

The Power of the Resurrection

John 19:30; Acts 1:8 (1010)

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Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010

I. The prayer and the promise that changed everything!

a. The prayer

John 19:30 ³⁰When he had received the drink, Jesus said, *"It is finished."* With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:19 God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.

1 Peter 1:18-20 NLT ¹⁸For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited ... ¹⁹He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. ²⁰God chose him for this purpose long before the world began... And he did this for you.

b. The promise

Acts 1:8 ⁸*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

c. The thing that ultimately changed

Romans 5:6 NIV ⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

TM He presented himself for this sacrificial death when we were far too weak and rebellious to do anything to get ourselves ready.

NLT ⁶When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.

WARREN W. WIERSBE Freedom does not mean I am able to do whatever I want to do. That's the worst kind of bondage. Freedom means I have been set free to become all that God wants me to be, to achieve all that God wants me to achieve, to enjoy all that God wants me to enjoy.

II. The power to decide how I will live

a. The power to choose faith or foolishness

1 Corinthians 1:18 ¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

JOHN R. W. STOTT Faith and sight are set in opposition to each other in Scripture, but not faith and reason... True faith is essentially reasonable because it trusts in the character and the promises of God. A believing Christian is one whose mind reflects and rests on these certitudes.

A. W. TOZER Every man lives by faith, the nonbeliever as well as the saint; the one by faith in natural laws and the other by faith in God.

b. The power to deal with my own weakness

2 Corinthians 13:4 ⁴For to be sure, [Jesus] was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him to serve you.

c. The power to deal with life's pain

2 Corinthians 4:7-10 ⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

d. The power to grow and thrive in life

Ephesians 1:17-23 ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.