

## **Walking in Fullness of Life and Power Through Christ – Part 1** **(The power of the Holy Spirit at work within the believer)**

### **1. Brief recap from last meeting; we discussed...**

- We explored how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each engage with us in unique ways.
- We examined the doctrine of the Trinity, where God is one and is three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, highlighting their individual roles in both creation and the believer's life.
- We discussed why Christ's ascension was essential for the Holy Spirit to come, and the significance of this for believers.
- We also discussed the believer's union with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### **2. Walking in Fullness of Life and Power Through Christ with help from the Holy Spirit.**

- a) Continuing from our last discussion, I want to dive deeper into how believers have full access to the Holy Spirit who is in every believer from the moment they believed in Christ, tapping into the same power that resurrected Christ from the dead, empowering us to live beyond our natural capabilities, into a life of spiritual victory and fulfillment
- b) When we place our faith in Christ Jesus, we are called to walk in the newness of life. This transformation is not merely symbolic but a profound spiritual rebirth, as described by Paul when he speaks of being "raised with Christ" to "walk in newness of life." This new life is characterized by the resurrection power of Jesus, a power that not only raised Him from the dead but also operates within us to make us new creations. **Eph. 2:4-10 (AMPC); Rom. 6:4 (AMPC).** ~ *"He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ" ~ The Holy Spirit gives us full access to the "the glorious [power] of the Father" that raised Christ from the dead.*
- c) It is the same power that enables God to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine. This divine power (the Holy Spirit) at work within us, empowers us to live beyond our natural capabilities, into a life of spiritual victory and fulfillment. **Eph. 3:20 (AMP).**
- d) I want to read Paul's beautiful prayer for believers in Ephesians. The Holy Spirit empowers believers to understand and fulfill the prayer Paul makes in **Eph. 3:16-19 (NASB/AMP).** ~ Strengthened and spiritually energized with power through His Spirit, fully capable of comprehending His love, filled up to all the fullness of God.
- e) **Col. 2:9-10 (NASB)** "For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in Him, who is the head of all rule and authority." - Emphasizes that believers are filled in Christ who embodies the fullness of God.
- f) **Col. 1:19 (AMP)** *"For it pleased the Father for all the fullness [of deity—the sum total of His essence, all His perfection, powers, and attributes] to dwell [permanently] in Him (the Son)."* This indicates that the fullness of God dwells in Christ, which believers partake in.
- g) **2 Pet. 1:4 (ESV)** *"His divine power has granted to us [believers] all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire."*

### 3. Receiving Christ's Gifts through faith - When we believe in Christ we receive the following:

- **He gives us (believers) His peace:** not as the world gives, ensuring an inner tranquility that withstands all storms (**Jn. 14:27**).
- **He gives us (believers) His joy:** His joy remains in us, making our joy complete (**Jn. 15:11**). We (believers) share in His glory: which He gave that we might be one as He and the Father are one (**Jn. 17:22**).
- **He gives us (believers) His love:** His love is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (**John 17:26; Rom. 5:5**).
- **The joy of the Lord is our strength, shield, stronghold, song and refuge.** (**Neh. 8:10; Psa. 28:7; Psalm 16:11; Isa. 12:2-3**)
- **He gives us (believers) His Spirit, the Holy Spirit:** The Spirit Himself is our guarantee, the seal of our inheritance until redemption's fulfillment (**Eph. 1:13-14**).
- **He gives us (believers) new abundant and eternal life:** Abundant life we can experience now here on earth and eternal life we can experience with Him forever! (**Jn. 5:24, 10:10**).
- When we believe in Christ we receive His peace, joy, love, power!

---For deeper study outside of the meeting---

### 4. Eph. 2:5 commentary that digs into "He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ." (AMPC) Full context: Eph. 1:1-10. In full context Paul is explaining God's grace, humanity's condition, and the purpose of salvation. I want to dive into two concepts that are in Eph. 2:5.

- He made us "believers" alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ.
- How this ties into believers being united with Christ in His death and in His resurrection?

### 5. A question I proposed to Grok 3 (XAI) with Grok pulling from 30 commentaries, all major Bible study websites, and online word for word Bible versions as well as Greek translations:

#### Question to Grok 3 (XAI)

*Eph. 2:5 "Even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings and trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ." (AMPC). How does this scripture reconcile with unbelievers not being in fellowship and in union with Christ because of unbelief and the idea of fellowship with Christ starting at salvation through faith?*

#### Grok 3's surprisingly scripturally and scripturally sound response:

The scripture from Ephesians 2:5 aligns perfectly with the theological understanding that unbelievers do not share in the spiritual life, fellowship, and union with Christ until they believe in Him and are thereby saved. Here's how this passage supports that notion:

**Condition Before Salvation:** The verse begins by stating that believers were once "dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings and trespasses." This condition of spiritual death applies to all humans before they come to faith in Christ. It describes the state of being separated from God, without spiritual life, due to sin.

**Transformation Through Faith:** The pivotal phrase "He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ" indicates a transformation that has occurred. This act of being "made alive" is directly linked to faith in Christ. The phrase "in fellowship and in union with Christ" underscores that this new life is not just about individual salvation but about entering into a relationship with Christ, which includes both fellowship (communion, sharing in life with Christ) and union (being spiritually united with Him).

**The Timing of Fellowship and Union:** The scripture clearly situates this making alive, this fellowship, and this union as happening "even when we were dead," implying that this was not our condition before faith but became our condition through faith. This suggests that the fellowship and union with Christ are not inherent to humanity but are granted through the act of believing in Christ for salvation.

**Exclusivity to Believers:** The use of "us" in this context refers to those who have believed and thus have been saved. This inherently means that those who do not believe (unbelievers) have not yet been made alive in this manner. They remain in the state of spiritual death described at the beginning of the verse.

**Salvation as the Starting Point:** The passage implies that this fellowship and union with Christ start with salvation. There's no ambiguity here; the transition from death to life, from separation to union, is marked by the moment one believes in Christ. This belief is what initiates the process of being made alive, of entering into this special relationship with Christ.

**Grace-Based Salvation:** The verse also subtly reinforces that this transformation is by God's grace, not by human merit. This grace is available to all but is only effective in those who believe, further aligning with the idea that only believers are in fellowship and union with Christ.

### **Reconciling Ephesians 2:5 with Salvation Timing**

Ephesians 2:5 doesn't explicitly state that unbelievers are currently in fellowship with Christ. Rather, it describes what God has accomplished for believers despite their prior deadness. The phrase "*He made us alive together*" reflects the result of God's grace applied to those who have faith (Eph. 2:8). Theologically, this aligns with the idea that:

**Before faith:** All people are dead in sin, separated from God (Eph. 2:12—"without Christ... having no hope and without God in the world").

**At salvation:** Through faith, individuals are made alive, united with Christ, and brought into fellowship with Him (Romans 5:1-2; 1 Corinthians 1:9).

The "fellowship and union with Christ" in Ephesians 2:5, then, begins at the point of salvation, not before. For unbelievers, this reality remains potential—offered through the gospel—but not actual until they believe.

In summary, Ephesians 2:5 supports the theological stance that: Unbelievers are spiritually dead, separated from God due to sin. Salvation, which comes through faith in Christ, is the mechanism by which one is made spiritually alive.

This new life includes being in fellowship and union with Christ, which are aspects of salvation not available to those who have not yet believed. Thus, the fellowship and union with Christ are experiences reserved for those who have come to faith, marking the beginning of their spiritual journey with Christ.

**6. A second question on Eph. 2:5 that I proposed to Grok 3 (XAI) with Grok pulling from 30 commentaries, all major Bible study websites, and online word for word Bible versions as well as Greek translations:**

### **Question to Grok 3 (XAI)**

*How does Eph. 2:5 tie into scriptures that say when we believe in Christ we die, and rise with him into new life pulling in cross reference scriptures?*

### **Grok 3's surprisingly scripturally sound response:**

Ephesians 2:5 states, *"even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved."* This verse directly ties into the theological concept of believers dying and rising with Christ, which is articulated in various scriptures throughout the New Testament. Here's how Eph. 2:5 connects with this theme:

#### Death to Sin and Life in Christ:

Romans 6:4-5: "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." This passage explains that through faith and baptism, believers are symbolically buried with Christ (dying to the old life of sin) and raised to a new life.

Colossians 2:12-13: "having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses." Here, the parallel with Ephesians 2:5 is clear; it's through faith that we are made alive, having been dead in our sins.

#### Spiritual Resurrection:

Ephesians 2:5 speaks of being "made alive together with Christ," which is a spiritual resurrection. This new life is not just about living differently but fundamentally being transformed from death to life through Christ's own resurrection.

#### Unity with Christ:

Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Here, Paul explains his life as being intertwined with Christ's; in believing, he has died to his old self, and Christ's life is now the source of his new existence.

#### Grace and Salvation:

Ephesians 2:5 emphasizes that this transformation—from death to life—is an act of grace, highlighting that salvation is not by works but by faith in Christ. This grace is what enables the believer to participate in Christ's death and resurrection.

These scriptures collectively illustrate the doctrine that when someone believes in Christ: They die to their old self, which was dominated by sin and was spiritually dead. They are spiritually resurrected with Christ, implying a new life characterized by righteousness, hope, and eternal life.

This process is not merely symbolic but has real spiritual implications, affecting one's identity, behavior, and destiny.

Therefore, Ephesians 2:5 serves as a cornerstone for understanding how, through faith, believers are included in Christ's victory over death, sharing in His death and resurrection, which is both a past event (at the moment of faith) and an ongoing reality in the Christian life.

A recommended article for further study:

[Union with Christ: The Sum of Our Salvation](#) - By William L. Kynes

**Homework:** The believer's relationship and union with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

- **Christ in us** - Jn. 14:20-23; Rom. 8:9-10; Gal. 2:20, 3:26-28; Eph. 3:17; Col. 1:26-28; 2 Cor. 13:5; 1 Jn. 4:13
- **Us in Christ:** 1 Jn. 4:13, 15 (NLT), Eph. 2:6 (AMP)
- **The abundant life** - Jn. 10:10, 2 Cor. 3:6, Jn. 6:63, 1 Cor. 15:22 (AMP)
- **Union with Christ** - Eph. 2:6 (NLT), 1 Cor. 6:17 (NASB), Eph. 3:16-18 (AMP), Col. 3:3 (NLT)
- **The Holy Spirit Dwells in Those Who Believe in Christ** - 1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19-20, 2 Cor. 6:16, Ezek. 36:27, 2 Tim. 1:14, Eph. 5:18, Rom. 8:9, 8:11, Jn. 16:13, Gal. 3:5-8, 5:18, 1 Jn. 2:27 (NLT)
- **The kingdom of God within you!** - Lk. 17:20-21 (NKJV)