

# GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



## GIG196 – The Power that Works in You

Welcome once again to Growing in God, the podcast that I hope will be a blessing to you in reaching in to a deeper relationship with the Father and the Son as you move into the days of His Kingdom. The title of this podcast today is *The Power that Works in You*. I do not know if you have heard the last podcast which was posted, but it is dealing with God shaking once again the things of heaven and earth, and realizing that God is very powerful and that He moves in power. He moved in power when He came to Egypt and delivered the children of Israel out of Egypt. He moved in power when He raised Christ from the dead. He is a God of power, and one of the things that we have been dealing with in the podcast is the fact that we have a tendency, because we may not have seen God move that way or be that way. It is very important for us to read in the Scriptures the reality that God has planned and promised to move for us, in us, and through us with His mighty power. We must be believing in this.

I think that as we go along day after day and things do not seem to happen in our life, in our walk with Him, it takes away from that razor-sharp faith that we need, that anticipation that we need to say, "God is going to move. God can move in any situation that I am facing, any situation I am going to face." When we lose that, we do not exercise the belief in His miracle power, in His strength, in His deliverance, in what He should be in our daily lives; and therefore, we let our lives kind of go on and on and on just on a natural level, as things do in this natural world that we live in.

If the natural world just goes on, because it is set in motion from the creation, there is not a lot of miraculous that seems to take place in it. But God is a God of miracles. He is a God of power, and He is a God of strength; and we as His sons and daughters must not forget that. We must not lose sight of that. And as we go through our day in the world and things come up and transpire, it is very easy for life just to wear away. It takes an energy on our part; we must seek the Lord with all of our heart, with all of our might, with all of our strength. We must seek Him while He may be found; we must cry out to Him in order to release that power in our lives. So that is the purpose of this podcast today, to encourage you. I am thinking it is not going to be that long, so listen carefully.

All right, *The Power that Works in You*. I am beginning at Ephesians the first chapter, starting with verses 3-6.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

We are seeing this reality that God has called us, He has predestined us to the adoption as sons through Christ, according to the kind intention of His will; and He has redeemed us through His blood. So, there is something that God is determining that He has for us, that He wants to give us, that He wants to bring forth in us and accomplish in us.

Going to verses 7-12, it says,

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

I am going to jump down in these verses, because we are seeing something very deep here. It is the intention that God has for us. It is some of the provision that He has made for us. It is the calling that He has given to us, and the things that He has lavished upon us through the salvation that we have received. Paul goes on; you know, he is talking here very deeply out of his own heart to the Ephesians, and he says in verses 16-20,

[I] do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.

Paul starts out here talking about the salvation, even talking about the fact that in what God has done in our lives, He has literally predestined us in God and given us this adoption as sons; that He has this kind intention of His will, and in the grace that He has given us and the salvation that has given us, we have an inheritance. And there is this Holy Spirit that was given to us, which is a pledge of our inheritance. So we see we have this pledge, or a promise, that God has done all of these things through the process of our salvation. But then, to me, Paul goes on and he hits something much deeper. This is where I really want to touch base with our hearts in what I believe God is trying to get us to wake up to; because I think we can get used to the fact that we have salvation in Him, that He went to the cross, that He was resurrected, that He is coming again to set up His Kingdom. But we can lose the fact of where we are right now, and what God is doing right now in His focus upon us, so that we ourselves can begin to move and function in the things that He has for us.

Paul, in these earlier verses, is giving thanks for their faith, and giving thanks for their love for all the saints, and he is praying for them constantly. But he begins to go a little deeper in this, that “now I am praying that the Father would give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.” There is something deeper here that God wants us to come into in the revelation of the knowledge of God. So, when Paul begins to talk about that, then he says, “I am praying that the eyes of your heart be enlightened, that they be opened, so that you know what the hope of the calling is and what this rich inheritance is in the saints.” Okay, good, that sounds kind of like it is repeating what God is preparing for us. But then when we hit verse 19, he says, “And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.” Now this, to me, is something completely different. It is one thing to say, “Oh yes, I have salvation. Oh yes, I have a calling on my life. Yes, I have blessings that God has given me. Yes, my sins are forgiven me, and I have a hope of my calling, I have a predestined plan of God that rests

upon me.” But there is a great deal of difference, in my mind, when Paul starts talking about the surpassing greatness of His power towards us who believe.

When I think about power – and one of the reasons this word is so alive to me was just in my own preparation for Passover, and some other things transpiring in my own life, thinking about the power of God and the power of God working today in my life. And I thought about, during Passover, how the people after 400 years of slavery were not really too prepared to have faith or to believe in the power of God to come and deliver them out of the current bondage they were in. They were in slavery; in other words, something had power over them, they did not have power over it. I think that when we are in this world today, a lot of times believers that I talk to, and I can struggle with it myself, they are saying, “Look, the world seems to have power over me. I live in a place that has a government. I live in a land under laws that are over me, they have power over me. They have power to arrest me. They have power to, whatever. My life is changed by that which seems to have power over me.” The financial realm seems to have a power over us, that we have to work, we have to do many things. So, in a sense, we are serving the age we live in, and we are serving the things that make up this age that we live in. And that is very much like Israel. When they were in Egypt, they were slaves to Egypt. They did not have the power to decide what they were going to do when they got up in the morning. They were told what to do when they got up in the morning. And many times, you may feel like you are not being told to, but you have to get up, and you have to go to work, and you have to do things.

So, this idea of the power of God. He came to them when they were in bondage, and He delivered them by great power and miracles and signs and wonders – “an outstretched right hand,” it says, that God stretched out His hand and released them from the bondage. There was a power of God that overwhelmed and replaced the power that was controlling their daily life, as they knew it then, as slaves. And I believe that there are powers that are trying, if not being successful, to control our lives today, even as believers. Remember, they were Israel. They were the chosen of God. They had promises over them, too; just like he is saying, “We have promises over us. We have a calling over us. We have an inheritance.” They had an inheritance. They had the land of milk and honey that was promised to them; but they could not get there from where they were as slaves. So, I think likewise, we have promises over us today. The question is, are we able to get there with the powers that seem to be controlling us?

I know when we talk about spiritual warfare, some of the Scriptures that come to mind are the fact that our fight is not against flesh and blood, it is against the principalities, the powers, the spiritual forces of darkness, the forces of this wickedness that does have control over us. So, Paul is talking about something here that I think needs to come alive. And he starts with that, doesn't he? He says, “I'm praying” – what? – “that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened.” And I have to ask myself, am I really aware? Are the eyes of my heart open? Am I really enlightened to this hope that is resting over me? Do I have this revelation, the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God, that He is beaming toward me something of great power? Let's read verse 19 again: “And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.” There is a power that is being beamed by God toward us who believe. And I'm wondering, is it getting through? I'm wondering, are our hearts really enlightened to see it? Do we really have that spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, to understand what it is, that when we get up in the morning there is a power, the surpassing greatness of His power towards us? There is something moving towards us, being beamed towards us, by God, through Christ, that is a power. And this power is in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.

In other words, this is the strength, the might of God, the sheer power of God; powers that we read of in the Scriptures that split the Red Sea, that brought about the destruction of the firstborn, that decimated the land of Egypt, that freed the land of Canaan that Israel might possess it. Power, and might, are in God. He is a God of power; and I think we can lose the fact that we are serving a God of power. Not only are we serving a God of power, but this God of power is beaming towards us who believe this tremendous power that is in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.

Now listen to this, in verses 19-23:

...the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power... [other powers]; far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

Wow! That's powerful! This is the power that is being beamed towards us. Now, I do not know how you feel, but my revelation of the resurrection of Christ is that it was the release of the greatest power that has ever been loosed in the creation that exists today. It was a power that brought Christ forth out of the grave. It took a power. He was the first to come out of death into life, and it was a power to break that bondage. It had to break the bondage of sin, because death is the result of sin. And so, the very power of sin that had overtaken Adam and Eve and had existed in this earth from them on down to the time of Christ, that power that was restraining them, controlling them, bringing all the generations into death, had to be broken. That is a tremendous power, and it was manifested to Christ. It was beamed at Christ in the grave, and it was that power that resurrected Him.

So when he talks about "the surpassing greatness of His power towards us who believe," and says that "these are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead," he is saying that the same power that was being beamed at Christ in the grave to resurrect Him is the power that is now being beamed at us who believe.

I want to read some of these verses out of a different version, because I know the term "in accordance to" and some of the wording maybe does not get through to people the drive for the understanding of what is being said. I am going to read out of the NET Bible. I do not know if you use the NET Bible or not, but one thing I like about the NET Bible is the way that it really helps bring a greater understanding of the original language, both the Hebrew and the Greek, in the Scriptures. They have some very detailed scholarship about words as they are used in the Scripture. So, I encourage you with that, and some of that is manifested here in what we are reading.

Let's go to Ephesians the first chapter, verses 18-20, out of the NET Bible.

Since the eyes of your heart have been enlightened [Aha! See, he is saying that the eyes of your heart are already enlightened] —so that you can know what is the hope of his calling [he wants you to know the hope of His calling], what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the incomparable greatness of his power toward us who believe, as displayed in the exercise of his immense strength. This power he exercised in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.

So here it is making a one-to-one comparison, that this power that is being beamed towards us who believe is in fact the same power that He exercised in raising Christ from the dead. It's that power – and

that, my dear ones, that is power. We are talking about the power, the greatest power that the world, the universe, has experienced, is now being beamed towards us. And when I was reading this the other day, I thought, "Well, wait a minute, I need to revisit this, because to me, I am not living this way." I am not living as though when I get up in the morning, I am reaching to the Lord to meet this power that is coming down, being beamed towards me from Him, and I need to change that. I need to connect with this power. I need to wait on Him, meditate on Him. I need to get into the vibrational level of this power that is coming down, because it will overwhelm every other power that seems to have an input or an effect on my life today; and my life needs to change in the way I live it because I am filled with an awareness, as well as the strength, that this power brings to me.

Paul was really bent on this idea of us getting it. I want to pick that up in Ephesians the third chapter, and I will start with verses 14-21; he says,

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith [in other words, this resurrected Christ is going to dwell in our hearts through faith, and this power that is being beamed towards us is also the power of the resurrection, which is to impact us and to dwell in us]; ...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able... [listen to this:] 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, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Wow! We are to be filled up to all the fullness of God. And, we are to be able to do far more abundantly above all that we ask or think – and it is that part that bothers me, because we are not asking and we are not thinking. We are not thinking in this way. We are not thinking that this power is really being beamed towards us from God every minute of every day, and it is the power that raised Christ from the dead. That power is being beamed towards us, and that Christ is living in our hearts, and we are not asking or thinking according to the power that is in us and working within us.

I do not know about you, I want to change this. I want to know, I want to understand, I want to have a revelation, and I want to start thinking and asking according to this power that is working within us, because it is the power of the resurrected Lord. We thank you for it, Father, and we draw it together, to grow and mature and walk in the fullness of that which is being beamed towards us.

Amen.