

## Quickening Power

*"But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwells in you" (Romans 8:11).* Another translation says, *"And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you."*

This scripture is talking about the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. The Spirit who made the resurrection possible! Let's examine Christ's resurrection the context of this scripture.

The resurrection of Christ is one of the central themes of Christianity. We all agree that the resurrection was a powerful event that changed the course of history. However, today I want to bring it down to where we are. How the resurrection affects our lives, and what it means for us.

The Word of God serves several purposes. (a) It reveals who God is, (b) it reveals who man is, (c) it reveals what God intends to do in and through man. Without God's Word we would not be able to understand the importance of having access to **resurrection power**.

The resurrection is not an event that just happened long ago and is now over. In other words, it is not just another history lesson (even though it was an event that actually took place). The awesome power of that event is still working in the lives of believers today. But remember, the "power" of the resurrection is tied up in the Person of that event – Jesus. It is all, and always will be, about Jesus! It was His obedience that brought it about, and as a result, His Spirit was made available to the Church.

**Philippians 3:10**, *"I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ personally, experience His **resurrection power**, be a partner in His suffering, and go all the way with Him to death itself. If there was any way to get in on the resurrection from the dead, I wanted to do it.* (The Message) Paul said something very unique here. He said, "I want to experience His resurrection power" – "I want to have that power working in me!" "Experience" is the actual participation in something, or the direct contact with something. That's the purpose of this teaching. I'd like us all, like Paul, to begin to experience (participate in) the **resurrection power** of Jesus Christ.

However, before we can experience it, we must all 'know' what this resurrection power is. So what is it? **It is a conquering power**. We are quickened to conquer! To conquer is to subdue, to win; to overcome by force. **John 10:10**, *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy..."* These are the tools of the devil's trade. However, Jesus came that we might have life and have life more abundant. He also came to destroy all the works of the devil. That was His mission!

Note, there was a lot that Jesus conquered and overcome on our behalf, but I want to focus in on three events that reveal the **conquering power** of His resurrection:

1. **John 19:1** – When Jesus was flogged, the enemy was trying to steal – steal His dignity and His strength. He was trying to break Him. This is what the enemy tries to do to us. But Jesus went the

distance – every stripe meant victory for us. By His stripes we are healed!

2. **John 19: 17-18** – Jesus was crucified. The enemy wanted to kill Him. This is what the enemy desires to for us too. But the blood of Jesus purchased our complete salvation, and therefore, He conquered death!
3. **John 19:38-42** – Jesus was buried (sealed in a tomb by a stone). The enemy wanted to destroy Him for good. But while He was in the tomb Jesus descended and set the captives free (Abraham, Moses, Daniel, David). This is what the enemy desires to do to us, to seal our fate, destroy our hopes and dreams. To destroy our walk with the Father. But the stone has been rolled back. We are free! We have come out of our burial clothes and are now clothed with Christ.

The bible declares that on third day Jesus was resurrected from the grave – death, hell and the grave could not hold Him. No matter how hard the enemy tried, Jesus could not be stopped! Paul said I want to experience that very same resurrection power. The power that cannot be stopped! The resurrection power of Christ is a **conquering power**. That's why the word declares in Romans 8 that we are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us. Therefore, you must realise that whatever you are facing today, you have the **resurrection power** of God to help you overcome. The resurrection gives you hope of continual victory - not in yourself but in the power of God. There is no storm, no valley, no attack, and no need that God cannot handle. He want's to quicken you to victory!

May we like Paul say, "I want to experience this resurrection power in my life." **Ephesians 1:18-23**, *"I pray that the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may 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 exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."* It is by the "resurrecting power" that God raised Jesus from the dead to sit at His right hand. Notice that God raised Jesus not only to sit in heavenly places - but far above all principality and power. It's only *according to the working of His mighty power which He raised Jesus from the dead - resurrection power* - that we are raised above the power of satan, sin, and our own carnal nature.

Yes, the actual power that raised Christ's body was the power of the Holy Spirit. It was the power of Holy Spirit by which the body of Jesus was raised from the grave after having laid there for three days and nights. If you want proof of this just turn in your Bible to **1 Peter 3:18**, *"Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit."* The resurrection of Christ, then, was achieved by the activity of the Holy Spirit, and here we have a good illustration of His omnipotence. If you could have stepped, as angels did, into the grave of Jesus, and seen His dead body, you would have found it as cold as any other corpse. Lift up the hand, it falls by the side. Look at the eye: it is glazed. There the gash in His side, which was to ensure that all life is destroyed. See His hands; the blood does not drip from them,

His body was cold and motionless. Can that body live? Can it rise up again? Yes; it can and will be an illustration of the **power** of the Holy Spirit. For when the power of the Holy Spirit came on Jesus, as it was when it fell on the dry bones of the valley (in **Ezekiel 37:4-5**): *“He arose in the majesty of His divinity, and bright and shining, astonished the guards so that they ran away, yes, He arose no more to die, but to live forever, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”*

God wants us to experience Christ’s resurrection power in our lives. In these testing times, it is an available power, and a necessary power. The key to walking (participating) in this power is tied up in “knowing” (revelation knowledge, not head knowledge) and believing! There are people here this evening that need to experience Christ’s **resurrection power** – salvation, sickness, family problems, spiritual problems, financial problems, etc. Today is the day for you to receive resurrection power in your situation. What was accomplished on Calvary is fully established through the resurrection. So let’s be like Paul today – forsaking everything else that we might experience the **power of His resurrection**. And let the Holy Spirit **quicken** this mighty power to us right now!

***“But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwells in you”***

To **quicken** in the Greek means “to make alive.” Let the resurrection power of Jesus Christ “**make alive**” all those areas that are barren in your life (by His Spirit that dwells in you). Even things that have died, He can bring back to life! Can you believe that? If you can, so it will be done unto you!