

24/7 PRAYER RESOURCES

Notes

*I also pray that you will understand the **incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honour at God's right hand in the heavenly realms,** (Ephesians 1:19–20 NLT).*

Some of the superlative adjectives used to describe the word power in this verse are 'incredible, incomparable, exceeding greatness, surpassing greatness.' It is a power that is so great I doubt that we have even begun to fully comprehend and experience it. The church is like swimmers at the beach keeping a safe distance from the shore when there is an ocean of God's power to be explored.

Resurrection power has come to us through the promised Holy Spirit.

I have a very loving and thoughtful husband who when he wants to show his love will buy me a box of chocolates. I could receive those chocolates and place them in the fridge for an occasion in the future when I may feel like a chocolate. No, but that is not me, I can't wait to undo the wrapping and start appropriating the gift as it was intended.

At the moment of conversion, when we receive God's gift of salvation, God comes to live in the believer through His Spirit. But he never forces Himself on us, but waits to be appropriated in our lives. At some point we have to invite the Holy Spirit to have full control of our lives. Commissioner Edward Read states it like this: 'Christians ought to know that they become temples of the Spirit the moment they become Christians... but he who is resident must be invited to become president.'

Dennis Bennett (1917–1991) gives us another picture like this, "A man may push his way past my secretary and come into my office and sit down while I am busy at my desk. I know that he is there, but I keep working, not acknowledging his presence. After a few moments the telephone rings and someone on the other end of the line asks, 'Have you a man in your office? And proceeds to describe my visitor. I reply, 'Yes he is here, but I haven't laid aside my work to welcome him. I haven't received him yet.'

But then suppose I lay aside my work and give my visitor a cordial welcome and devote my undivided attention to him and ask him, 'Why are you here and how can I help you?' Then my visitor may rise to his feet and say, 'I'm so glad you've finally received me, I have a cheque here for a million dollars that I want to give you, I've got an important message for you from your friend and many other good things I want to share with you now that you have received me.'" Dennis Bennett was an American Episcopal Priest, theologian and author.

We have the Holy Spirit present in our lives, but he sits waiting to be received. As we welcome the Spirit, giving him our full attention, he releases His gifts and power into our lives. He equips and empowers us to reign in life, to live as conquerors as we were intended.

The unwrapping of the gift of the Holy Spirit is called the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is a second subsequent work of God when we give the Spirit permission to invade the whole of our lives, to become the president and not the resident.

From its inception TSA has believed in a second work of grace whereby the believer welcomes the fullness of God's presence into their lives through the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately I don't believe it's always been effectively taught and explained, but it is one of the foundational truths of our movement.

TSA was born of a Holy Spirit revival. Originally William Booth named the Sunday morning meetings, 'Baptism of Fire', because it was the opportunity for the newly saved to get sanctified, immersed in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reports like the following abounded in the 'War Cry' of the day;

'After we had a few testimonies the glory came in a marvellous manner. Talk about a baptism of fire like they had at Pentecost, we were all filled and flooded and some overwhelmed with the Divine Presence. And then the Captain and the Lieutenant lay on the floor, both were filled unutterably full of glory and full of God. All of us got such a baptism we had not had for a long time.'

