

Ephesians 1:15-23

For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and ^[a]your love for all the ^[b]saints,

¹⁶ do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the ^[c]knowledge of Him.

¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart ^[d]may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the ^[e]saints,

¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

God seated Jesus at his right hand—and us with him.

Second, the last part of verse 20: God “seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places.” That power that installed Jesus at God’s right hand has put us there also. Look at [Ephesians 2:6](#): “[God] raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” This is *resurrection power now*—to live and die for the glory of Christ. The power that took Jesus from death and put him eternally in God’s presence put you there too, and keeps you there.

Ephesians 2:5-7

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead ^[f]in our transgressions, made us alive together ^[g]with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Three things God has done for us in Christ.

He made us alive together with Christ.

He raised us up with Him.

He seated us with Him in the heavenly places.

The best way I can tell you how these apply to us is to say these are positions you are in spiritually. There is a present dimension to these. There is also future dimension.

What does it mean for us now in the present dimension.

Now this is so good. When God raised you from the dead He didn't leave you in the cemetery. You know, when Lazarus came out of the grave...I thought of an analogy just now...when Lazarus came out of the grave, he was alive. And then what did Jesus say? "Loose him and...what?...let him go." The guy can't live the rest of his life in those grave clothes. And when Jesus raised you from the dead it

wasn't just to let you roam around the cemetery in the grave clothes, He picked you out of the grave, a miracle of resurrection.

And then He did a second miracle of ascension and exaltation. Verse 6 says He raised you up and gave you a seat in heavenly places.

Look, illustration number one of God's power - He raised Jesus and exalted Him to the right hand. Illustration number two - He raised you and exalted you into the right hand of God. You're already seated in the heavenlies. Is that super? past tense - it's already done. If you are a Christian you are already seated in the heavenlies. Your citizenship is in heaven, [Philippians 3:20](#).

You're no longer of this world. You've been transformed out of this world. You have eternal life. And you just happen to be walking in this dead world. The very opposite of being dead in this world, you're alive. And your life is in heaven, hid with Christ and God.

He didn't just raise us and leave us in the grave yard He exalted us. He took us up into the heavenlies and we're blessed with all spiritual blessing.

Now what do you mean by being in the heavenlies? You say. Do you mean you're in heaven? No, I'm right here but I'll tell you, my mind exists in God's domain. Doesn't yours? That's what it means.

When we come to worship, we worship in spirit and in truth. Our worship takes us in a different dimension. We worship God in spirit. We worship Him who is in the heavenlies. To be seated with Him is to enable us to worship. It enables us to praise Him. It enables us to give thanks to His glorious, Holy name.

Being seated with Him in the heavenlies now is also to have the power of intercessory prayer. We go straight to the Father through Jesus. As Jesus intercedes for us, we also can intercede on behalf of others.

We are not only talking of the sick list prayers. I'm talking of Kingdom prayers. Prayers for kingdom work. Prayers for certain ones to be saved. You have a family member who needs Jesus? Exercise your position of being seated with Him the heavenlies by praying for their salvation.

Pray for missionaries. Pray for saints who are in harms way. To give them boldness to continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the face of danger.

Prayers for your church. Prayers for the church universal.

Verse 7 gives purpose for being seated in the heavenlies. so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Has a present aspect. Your testimony is the testimony of the riches of His grace. The story of the Gospel lived out continues through the ages. Legacy of the Gospel.

There is a future aspect. In the ages to come has an eternal aspect to it. When we are assembled together in heaven. We will be the display of the glory of God.

3. God set Jesus over all demonic powers.

Third, verse 21: God set Jesus “far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.” We know from [Ephesians 6:12](#) that these “rulers and authorities” include all the devils and demons of the universe. The power toward you now is a devil-defeating power.

Paul said in [Colossians 2:15](#) that at the cross God “disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Christ.” So when Jesus rose from the dead, he was exalted over all the hosts of hell. They are a defeated foe. They are not yet out of the world. And battles are yet to be fought. But the power from God for us now in these battles is a *resurrection power now*—to live and die for the glory of Christ.

4. God gave Jesus as head over all things to the church.

Fourth, verse 22: God “put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church.” Notice two things. The risen Jesus Christ is “head over all things.” Head! Implying authority and conscious active rule—over all history, all human beings, all demonic powers, disease, disability, all nature—weather, hurricanes, lightning bolts, tornadoes, volcanoes, earthquakes, floods, global warming—all businesses and industry, healthcare, sports, March Madness, inventions, media, Internet, iPad mania, military might, governments, presidents, kings, chiefs, religions, universities, solar systems, stars, galaxies, molecules, atoms, subatomic particles, and ten thousand things no man has ever yet discovered. Jesus is now head over them all. Conscious, active, authoritative Ruler.

And the second great thing in verse 22 is that he is given as head over all to the church: “[God] gave him as head over all things to the church.” Which means: With all that power and all that authority and all that wisdom, he serves us as our Head and our Leader and Savior and our King and our Friend. In other words, this power is, as verse 19 says, “toward us.” It is *resurrection power now*—to live and die for the glory of Christ.

5. Where God rules, we will rule.

Finally, verse 23: We believers—we happy believers!—are “his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.” I’m not sure I can express this. But I’ll try. God’s power toward us intends to fill the universe with the authority of his crucified and risen Son. And, though it takes your breath away, he intends to make us, the church, those who believe, the means of that fullness, the embodiment of that fullness. That is, where he rules we will rule. He created human kind in the beginning to inhabit a beautiful creation and to subdue it, and enjoy it, and reflect his glory in it.

That is what he intends to do through the new humanity called the church. He will fill creation with all his fullness of his glory. And you will be that fullness—“his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.” This is the power of God at work toward you now.