

## RESURRECTION POWER ENABLES DISCIPLES

Introduction – The promises of the Old Testament are fulfilled in Jesus and the Christ community. We are promised new hearts and a new Spirit to enable us to keep God's will.

*Ezekiel 36:26-27: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*

### A. The True Age of Enlightenment

Ephesians 1:18-23

1. Paul wanted them to know the Christian hope of a glorious inheritance and His incomparable great power at work in us who have faith.
2. This power is not comparable to anything except the strength used to raise Jesus from the dead and seat Him in the heavenly realm.
3. The Old Testament promise that God would reign over the nations and evil spiritual powers is being fulfilled in Christ.
4. The church is the visible body of Christ on earth under the leadership of King Jesus. Our mission is to make disciples of all nations.

### B. The Church Is the Living and Breathing Temple of God on Earth

Ephesians 2:19-22

1. From our various backgrounds, we are no longer aliens but citizens of heaven and members of God's household.
2. We are living stones being built into the true temple of God on earth where real spiritual life can take place.
3. God lives in us by the presence of His Spirit.

### C. God Enables us by His Spirit

Ephesians 3:16-21

1. God is able to do more than we ask in prayer or our imaginations can conceive.
2. God empowers us through His Spirit that lives within us.

3. We cooperate with God by allowing Christ to dwell in our hearts by faith and by being rooted in love.
4. Our goal must be to bring glory to God and not ourselves.

Conclusion – We are weak and unable to fulfill God's mission to the world on our own. God is working in us through the Holy Spirit to accomplish His will in spite of our weaknesses. This is resurrection power that is at work in the Christ community, which is the Body of Christ!

### Discussion Questions

1. Where do we need to be enlightened in order to see what God wants?
2. Why is the church versus lone individuals needed to fulfill God's mission to the rebellious world?
3. What can God enable us to do by the power of His Spirit at work in us?