

Week 2: A Power We Must Receive - The Comfort of the Holy Spirit

Day 10: Sitting High

The Passage: Ephesians 1:18-21; 2:4-7

The Focus: "He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion." (Ephesians 1:20b-21) "And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:6)

The Meditation: "God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms."

Empowering Truths: Remember that the Bible was written without chapter breaks. The chapter breaks were added in AD 1227. Occasionally, chapter breaks inadvertently obscure a truth. I believe that can happen in Ephesians 1 and 2. That chapter break can significantly impact our spiritual self-image and spiritual authority.

In Ephesians 1 we are told where Christ is seated now. He is at the right hand of God in heavenly realms. He is positioned in authority, far above all rule, power, and dominion both now and forevermore. In Ephesians 2 it declares where we as Christ-followers are seated now. We are seated "with him in the heavenly realms."

Too often we think of this "sitting" in geographical terms rather than spiritual terms. We think of Jesus on a throne in a place that's high above the earth somewhere, like a Star Wars type of location. But we must think in spiritual images, in terms of spiritual authority.

There is a seating chart in the spiritual realm. At banquets or events people are seated according to their notoriety or authority. So the King sits on the platform, the princes at the front tables, the governors at the middle tables, and the clerks and interns at the back tables. Spiritually, King Jesus is seated at the head of the head table on the platform. Seat #1, with no one close to him.

Except . . . Jesus pulls up an empty chair next to him and says, "This is where I want my friend (insert your name here) to sit. Oh, and by the way, whatever they say to do, do it! They have authority because they're seated with me." When we are "in Christ Jesus" we are seated "with Christ Jesus."

Do we pray like we are seated on earth and trying to get our prayers all the way to heaven? Or do we pray like we are sitting next to Christ in the heavenly realm? In today's passage Paul says he's praying that our eyes would be enlightened so we could know "his incomparably great power for us who believe."

I tend to diminish my spiritual authority because of my keen awareness of my sin and shortcomings. I sit in the shadows of condemnation, instead of in the spotlight of grace. I am often beaten down because I am not receiving the seat reserved for me.

I have an acquaintance/friend who is a famous musician. I happened to be in Seattle when he was doing a concert, and I thought I might attend. Then I looked at the ticket prices. It would cost me an arm and leg for the nosebleed section. Several months later, I relayed this to my musician friend. He responded, "Are you kidding me? I would have had you in the front row for free! All you had to say is you were with me!"

Likewise, you are "in Christ!" Take your reserved seat in the spiritual realm! Be free. Receive his authority and exercise it!

Power Truth: Being seated with Christ gives you power to take authority in spiritual realms.

Our Prayer: Lord Jesus, I exalt you as the risen one, exalted and seated far above all authority. I am humbled and in awe that when I am in you, you seat me there with you. Forgive me when I allow condemnation to block the beauty of being "in you." Open the eyes of my heart to your spiritual power in me. Help me pray as if I am seated