

The Power of God

Romans 4:18-21

Romans 1:16-17, ESV—For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith”

The greatest OT example of God’s saving power is His deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt

Vs. 17—Paul gives us two categories of God’s power—His power to give life to the dead, and to create from nothing

What?

Weakness, enemies and the grave are overcome by God’s power to save

Mighty to save—

Vss. 18—God promised to create from Abraham something that did not previously exist, a new creation

Not just the Jewish nation, but a chosen people of the faithful

Vs. 19—Sarah and Abraham had one foot in the grave

God would have to **give life to the dead** to make this promise happen

Vss. 19-20—Abraham “was strengthened” to believe—**strengthened by God**

Romans 8:7, ESV—For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it [is not powerful enough]

So here is another way God gives life to the dead, by **enabling spiritually dead people to believe His promises**

Vs. 21-22—God is **powerful enough** to do what He promises

Believing God resulted in God pronouncing Abraham “righteous”

Vs. 24—God has done an even **greater work of power by raising Jesus from death**

Vs. 25—The resurrection is the **evidence that Christ’s saving work is complete**

So, faith involves believing **specifically in God’s power to bring life to the dead** despite appearances to the contrary

So What?

God’s power **raised Jesus from death, and He makes His power available to you** in your own weakness of unbelief

For believers, **God’s power in response to your faith continues**

Romans 8:38-39, ESV—For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be [powerful enough] to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord

God continues to **save you from all the powers of many enemies** as you continue to trust in Him

And He makes His awesome power available to you to **enable you to obey Him**

The final say—Paul

Romans 16:25-27, ESV—Now to him who is [powerful] to strengthen you...to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen

Now What?

Ask yourself, “What powerful forces are against me right now?”

Call on God to intervene with His power in a mighty way and save you