sup> When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" <sup>29</sup> **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...

<sup>32</sup> **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.
- The voices of accusation and condemnation come to oppose resurrection power.

### **John 11.25-26** NLT

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

### **Acts 4.33** NLT

<sup>33</sup> The apostles **testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all.**

### **Ephesians 1.19-20** NLT

<sup>19</sup> 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** <sup>20</sup> **that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand** in the heavenly realms.

### **PRAYER AND DECLARATION:**

Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life. The power of Your resurrection fills Your church. It is the power of life. It is light that dispels darkness. It is the power and means of transformation bringing life for Detroit and for Michigan, for our schools, for our children, for families.

Multitudes, multitudes are in the valley of decision. False gods will be darkened and no longer shine. The Lord will roar from Zion and the earth will tremble. But the Lord will be a refuge for His people. Return to the Lord Detroit and Michigan. Your sins have been your downfall. The ways of the Lord are right, the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them. This is a day for everyone everywhere to repent and turn their hearts to the Lord. May the power of conviction by Holy Spirit fall upon Detroit and Michigan. **Today is the day of salvation; now is the accepted time to turn to the Lord; He is the Life-Giver, the resurrection, and the life.**