



SEQUIM COMMUNITY CHURCH

# EPHESIANS

## SESSION 2B: THE POWERFUL EFFECT OF PRAYER

Ephesians 1:15-23

*"Exploring the new life and new society God has created through Jesus"*

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### Power for the Believer

Ephesians 1:19 speaks about "his incomparably great power for us who believe":

*"Having been raised from the dead, Christ is now the supreme head of the church, the ultimate authority. As Christians we can be confident that God has won the final victory and is in control of everything. We need not fear any dictator, nation, death or Satan himself."*

1. Where do you need the "incomparably great power of God" to be a work in the coming week? \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 1:19-23: talks more in depth about God's power and the nature of Jesus.

*"That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come."*

*"...the Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven." -- Hebrews 1:3*

When the Bible speaks of Jesus "sitting at God's right hand", it is affirming his divinity! Hebrews 1:3 make this very clear: Jesus Christ is *"the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being."* It also means that he is the sustainer of all things, and the ultimate ruler for now and for eternity.

2. Have you ever wrestled with the idea of Jesus being both God and man? \_\_\_\_\_  
How does this passage help you in explaining what this means? \_\_\_\_\_

*“And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.” -- Ephesians 1:22-23*

Ephesians is full of analogies of the church being the body of Christ, with Jesus as the head, which contains the brain and directs everything a body does, and the people of God being the members of the body who have various functions. In this first reference to the body of Christ, Paul is speaking primarily about how Jesus brings fulfillment through the church

3. How is the church, the body of believers, central to God’s plans for the universe? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Looking back over the past two sessions, how has the study of Ephesians chapter one enlarged your view of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

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• Did you learn anything new? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. If someone were to pray for you as Paul did, what is one specific way you would want God to change your life? \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Digging Deeper**

*For those who want to do more personal reflection on this topic.*

#### **Another model for prayer from the Apostle Paul**

In this study we’ve seen a very effective way to pray for others. Paul expresses many kinds of prayers in his letters to the churches. Let’s see what we can learn from this one:

*“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count*