- MESSAGE OUTLINE -



Eyes That See Find Power

Ephesians 1:15-23 NKJV

15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

INTRODUCTION

Illustration: Getting an eyelash in the eye but being unable to remove it with dirty fingers. "There was no way I could use my own fingers to do anything. I was helpless..."

Spiritual Parallel: When you came to Christ, the plank came out of your eye. But then you noticed other specks and tried to fix them yourself. "That was a mistake. Because now, you got a bunch of other problems going on in there."

The Pattern for Power: Paul shows us how to do it. Worship comes first (vv. 3-14), then intercessionary prayer (vv. 15-23). "Worship must always come first."

The Core Problem: You can't receive what you cannot perceive.

The Devil's Plan vs. God's Plan: "The very thing that you have been struggling with is the very thing that is going to make you stronger... What the devil intends to harm you, God intends it for your good."

MISCONCEPTION 1: APPLE OF THE EYE

The Lie: We chase biblical knowledge thinking that by knowing more, we will become wise. "Knowledge puffs up." (1 Corinthians 8:1)

The Truth: Wisdom and revelation are given by God through spirit-led prayer, based on the knowledge we already have of Jesus. "The more we go to God, in spirit led prayer, the more truly wise we become."

Illustration (Dunning-Kruger Effect): People who do poorly overestimate their ability because they lack the skills to make a proper evaluation. "The more you know, the more you can tell you don't know. And the less you know, the less you realize what you don't know."

Key Point: "The renewed mind is not in your head, but the renewed mind is in your heart." It is renewed by Christ dwelling there through faith, because a renewed mind worships Him and loves the grace we have received.

MISCONCEPTION 2: DIY PURITY

The Lie: We try to take the specks of sin out of our own hearts with our own dirty hands. "Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?" (Galatians 3:3)

The Truth: Purity is not something we can achieve through our own strength or effort; it is a gift of grace from and finished by God.

Illustration: Making Mexican salsa and having a child "help" by adding Italian seasoning. "The whole thing came out tasting like cold lemony Spaghetti sauce."

Key Point: "Holiness is received, not achieved."

The Application: Righteousness is from God by faith (Philippians 3:9). The command "Be holy, for I am holy" is fulfilled when we "love each other" (1 Peter 1:22). "If you want to be holy, then start to love people."

MISCONCEPTION 3: JUST BYSTANDERS

The Lie: Christ's power is astonishing but distant, and we are just spectators in the spiritual battle.

The Truth: Christ is the head over all things, and the church is His body.

Key Point: "Because if all things are under His feet... and we as a church is His body... then all things are under the church."

The Battle: Our struggle is not against flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12). The enemy behind the scenes is the devil, and his "tares" will grow with the "wheat" until the end.

The Application: The armor of God is useless without understanding the power we have through faith. "Church, you just don't see the power you have in Christ, unless you believe this verse and start walking by faith as if it is true."

CONCLUSION

The Core Truth: "You don't need more knowledge to have power, because the power is in His body, the church."

Evidence from Acts: When the church worships and prays together, there is power (Acts 4:24, 31). When the church loves each other, the church grows (Acts 2:42-47).

Call to Action: "If you want to have power, look among yourselves. Worship Him together, call upon Him together, and love His body, each one within."

INVITATION

If you trust in the Son of God, you will experience the resurrection power of God. Your sins will be forgiven, your heart changed, and you will have joy and love that never fails. You will worship in Spirit and Truth.

Jesse Mark Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
July 26-27, 2025

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