

Easter Message: Resurrection Power

Scripture used: [Ephesians 1:18-21 \(NIV\)](#), [Luke 23:42-43 \(NLT\)](#), [John 10:18 \(NLT\)](#), [John 11:25-26 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

In this moving Easter Message, Pastor Hurmon begins a new 6-week series focused on the concept of Power, our relationship with it, and what we want it to be. For some, the thought of our ability to act autonomously, to influence others, or the course of events, can cause sadness or anxiety, even hopelessness. Here, we focus on The Resurrection Power of Jesus, from which all other forms of power are derived. We are encouraged by real stories in our immediate congregation, and those of the Bible, where the redemptive power of Jesus, through His death and resurrection, bestows incomparably great power for those who believe. Through Jesus, there is always hope - both in this life, and ultimately, in life everlasting.

KEY POINTS

- 1) **Jesus had a complicated relationship with power.** Jesus, fully God and fully human, had unimaginable power at His disposal. The power that Jesus had was the same creative power that caused the universe to come into being. [John 1](#) makes clear that Jesus entered the world with immense power. Yet, Jesus' life reflects limitations of power in all kinds of ways. He grew up poor, was limited to a particular geography and cultural setting, and most of his ministry was done in a 50 mile radius that was a reasonable walking distance. At the end of Jesus' life, he died in a way that was apparently powerless, as he hung between two criminals on a Roman cross, put to death by the judgment of temporal authorities. Yet, [John 10:18 \(NLT\)](#) makes clear that Jesus never lost his authority, and he chose to lay his life down on our behalf.
- 2) **The Resurrection Power of Easter is available to us.** In [Ephesians 1:18-21 \(NIV\)](#), Paul is praying for the Ephesus church that the eyes of their heart might be enlightened, that they would know that the same resurrection power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to them as those who believe in Jesus and follow Jesus. This prayer is a prayer for us as well! Every godly expression of power, every use of power that has a redemptive outcome, all of it flows from the power and authority of Jesus. When we feel powerless in our lives, or subject to the abuses of power in this world, our path to personal stability and justice is not solely through wielding worldly power, but to root ourselves in the power that God provides.
- 3) **With Jesus, there is always hope.** Because of the power available to us, it means there is always hope in every circumstance in our lives. Miracles can still happen - in our daily lives, in our health, relationships, workplaces, families, etc.
 - a) **There is hope in this life.** Every prayer for supernatural intervention that we pray is not guaranteed to be answered the way we hope. Yet, this does not mean that miracles are not possible. Because of the resurrection power available in our lives, it is appropriate to pray for God's intervention, according to His will and purpose. Prayer makes a difference - in our circumstances, or in our hearts.
 - b) **There is hope in life everlasting.** Every miracle that changes our circumstances is ultimately a time-limited miracle with an expiration date. If we receive miraculous healing that saves us from death, eventually we, like everyone else, will still die. It means that we can still pray for daily miracles, but our hope isn't in "a miracle" in this life. Our hope is in "the miracle" of Jesus' death and resurrection, which provides assurance of life everlasting with God - and the assurance that nothing can separate us from the love of God.
- 4) **Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life - and He invites us to believe.** [John 11:25-26 \(NLT\)](#) provides a concrete Easter invitation to each one of us: Jesus invites us to believe, to trust Him, and follow Him.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - How do you feel about power in your life? When have you felt the most powerful? When have you felt the most powerless?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider [Ephesians 1:18-21 \(NIV\)](#). How does your view of reality change if you believe that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is available to you? How does this change the way you face the challenges in your life, whether difficult circumstances or difficult people? What would it look like to connect with God's plan and purpose for your life knowing that God empowers you daily?
- 3) **DO** - Pray for the eyes of your heart to be enlightened this week, to know the power that you have and to walk in it! Join us for week 2 of this series on "Power" this Sunday!