**A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS: THE WEALTH AND WALK OF A BELIEVER**

*“Knowing God’s Power”*

*Ephesians 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,*

*Genesis 4:1 And Adam* ***knew*** *Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord.*

*Matthew 1:24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:*

*25 And* ***knew her not*** *till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.*

* **Our Absence of Power**

Bible passages that don’t line up with our reality…..

*John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it* ***more abundantly****.*

*Matthew 11:30 For my yoke is* ***easy****, and my* ***burden is light****.*

*Philippians 4:7 And the* ***peace of God****, which* ***passeth all understanding****, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 4:13 I* ***can do all things*** *through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

*Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are* ***more than conquerors*** *through him that loved us.*

Note: These verses are meant to **comfort** us and yet they often **trouble** us. We realize that much of our life is lived in **contradiction** to the promises in God’s Word concerning His presence and power.

Note: The kind of life set forth in the N.T. is so far above the **experience** of most professing believers that deep down we think it’s almost **fiction**!

* **Our Access to Power**

The power to which Paul is referring in Eph. 1:19 is **resurrection** power.

Note: What had to happen before Christ could be resurrected? He had to **die**!

* + Christ’s death was the prerequisite which enable His resurrection to provide our **eternal** life.
  + Our death is the prerequisite which enable His resurrection to provide our **abundant** life.

*Galatians 2:20 I am* ***crucified with Christ****: nevertheless* ***I live****; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

*John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat* ***fall into the ground and die****, it abideth alone: but* ***if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit****.*

*25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.*

*Philippians 3:10 That I may* ***know*** *him, and the* ***power of his resurrection****, and the* ***fellowship of his sufferings****, being made* ***conformable unto his death****;*

*Mark 8:34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him* ***deny himself****, and* ***take up his cross****, and follow me.*

**Two Problems:**

1) We struggle to **deny** ourselves because of a tendency to **love** ourselves.

*II Tim. 3:1-2 “****lovers*** *of their own* ***selves****.”*

2) We struggle to take up our cross because of a tendency to avoid **pain** and **humiliation**.

*II Tim. 3:4 “lovers of* ***pleasures*** *more than lovers of* ***God****.”*

The sobering reality of not denying ourselves and not taking up our cross…

*II Tim. 3:5 “Having a* ***form*** *of godliness, but denying the* ***power*** *thereof..”*