

His Power is Stronger Still

Intro: *Leading up to Easter weekend, we will be looking at what STILL stands because of the cross. It is still the greatest story ever told! Last week we talked about His Word is Greater Still and this week we are talking about His Power is Stronger Still!*

Ephesians 1:19-23 (TPT, Message)

I pray that you will continually experience the immeasurable greatness of God's power made available to you through faith. Then your lives will be an advertisement of this immense power as it works through you! This is the mighty power that was released when God raised Christ from the dead and exalted him to the place of highest honor and supreme authority in the heavenly realm! And now he is exalted as first above every ruler, authority, government, and realm of power in existence! He is gloriously enthroned over every name that is ever praised, not only in this age but in the age that is coming! And he alone is the leader and source of everything needed in the church. God has put everything beneath the authority of Jesus Christ and has given him the highest rank above all others. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.

To Know God's Power is to Know His Presence.

- We didn't just have a sin problem; we had a presence problem. Jesus paid the price for our sins and the price for God's presence.
- We are saved from the power of sin and death TO the power of His presence.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Omni Presence- *Everywhere at all times*

***Psalm 139: 7-8 (NIV)** ⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.*

Inner Presence- *Alive inside of us*

***1 Corinthians 6:19 (NIV)** Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.*

Manifest Presence- *Made known among us.*

Exodus 33:14-15 (NKJ)

¹⁴ And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.

- How can God not go with them if He is everywhere? Because this is His manifest presence.

illus: A Billionaire being present at church compared to a billionaire, doing only what a billionaire can do, started passing out a million dollars to each person. If he did this, he would be making his presence known. Let's wait just a second to see if a multi-billionaire wants to manifest his presence.

It's one thing for God to be in the room. It's another thing for Him to manifest His power by doing what only He can do.

God wants to manifest His power in your life and do for you what you could never do for yourself.

The FALL *Leaving the Presence*

Genesis 3:8 (NKJV)

⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

- Sin will always cause us to hide from God's presence when what we need most is to be in His presence. Satan's strategy is sin because sin separates us from God's presence.
- How do we leave His manifest presence? We don't do what He says.
 - o Adam and Eve leave the presence.
 - o Cain (Gen 4) Leaves the presence.
 - o Jonah (Jonah 1:3) Leaves the presence.
 - o David left God's presence in Obed's house.

The perfect sacrifice, your body broken. As You restored to us what sin had stolen. Once and for all You tore the veil wide open. Your power is stronger still.

The FIX *Entering the Presence*

Luke 23:44-47 (NLT)

⁴⁴ By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. ⁴⁵ The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hand! And with those words he breathed his last.

There is no fall that God can't fix. *His power is stronger still.*

- What did Jesus fix? The presence problem. He broke the power of sin and restored the power of fellowship.
- The veil is what separates the presence of God from the presence of people. (60 feet long, 30 feet high, 4 inches thick) The priest would worship to enter the holy of holies.

Disobedience blocks power while obedience releases power.

Romans 5:19 (TPT)

One man's disobedience opened the door for all humanity to become sinners. So also, one man's obedience opened the door for many to be made perfectly right with God and acceptable to him.

- Jesus obeys His Father, Creation aligned, God tore the veil from the top-down when Jesus gave up His spirit, signifying that humanity, once again, had full access to God's presence.
- The cross restored power because now we have fellowship in God's presence.

Colossians 2:13-15, 22 (NLT)

¹³ You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

The FLOW *Carrying the Presence*

2 Corinthians 3:18 (TPT)

¹⁸ We can all draw close to him with the veil removed from our faces. And with no veil we all become like mirrors who brightly reflect the glory of the Lord Jesus. We are being transfigured into his very image as we move from one brighter level of glory to another. And this glorious transfiguration comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

- Now that the veil is gone, it's time to reflect His glory. That means his manifest presence can't be regulated to Sunday worship services.
- There's no such thing as a powerless Christian, only a Christian who doesn't access the power they've been given.

Acts 1:8 NKJV

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The Holy Spirit is power to be witnesses To/Of

- o Little word but big difference! One means we've been given the power to tell others about Him (for). The other means we've been given the power to demonstrate His ministry to others (to or of).
- o This is verified when Jesus tells the disciples they will do the works they see Him do and even greater, not just tell people about them.

This powerful fix creates a powerful flow.

- We're supposed to be bringing to people what they can't find anywhere else. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us. What are we doing with it?
- The Greek word for "power," which is *dunamis*, can be translated in two ways:
 - (1) "Dynamite," which is an explosive force.
 - (2) "Dynamo," which is a constant flow of power.
- And in Christ, you have both. Through Him you can break the chains that bind you and the limits that constrain you and walk victoriously in His power today.

We can experience the power of God's presence every day through lifestyle obedience and lifestyle worship.

Revelation 21:3 (NLT)

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them."