

Blueprint: God's Design for the Church

You Got the Power

Ephesians 1:15-23

Bro. Kory Cunningham

I have to admit, I have not been deathly afraid in a long time, but this past week I was absolutely terrified. I have been helping my dad and my granddad get the harvest in and one of my jobs as the grandson is to drive the semis. We have three semis; a 1999, a 2000, and a 2001, they are all Freightliners. We started in Demumbers Bay and we filled one of the trucks up, the 2001, and my job was to get it from the field to the granary. Demumbers Bay is in LBL, and it is down a really small backroad. As you come out of the field and you go down this really small backroad, there is a giant hill. It is a hill that many jeeps probably couldn't make it up, but I am supposed to make it up with a semi with 80,000 pounds of grain that I am hauling. Now, the problem with the semi that I am in is it is lacking in power. It has the least amount of power of any of our semis and I know this. So I'm approaching the hill and I get to the bottom, and my heart already begins to pump a little bit because I know there is a good chance that I am not going to make it up the hill I am about to go on. When you look at it from the bottom, it is straight up and down, completely vertical. So, I'm coming up with this semi, get to the bottom, and my granddad has always told me if you put it in low, you will make it up any hill (I think he just tells me that,) so I put it in low and I am at the bottom and I start going up this hill. It is almost like a roller coaster, you are at the bottom and it is like, tick...tick...tick, and I am just straight up. Here I am in this semi, going straight up this hill, and I cannot even see the top yet. In my

head, all I am thinking is as long as I get the tach at 1500 rpms I'm going to be ok, because the engine is not revving too much, but it has plenty of power and it is going to make it up the hill. As I get going, I'm doing ok. Then I get about halfway through, and I start squeezing the steering wheel a little bit harder. I am halfway up and I look to the left—there is a ditch. I look to the right—there is a ditch. In the rearview mirror, I see that it is a long way to the bottom and I realize if this thing does not make it up, I will start going down as fast as I was going up and it is not going to be pretty. I squeeze the steering wheel with everything I have. I am in a tense motion right now, I'm looking at the tachometer and holding it at 1500 rpms, and I begin some major intercession prayers with the Lord...*Lord Jesus, please just get me up this hill.* Then it happens. I hear a clank sound, which is never good when you are driving a semi, but it is really bad when you are driving it up a hill with 80,000 pounds of grain behind you. I look down and the engine light pops on—another bad sign when you are in a semi climbing a hill with 80,000 pounds of grain. Then my tachometer drops from 1500 rpms all the way down to 900 rpms, and all of a sudden, I know this is where Kory dies. This is not a good moment. My engine that was purring up this hill is now going unh...unh...unh. This whole semi is jumping, it is lurching, unh...unh...unh, and I have about 25 feet to make it to the top. So now, I am really squeezing the steering wheel hard. I am so tense I am praying out loud, "Please Lord Jesus, get me up this hill or come back right now, either one, but I need you to do something right now." I know if this thing dies, then the brakes and everything are gone and I am going down the hill. I am going to jackknife, it is going to be terrible, and I am not going to make it through this event. Finally, right at the very last two feet, it finally makes the crest of the hill and I begin to release a sigh of relief. I felt like I just had a workout! I am sweating profusely, I am terrified to death, and I make it over the top of the mountain. My heart begins to beat normally again and I shift into the next gear and I make it to the granary and back, but for about a minute and thirty seconds, I was absolutely afraid for my life.

I am telling you that story because I think some of you are right there where I was. Some of you right now are in a season of your life where you are on the hill and you are holding on and gripping the steering wheel, and

you are asking yourself—do I have enough strength? Do I have enough power to get on top of this hill? Can I really make it through? You are noticing what is going on in the world, you are reading the newspaper, you are looking at your news app, you are thinking this whole thing is coming unraveled, and you are wondering if you have enough power to get to the top. That was my question. Does this semi have the power to make it over the hill? The world around you looks like it is spinning out of control. Do you have what it takes to get through tomorrow?

For some of you it is not just the world outside, it is your world right now. The closeness of the circumstances around you feels like it is too heavy. It feels like you cannot make it. It feels like you do not have it within you to get where God wants you to be and you are asking—do I have enough strength? Is this going to work or am I going to end this? Am I not going to make it to the end? Am I not going to make it to the calling that God has called me to? Do I have the power to get where I am going? For those of you in that moment, or who are going to be in that moment, Paul is praying for you this morning. He is praying that you would feel and understand that the same power that God worked in raising Jesus from the dead is the same power He has towards you, and in you, and through you. You don't have the power, but He has the power to get you through whatever you are going through. He has the power to get you over the hill to where He is calling you.

I want us to look at this prayer. As Paul prays for us and reminds us what we have in Christ. He has just told us all about this wonderful salvation that we have, that God chose us. God's Son bought us and the Spirit sealed us. So in light of this wonderful salvation, Paul begins to pray specifically for the church at Ephesus who is going through some stuff. They are going to go through some trials and he is praying that they understand and know who God is, that they will have hope to their calling, that they would understand their worth in light of God's Kingdom, and that they would know the power they have--the power that God has worked towards them.

Scripture

"For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all."

Markers of Christianity

I want us to walk through these verses, beginning with verse 15. Paul tells us he is praying for this reason—because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and their love for all the saints. Paul is saying I am praying for you because I know you have the gospel and I know you are believers, and he brings in this marker to say this is what Christianity is. This is how you know that you have come to the faith. It is that you have faith in the Lord Jesus and also you have love for all the saints. If you wonder if you are really in Christ, those are two markers. If you are asking, do I really know the Lord? Have I been saved? Have I been regenerated? Have I been born again? Paul gives us these two markers to answer that.

- **Faith in Jesus**

The first marker is you have faith in the Lord Jesus. Faith is how you become born again. You put your faith and trust in the Lord Jesus and you

are born again, you are saved, you are redeemed. That is how you come to Christ; it is by faith in Him.

- **Love for the Saints**

How do you know your faith is real? How do you know that faith produces a life change? How do you know that it really stuck? Paul says you have a love for all the saints. That love for all the saints is one of the ways that you can investigate to see if your faith in Jesus really is true faith. If you really believe in the Lord Jesus and He really redeemed you from your sin and brought you into a new Kingdom with a new family, guess what you are going to do? You are going to love that family that you have been brought into. You are going to love the saints. You are going to love the people around you who also know the Lord because you share the gospel together. If you are thinking—*well, I don't know if I have faith yet*—do you have a love for other people who know the gospel? Do you have love for the church? Do you have love for the people of God? Do you have this kindred spirit that says you are not just another person, you are my brother, or you are my sister? There is a family connection between us that is an evidence, Paul would say, that you have true saving faith, that you have faith in the Lord and also love for the other saints. So, for those of us who do know the Lord, have faith in Jesus, and have a love for one another.

Paul's Prayer for Believers

- **To Know God**

What is Paul's prayer? What does he long for us? It is that we would know God more. That is Paul's prayer. He wants us to know God because the deepest need that we have is to truly know God, to know Him in an intimate way, to know Him in a deep way. As believers, our lives should be about pursuing more of God, to know Him more, to see His glory. Paul says—*I am praying you would have a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God, that you would know God more and more. That is what I am praying for you church.* Paul knew that what the Ephesian desperately needed was more of God. They needed to know Him more, to walk with Him more, to see Him more, because the more they knew God

the more they would trust Him, and then they could see how good God truly is. He wants them to know God.

Just think about how much we as people crave knowledge. Think about how much we crave knowing things. Think about your phone. If you have a smartphone, it probably has a news app and it's probably one you visit often because you want to know what is going on in the world. You have Google at your disposal, whether by a computer or smartphone, because we like knowing things. If you have a question, what do you do? You go to Google and you ask because you want to know. Wikipedia is going to tell you all about whatever you need to know. We have this desire to know—that is part of being a human being. Paul says the reason you have this desire to know is because you were made, ultimately, to know God. You were made for a relationship with God, to know Him fully.

- **To See God's Glory**

But notice what Paul says about God. He says God is the Father of glory. Paul wants us to know God and here is who God is—He is the Father of glory. Why does Paul connect knowing God with calling God the Father of glory? Why does Paul make a connection between knowing and glory? I think it is because he knows the two go together. Knowledge goes with glory. We want to know things that are glorious.

I think Apple does this probably better than anyone. Apple knows that glory is going to get people to want to know something, so whenever Apple is getting ready to unveil a product, they don't just unveil it, they shroud it with secrecy. They make sure nobody knows and they put out little hints that something is coming out but you have no idea what it is. This causes you to want to know, it causes you to want to pursue it, it causes you want to figure out what Apple is going to release. Then, they do an event. They don't just put it on the internet; they do a whole event. When they got ready to unveil the iPhone 10, they did this whole event and built a theater called the Steve Jobs Theater. I saw a little video of them walking around the theater with their phones and just being mesmerized at this theater they build just for the unveiling of a product. There were stairs that led into a theater with a giant screen, and this place

was packed out with people. Why? Because they wanted to see it. They wanted to be the first to see it because Apple does a really good job at making things glorious, making things attractive, making things that people are going to want to see. So, people pack out this theater, tune into the event on the internet, and they watch them come out on stage with something new. A guy comes out and he brings a new gadget, the iPhone 10. And guess what—it has no button. Wow, mind-blowing, right? A glass screen with no button.

As people, we pack out theaters and we watch because we want to see glory. We want to know glory. We are attracted to glory. That is why there is People magazine. Why? Because we want to see glorious people. We want to see pretty people. We want to know about the lifestyles of the rich and famous. We are attracted to glory. We want to know glory because there is a connection between knowledge and glory. The reason for this is because you were made to know the Father of glory. All those other things in this life that appear as glorious—they are little sparks, little flickers of glory, but God is the fire of glory. The more you pursue Him, the better He gets. Everything in the world that we are attracted to that flickers and shines, it has a little bit of glory, but Paul wants you to know there is a source of glory, a fountain of glory, a Father of glory, and His name is God. If you settle for the flickers or the sparks, you will always be disappointed. I mean, just imagine how glorious the iPhone 1 was. It was amazing. They showed it on the screen and compared the iPhone 1 to the iPhone 10. None of us would even want the iPhone 1 now; it looked ridiculous. And in twenty years, the iPhone 10 will be in a landfill somewhere. No one is going to care about them! They aren't going to matter one little bit because they are little flickers of glory that cannot last...but God is the Father of Glory, whom the more you pursue Him the better He gets. He is never going to be left in a landfill somewhere. When you pursue Him, you only get more and more satisfaction for your hungry soul because you were made for glory. You were made to know Him.

- **To Enlighten Our Hearts**

Paul is saying that the goal of your life should be to know God more and more, because the more you know Him the more you will see His glory and

the more His glory will satisfy your heart. He wants you to know God. In fact, according to one of the prophecies about the end (Habakkuk 2:14), it says there will be a time that "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters covers the sea." The goal of the universe is that one day the knowledge of the glory of God will fill the earth as water covers the sea. Think about that little metaphor there. How much does water cover the sea? TOTALLY. You cannot get any more water covering the sea. That is what it does. One day, this world will have the glory of God covering it as water covers the sea. We will know God fully in His glory. That is where the world is going.

Right now, as the church, we get to preview that because we get to see the glory of God right now. We get to pursue God in all of His glory. So what is Paul praying for? He is praying that we would know God and that we would know His glory, and then he prays that we would have "revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened." What does he mean by having the eyes of our heart enlightened? See, God has given us revelation, He has given us His Word, He has given us creation, He has revealed Himself to us in the world and in the Word, but we need illumination to truly see and know who He is. Without illumination, we will just read pages in a book and we are not going to connect to God. Without illumination, we will see a sunset but we will not connect to the God who created the sun. We desperately need illumination to see and know God and that is the Spirit's work in our lives. If you have the Holy Spirit within you, the Spirit is going to illuminate you to be able to see the cosmos as the glorious creation of God. The Spirit is going to illuminate you to be able to see the Word and those words are not just words, they are living, they are active, they are breathing, they are changing you.

My son, Crider, got this spy kit. He was all pumped about it. It came in this little box with all these little things, like glasses with mirrors. There were all these different things to use where you could go around the house and be like a detective or a spy. One of the things he got was a secret encoder. It was a magic marker, and he could write things on a piece of paper, but you couldn't see anything; it just looked like a blank piece of paper. He

said, "Hey, Dad, check this out." He takes out this flashlight with a blue light, clicks it, and he begins to shine it on the paper. All of a sudden, on the paper that was just a paper—now with this special blue light shining on it I can read a secret message that he has written to his brother, Finley. It said, "Meet me in the secret tunnel. TOP SECRET." He revealed something, his message to his brother. I could not see it before because I didn't have the eyes to see. But when I had the special flashlight, all of a sudden, I have illumination. Now I can see what was always there but was blind to my eyes.

That is what Paul is praying. He is praying the Spirit would do His work in you, to show you what has always been there yet you have been missing it. This isn't just some hyper spiritual thing; it is in the discipline of reading the Word of God. It is in the discipline of putting yourself in front of the Bible and reading and asking the Lord to show you the wondrous things in His Word, as David prayed. Pray that God will show you, that you might not just read but that you would see and know. That He would change you through His Word and give you illumination into what you read. That is what Paul is praying, not only that you would know God, but that you would be able to see and know the things that He has revealed to you.

What Paul Wants Believers to Know

What exactly does Paul want you to know? In this passage, he gives us three things. He says, "...that you may know *what...*," and then he gives us three different "what" phrases that he wants us to know. He wants us to know hope, he wants us to know riches, and he wants us to know power.

1. "that you may know *what* is the hope to which he has called you"

As we get to know God, the first thing that Paul wants us to know is that we have hope. We are a people of hope. Why? Because we know God, we know God is good, and we know God is for us and not against us. So we can have hope, no matter what hill we are on, no matter how bleak things look, we can have hope because God is working all things together for good for those who love Him. That means God is making us like Jesus through all those circumstances in our life. No matter how high the hill seems, no matter how much pain you feel in a trial, we can have hope

because God is doing something through that, and He has called us to be with Him for all of eternity. As we know Him, we know He is good, we know He is for us, no matter what is happening around us, so we can hope in that. The first thing is that we would hope—this relationship leads to hope.

2. “that we know *what* are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints”

It took me a while to process what this verse was saying. See, this is not dealing with our inheritance that God is giving us. This says, “...what are the riches of *His* [God’s] glorious inheritance in the saints.” It is not saying the inheritance God is giving *us*. He has already talked about that in the opening lines of Ephesians. Now God is talking about His own inheritance that we would know the riches of God’s inheritance. So, what is God’s inheritance? What is God going to inherit? What is God going to delight in? What is God going to take pleasure in? The saints. You and I, the church. We are God’s inheritance. We are the family God has bought before the foundation of the world that He is going to enjoy and take pleasure in through all of eternity.

Think about this for a moment. This reminds you that you have worth before God. You might see yourself as worthless, as being a nobody. You might think nobody cares about you, nobody wants you, but that is not true if you are a child of God, because God cares for you. God desires you. God loves you. You have worth before God. Why? Because you are His. That is why you have worth before God, not because you are so great, but because you are His, you are His possession, you have worth before Him, and He delights in you. God would talk to Israel about this all the time. He would say—*Israel, you are the apple of my eye, I have a special love for you*. He says that also about the church. He loves us. We are His inheritance, and some of you need to feel that this morning because some of you are really convinced that God doesn’t really love or care for you because of what all is going on. Be reminded that you are God’s inheritance. You are the culmination of the redemption story. It is a bride who comes to a table. It is children who come and feast forever with Him. God actually has pleasure with you and in you. Feel that. You are not

worthless. God loves you and He is going to delight in you. The Bible says that He sings over us. He is happy over you, not because how good you have been, but because He has put you in Christ. He is pleased with the life Christ lived for you, and now He sings and rejoices over you as a beloved son. That is how God sees you. He delights in you. You have worth before God. So know the riches of God's inheritance, which is the church—it is you; you are the inheritance of God.

3. "and *what* is the immeasurable greatness of His power towards us who believe"

Just notice how Paul lays that out. He does not say *and know the power that God has towards you*. He labors this point. He spends the whole rest of this prayer talking about this point. He does not want us to miss it. How does he describe the power towards us who believe? It is "immeasurable greatness." So how great is it? Well, you cannot measure it. It is immeasurable. You cannot get your mind around how great the power that God has towards you who believed.

When I was studying this, I was in McDonalds. I was typing out an outline and just listening to everyone around me talk about the world and all the problems, and everything that is going on. I opened up my email and started looking through my emails. One of the emails was from the Voice of the Martyrs. So I began to read this story of this pastor in India. He is an older guy, probably around seventy or eighty years old by the look of his picture. It talked about how he has been persecuted more than eight times. It talked about how the first time he was persecuted the police came and made him sign a piece of paper that would say he would never share the gospel again. He refused to do it and they broke every one of his fingers. It went on to tell of the various times he went and shared the gospel with his neighbor who then beat him with a bicycle chain. Then it told about the last time where there was an angry mob that came and beat him until he was unconscious. The pastor said that he praised God for it because one of those people that beat him, days later, ended up coming to Christ. He said, "My desire is to meet with every one of those people that beat me and share Jesus with them." Man! I thought here I am in McDonald's eating a cheese biscuit, sitting in a comfy seating area. I

thought...How do you do that? How do you go through that and not give up? How do you go through that and not abandon the faith? There are men and women all around the world who are facing that and worse. How in the world can they keep the faith? Then, I read this verse that they have immeasurable great power working towards them through God. It is God who got this pastor through that to the other side, so that he is now saying my life is to share Christ and I am going to keep on going.

I get to see that even here a little bit. Last Wednesday night I was walking through First Fruits Farm through all these different classrooms. There were various adults who have worked a full day, they are tired, they are spent, they want to go home and just chill out, but here they are in these rooms welcoming the next generation into these classrooms. They are praying over them, they are doing crafts with them, they are teaching them, and they are loving them. Why? Because they want the next generation to know the gospel. Rather than leaving work and just going home, they are coming and pouring themselves out because God's power is at work towards them. Then this weekend at Fall Retreat, the college and adults were coming and staying up really late and trying to pour themselves into middle and high school kids. I got there on Sunday afternoon, and by that time, they sort of looked like zombies. They looked they weren't sure if they were going to make it through this next session, but I saw the power of God working towards them as they poured out their lives for the next generation. We can see God is working towards the saints—this power that God has and the power He is working towards you. He will preserve you through the trials that you are in. He will give you the power to serve others. He will give you the power to fight sin. He will give you the power to go and make disciples because the power that He has towards you is immeasurable. It is endless! The power that he has, that He is working in you and through you is unlimited, so that you can be used for His ultimate glory.

The Same Power Worked in Jesus is Available to Us

That would really be enough for me right there, but Paul just ratchets the argument up and he keeps going. He says I don't think you are feeling this...I don't think you are getting what is at your disposal to get you

through what you are going through so that you will remain faithful and glorify the Lord through it. Again, how much power is available to you as a believer? We can't measure it—we have already gotten that point—but Paul says you can sure see it and feel it, because God has actually displayed it. We have actually seen God's work and we have seen God's working towards His Son, Jesus Christ. Paul is going to argue the power that God had, that He worked towards Jesus, is the same power that He is working in your life and towards you. I think Jeremy Camp really summarized this whole argument that Paul makes here when he sings, "The same power that raised Jesus from the grave lives in us." This is going to be his argument, so let's just feel it, let's just walk through these next verses.

How much power is available towards us? It is according to, it is based on, it is the same as this, Paul says, "...according to the working of His great might that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." Paul says that same power is available towards the saints—to get you up that hill, to get you through what you are going through.

Let's walk through this power that God displayed towards His Son. First, it says, He raised Him from the dead. What power does it take to cause a dead man whose been in a tomb for three days, no pulse, completely dead, heart has not beat for three days, to rise from the dead? God causes a stone heart to start beating again. The power that raised Jesus from the dead is the power that is towards you because God is also for you. He didn't just raise Him from the dead, as if that would not be hard enough, but after He raised Him from the dead, He ascended Him to the heavens. It says that He seated Him in the seat of power in the heavenly places. He raised Jesus, He ascended Him to His right hand, and Jesus sat down having accomplished all that the Father gave to Him. The power that God

was working in the Son caused Him to be able to seat Him at the seat of power.

Then, we see that God exalted Him. Notice it says "far above all rule and authority and power and dominion." That is what God did when He exalted Him far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion. Paul is trying to label all these things that we think are power and control, and he says, Jesus is far above all of those. Just this week there has been all sorts of power struggles happening. Just think about America and North Korea. We have this power struggle, right? We have our president on Twitter, tweeting out things. Then we have the president of North Korea saying things. There is a power struggle happening within our country and another country. Then we see this power struggle between the presidency and the NFL. It is a power struggle. Who has more power? Who is in control? Who can make who do what? There is power and authority at work. There have also been things like the Red Cross and our military aid fighting against a hurricane. Who is going to win out? How is this going to go down? We have these power struggles all around us and they are constantly like this because power is always struggling within other powers, other authorities, other dominions.

Paul wants us to know God has no power struggle. God is not in a power struggle with anybody. His son Jesus is far, not just above, he is FAR, out of the galaxy, above every other power, authority, dominion, in this present age and in all the ages to come. Jesus is far above all. He is the exalted one. He is not only the exalted one; He is also the sovereign one. What does Paul say? He is giving Jesus the name that is above every name now and forevermore. He is giving Jesus a name that is greater than any name that has ever been and that ever will be. He is the sovereign Lord of the universe and Jesus has authority. God's power has given Jesus authority.

Then, Paul says that God put all things under His feet and He gave Him as the head over us, who are the church. Think of this wonderful gift. God gave Jesus to be our head, to be the one in power, to be the one who owns us and rules over us. Jesus is the sovereign Lord. He is the chief Shepherd of Hardin Baptist church. He is our head.

As a staff, we use an app called Slack that helps us communicate with each other. We can share files and do all kinds of different things with it, but it is mostly helpful for us to communicate with one another. I ended up finding this app several years ago so I am the one that had to be the administrator and had to set it all up. I got a new phone just this week because my other one broke, so I had to download the app to my new phone. I had to call Casey and say, "Casey, I don't know which email address I used for this, so could you look on your screen and tell me what email I used." She looks in my profile and it says, "Kory Cunningham owns Hardin Baptist Church." So she takes a picture of it and she texted it to Dad and she says, "Umm, Bro. Ricky, I think we have a problem." I think Dad's reply was something like, "I hope God doesn't mind Kory taking credit for what is truly His." The reality is that I definitely am not the owner of Hardin Baptist Church. No one is the owner of Hardin Baptist Church except the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the head. He is the one we follow. He is in charge of this church. We follow hard after Him. He is the head, He is the authority, and God has given Him as authority to us.

Warren Wiersbe says, "This head relationship what it means for us is that we have a real living connection between us and Jesus." There is a living connection between us. We are the body and He is the head. There is a living and real connection between us and God and here is what Jesus does for the church—He is the fullness that fills the church. He fills all of us. He fills the church, but also, He fills each one of us individually. What Paul would say is that is who Jesus is—the raised one, the ascended one, the exalted one, the sovereign one, the ruler of all things who is the head over all. That is who Jesus is, and it was the power of God who helped all of that happen.

Notice again what is says in verse 19, "...and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power towards us who believe." So how much power do you have towards you who believe? How much power is available to you? It is the same power that did all of that in the Son, towards the Son, as He did all of this in Christ. He says that same power is also available to you to get you to where God is calling you to go. You have power that is working in you, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.

The problem with me in that semi climbing that hill is that the semi truly did not have the power and I was scared to death. But do you know what? I climbed that hill again later and I had no fear. I was smiling the whole way up—but I was in a different semi. I was in our 1999 semi and that thing has got more than enough power. Here I am going up that hill, holding onto the steering wheel, 1500 rpms, smiling. I might have been singing. I am cruising up the hill and that engine is purring, it is humming, it does not miss a beat because this engine, this semi, has got the power. It can make it up that hill and more.

What is God trying to say to you this morning? God is saying—*Trust in me. Get to know me. Hope in me. Know your value in me.* He wants to say that if you are on that hill and you are thinking you are just not sure you can make it—*Do not worry I have got the power. You just keep pushing the pedal because I have the power. I will get you to where I have called you to be because it is not you, it is not your strength, but it is the immeasurable greatness in the power I have towards you.* God's got the power.