

The Immeasurable Power That Works for Us

By Ginny Larsen

Reading: Ephesians 1-2:10

GOOD NEWS—it tends to bring joy to our hearts when we hear it. Good news cheers the heart and lifts the spirit: *“Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad”* (Proverbs 12:25 ESV). Yet sometimes, even good news can be tainted by doubts and fears and threats from outside – fears that it won't last or that it can be changed. Yet there is the GOOD NEWS of the Gospel that is truly good and truly lasting, which nothing on earth can destroy – so much so that it is almost seemingly “too good to be true” and too hard for us to grasp. Yet the more we learn of it, the more it does grasp our hearts and bring true joy that will last. Why do we need the “Good News”? We only understand our need for it when we fully understand the very bad news. Without Christ we are lost forever. We are hopeless, helpless, and our own sinfulness will destroy us. We never can be free from it by ourselves. We cannot ever save ourselves. Only through faith alone in Christ alone can we be saved from our hopeless condition. How wonderful is the Good News when we are in despair from seeing the bad news!

Have you ever just meditated on all that the Bible says we have and all that we are “in Christ”? This morning, as I do that, I find it's more than this fleshly mind and body can even contain! The joy, the life, the love that we have in Him is unfathomable to our minds. Yes, we find it “immeasurable.” We cannot even contain it. We find it a *“joy unspeakable and full of glory”* (1 Peter 1:8b). Oh how much we need to lift ourselves, our eyes, our hearts, and our minds to those things, because they are every bit as tangible to our spirit as the darkness, the depression, the sicknesses, the problems and trials that we face here in this world. In fact they are more real, more lasting, and more certain than anything, IF we are in Christ Jesus. Are you “in Christ”? Can you say you have an assurance that you are, that He is in you? If not, I have good news for you. You can be sure. His Word gives us that assurance. We don't have to hope for it, not knowing. We don't have to look to ourselves and our goodness, hoping it somehow outweighs our sins on that day and we have enough to “make it.” We don't have to try to overlook or excuse our sins away as though if we hide them from ourselves or others, God will not see them either. No, we can face our sins, our weaknesses, and our shortcomings head on, with humility, admitting them to this holy God, Who we know judges those sins.

In fear we face them; we come humbly before His cross. We see them in contrast to His pure holiness, love, and righteous demands, and we see that in no way can we measure up. In no way can we save ourselves. Our own works are as filthy rags. Then we look up to His cross. We see that He took all our sin, its ugliness and its penalty, on Himself (He Who knew no sin became sin for us), and then He imputed to us all His perfect righteousness and goodness and holiness that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21). Yes, it is “too good to be true,” except it IS TRUE! Don't settle for a lesser “truth,” which is not truth at all. All that is required is that we humble ourselves before Him when we see our sin, confess it to Him (agree with God), taking His side, turning (changing our minds) from sin and self to Him – this is truly *believing* in Him—in faith, receiving in our hearts what He has done for us, through His blood, forgiving our sins, and trusting Him to give us His Spirit to make us a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). It is His work. *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast”* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

When we once become His child, as soon as we believe on Him, we have entered into a whole

new realm. Ephesians 1 and 2 tells us of this new realm, where we are seated with Him in the Heavenlies, and 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us of this *new creation*, which we are made in Christ, as His own children now. It tells us of the assurance we have of that salvation. It tells us the power and completeness of it, in such detail that it cannot be denied. It tells us the eternity of it. It is a hope that is so wonderful that it “boggles the mind.” It cannot be fully grasped, I don’t think, by our finite minds, yet it can be believed and received. And as we walk this life below, He makes it more and more real and manifested in us and to us, as we abide in Him in faith. **He created it** (Ephesians 2:10), and He works it in us and finishes it. We find relief in knowing it is not up to us to save ourselves, and we find all our power for living is in this hope that is a sure hope, this certainty that He will fulfill all. Our hearts are filled with love and joy in Him then, which both give us the power to walk through anything He calls us to as we yield ourselves to that new life in us, to be conformed to His image, working out that which He worked in us, in our earthly pilgrimage.

Oh, how the enemy tries to rob us of this power and take away our hope, filling us with doubts and fears, getting our eyes on ourselves and away from Him and all He is to us and in us. He tries to get us ever doubting our salvation and looking inward, striving harder and harder but only producing a “self-righteousness,” rather than living in and rejoicing in the perfect completed salvation He has given us with assurance of its full power – the same resurrection power that raised Christ from the dead.

If you are in Christ, a child of God, through faith in Him, take a look at Ephesians 1 and 2 and ponder all that He has given you and where the power for that salvation lies. Not a single part of it lies with you. You need only “believe” – trust in Him to do it and carry it out to its completion.

Paul goes on, after describing what we have in Christ – our blessings, our inheritance, our guarantee – to pray that we would be made to truly see, by revelation, and grasp the power of this life in us, as though he were at a loss for words to really describe it fully, knowing only God can truly give that revelation in the heart of those who love Him (Ephesians 1:17-23). That same power, that resurrection power, which raised Christ from the dead, now permanently lives in us (John 14:16) and raises us up also with Christ to actually be seated with Him in the Heavenlies (Eph. 2: 4-6). Yes, it is past tense...not future, although it is assured to be our future. It is also present...we are even now, positionally, “*seated with Him in the Heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*” He has placed us there already. It is our position in Him. It is a done deal, once He has made us His child and given us His Spirit. **He, Who is outside of all time, sees us there in Christ already, and will never again see us outside of Christ.** He sees the imputed righteousness of His Son in us and us in His Son, and all is accomplished. We only now wait for our final redemption, the redemption of our bodies, when this “*corruption shall put on incorruption*” and our bodies will be made like His, and we will be with Him forever, freed from sin and evil forevermore.

This blessed assurance and guarantee is the power of our Christian life. It is the joy that we rejoice in always, even as we go through trials beyond what we think we can endure. It is our endurance, our strength, our life, our joy, and our hope that never fails. No wonder in Ephesians 6:10-18, he tells us to “*be strong in the strength of His might*” and to “*put on the whole armor of God,*” which truly is a visual of all that Ephesians 1 and 2 tells us...the assurance and hope of all we are and have in Christ—the Good News that keeps our hearts. In this alone can we stand, and walk, and overcome the enemy. In this alone can we quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. In this alone can we pray and intercede for others. In Him we live and in Him we stand. No wonder the enemy seeks to get our focus on ourselves—our own works, our faith, our ability or

inability, etc.

What an immeasurably great salvation He has given to us! What immeasurable power! It is His power of resurrection! There is nothing in this world or in ourselves that can hold it down! Our humble thanks is not even enough, dear Heavenly Father! May our lives each day be pleasing to You as we look on this great love and salvation, yielding ourselves to You that Your glory may be manifested in us.