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SO THAT YOU WILL  
**KNOW**

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Ephesians 1.15-23

Crosswords Sunday School

Jordan Dees

## BOOK THEME

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The Eternal Plan of God

## BOOK KEY VERSE

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### EPHESIANS 4.1

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

## REVIEW – EPHESIANS 1:3-14

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### Spiritual Blessings

- Election
- Predestination
- Adoption
- Grace
- Redemption
- Forgiveness
- Revelation
- Inheritance
- The Gospel
- Being Sealed

## REVIEW – EPHESIANS 1.3-14

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### The Trinity in Salvation

- Chosen by the Father
- Redeemed by the Son
- Sealed by the Spirit

## LESSON KEY VERSE

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### EPHESIANS 1.18

I pray that the eyes of your heart 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 saints,

## LESSON THEME

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In light of the gracious work of each member of the Trinity to accomplish the salvation of each believer, Paul prays that God would allow the believers in Ephesus – and believers in every church throughout the church age – to understand and experience those truths in their lives in such a way that they might be radically transformed by their comprehension.









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# EPHESIANS

## 1:15-23

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# 1

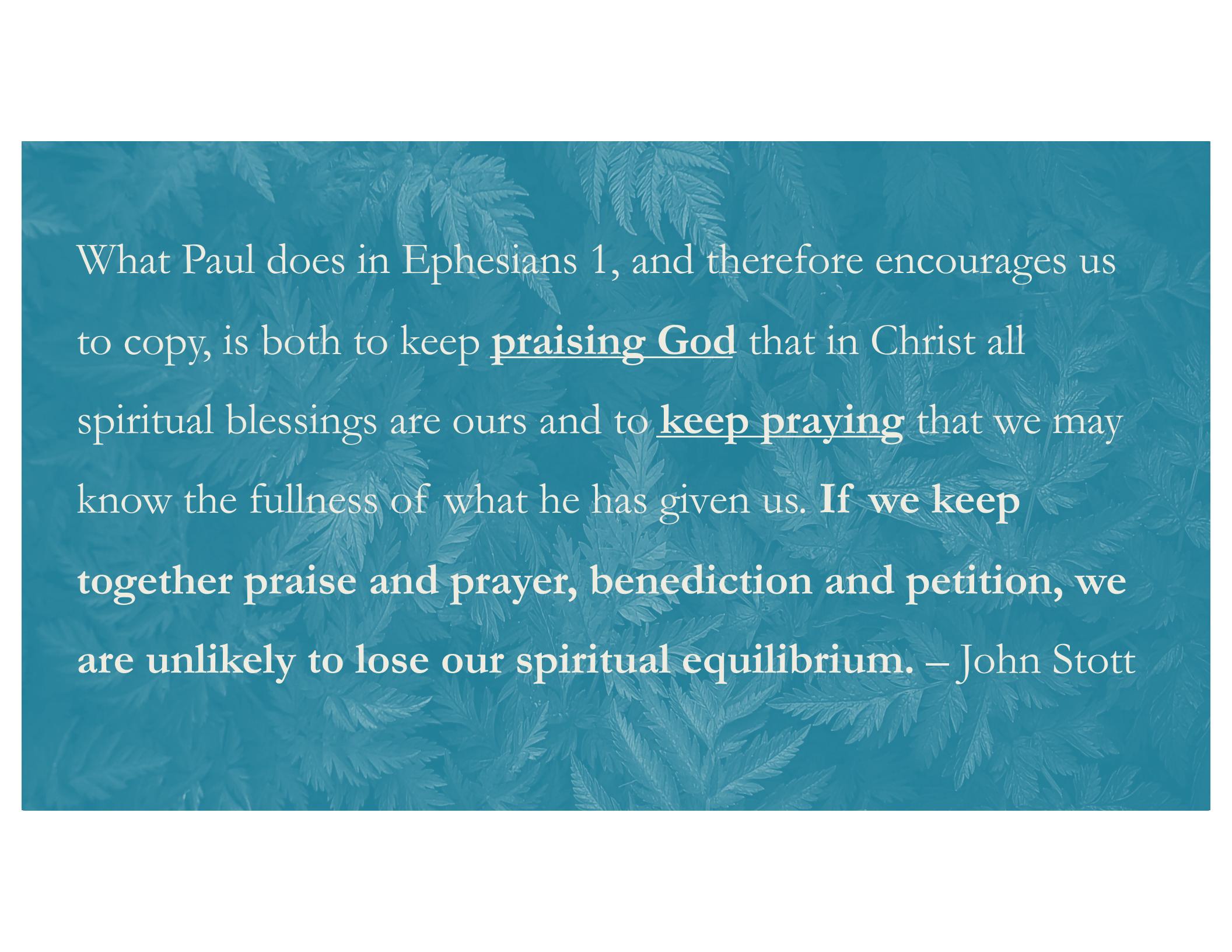
## The Beauteous Motivation for Paul's Prayer (15-16)

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## 1 – The Beauteous Motivation for Paul’s Prayer

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- A. The obvious results of God’s saving work - 15
- B. The regular practice of praying for the saints - 16



What Paul does in Ephesians 1, and therefore encourages us to copy, is both to keep praising God that in Christ all spiritual blessings are ours and to keep praying that we may know the fullness of what he has given us. **If we keep together praise and prayer, benediction and petition, we are unlikely to lose our spiritual equilibrium.** – John Stott

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# 2

## The Breathtaking Marvels of Paul's Prayer (17-19)

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Human understanding or ingenuity is not capable of discerning God's way. This can be accomplished only when God unveils it... it refers to the Holy Spirit because the qualities of wisdom and revelation cannot be generated by humans.

Revelation is not the understanding of hidden things with the disclosure of the disclosing of them.

Harold Hoehner

## 2 – The Breathtaking Marvels of Paul’s Prayer

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### A. The Gifts of the Spirit - 17

1. The spirit of wisdom – 17a
2. The spirit of revelation – 17b

## 2 – The Breathtaking Marvels of Paul’s Prayer

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A. The Gifts of the Spirit - 17

B. The Enlightenment of the Truth- 18

## 2 – The Breathtaking Marvels of Paul’s Prayer

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### B. The Enlightenment of the Truth

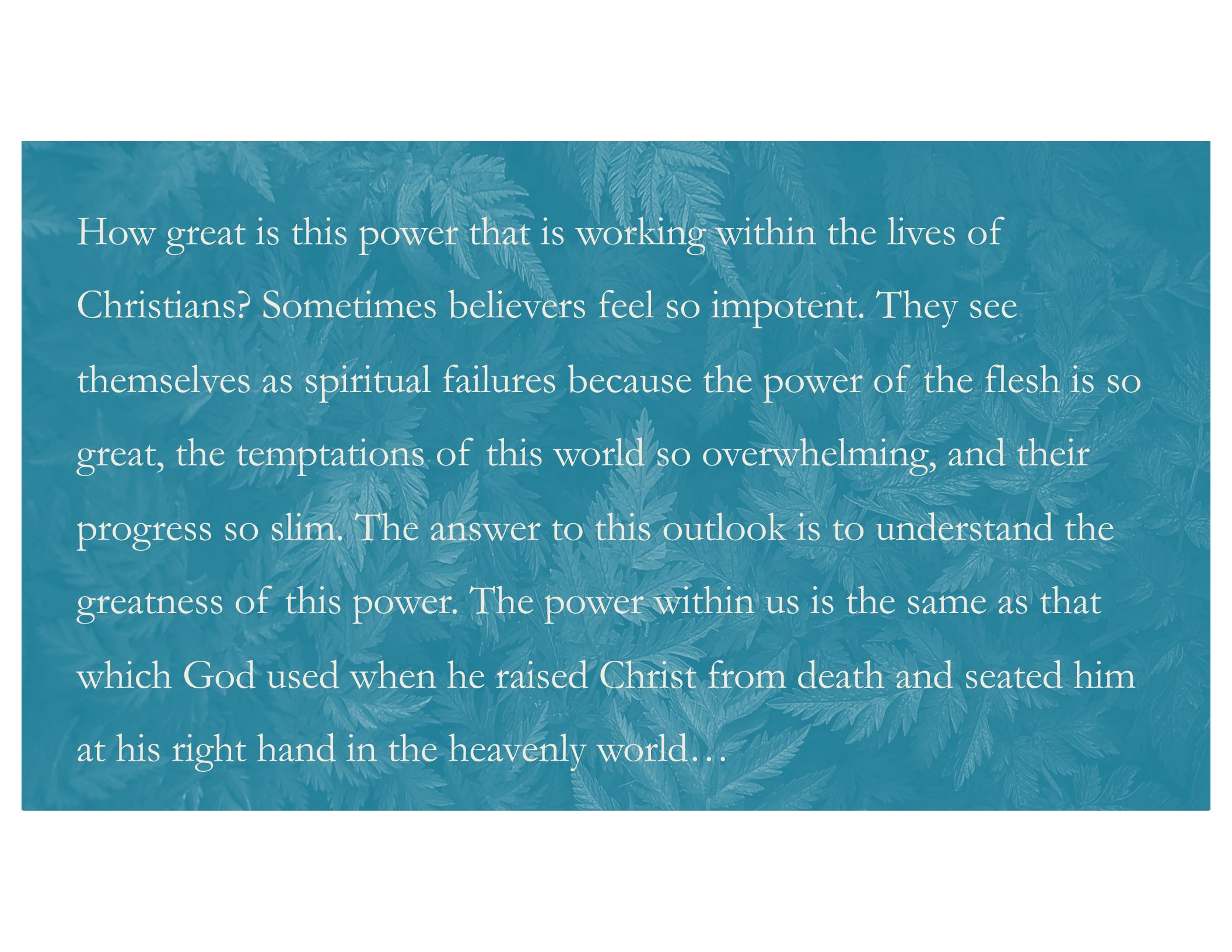
1. The hope of His calling
2. The riches of the glory of His inheritance
3. The surpassing greatness of His power

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# 3

## The Boundless Magnitude of Paul's Prayer (20-23)

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How great is this power that is working within the lives of Christians? Sometimes believers feel so impotent. They see themselves as spiritual failures because the power of the flesh is so great, the temptations of this world so overwhelming, and their progress so slim. The answer to this outlook is to understand the greatness of this power. The power within us is the same as that which God used when he raised Christ from death and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly world...

In other words, Paul is referring to the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit not only raised Jesus from the dead, he raised him to the seat of cosmic authority in the universe. He raised him not only from a tomb, but from this planet to the heavenly places where he is seated on high as the exalted Lord of heaven and earth.

R.C. Sproul

## 3 – The Boundless Magnitude of Paul’s Prayer

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- A. The strength of His might
- B. Which He brought about in Christ

### 3 – The Boundless Magnitude of Paul’s Prayer

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B. Which He brought about in Christ

1. Raised Him from the dead
2. Seated Him at His right hand
3. Put all things in subjection under His feet

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# 3

## Applications for us based on Paul's Prayer

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## *1. Determine to Follow Paul's Model of Prayer*

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- Let your theology lead you to doxology
- Read, meditate on, and allow God to use the scripture to transform your prayer life

## *2. Lift your thoughts higher this year*

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Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, **it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak.** We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. **We are far too easily pleased.** – C.S. Lewis

### *3. Ask God for more of what you already have*

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Those who have their eyes opened, and have some understanding in the things of God, have need to be more and more enlightened, and to have their knowledge more clear, and distinct, and experimental.

Christians should not think it enough to have warm affections, but they should labour to have clear understandings; they should be ambitious of being knowing Christians, and judicious Christians.

Matthew Henry