Session 1; read aloud during Slide 2

Isaiah 40:28-31 (750 years before Christ): Don't you know? Haven't you been listening? Yahweh is the one and only everlasting God, the Creator of all you can see and imagine! He never gets weary or worn out. His intelligence is unlimited; he is never puzzled over what to do! 29 He **empowers** the feeble and **infuses the powerless with increasing strength**. 30 Even young people faint and get exhausted; athletic ones may stumble and fall. 31 But **those who entwine their hearts with Yahweh will experience divine strength**. They will rise up on soaring wings and fly like eagles, run their races without growing weary, and walk through life without giving up.

Colossians 1:26-27 (Decades after Christ ascended). There is a divine mystery—a secret surprise that has been concealed from the world for generations, but now it's being revealed, unfolded and manifested for every holy believer to experience. 27 Living within you is the Christ who floods you with the expectation of glory! This mystery of Christ, embedded within us, becomes a heavenly treasure chest of hope filled with the riches of glory for his people, and God wants everyone to know it!

Ephesians 1:19-20 (Decades after Christ ascended): I pray that you will continually experience the immeasurable greatness of God's power made available to you through faith. Then your lives will be an advertisement of this immense power as it works through you! This is the mighty power 20 that was released when God raised Christ from the dead and exalted him to the place of highest honor and supreme authority in the heavenly realm!

Galatians 2:20 (Decades after Christ ascended): My old identity has been co-crucified with Christ and no longer lives. And now the essence of this new life is no longer mine, for the Anointed One lives his life through me—we live in union as one! My new life is empowered by the faith of the Son of God who loves me so much that he gave himself for me, dispensing his life into mine!

Philippians 4:13 (Decades after Christ ascended): I'm trained in the secret of overcoming all things, whether in fullness or in hunger. And I find that **the strength of Christ's explosive power infuses me** to conquer every difficulty.

Ephesians 6:10 (Decades after Christ ascended.) This verse **leads**(!) "The Armor of God verses, vv.11 onward): **Now my beloved ones, I have saved these most important truths for last: Be supernaturally infused with strength through your life-union with the Lord Jesus. Stand victorious with the force of his explosive power flowing in and through you.**

Session 2; read aloud during Slide 3

Romans 8:10-11. Now Christ lives his life in you! And even though your body may be dead because of the effects of sin, his life-giving Spirit imparts life to you because you are fully accepted by God. 11 Yes, God raised Jesus to life! And since God's Spirit of Resurrection lives in you, he will also raise your dying body to life by the same Spirit that breathes life into you!

Romans 8:26. the Holy Spirit takes hold of us in our human frailty to empower us in our weakness. For example, at times we don't even know how to pray, or know the best things to ask for. But the Holy Spirit rises up within us to super-intercede on our behalf, pleading to God with emotional sighs too deep for words.

Hebrews 4:16. So now we draw near freely and boldly to where grace is enthroned, to receive mercy's kiss and discover the grace we urgently need to strengthen us in our time of weakness.

Hebrews 5:2. Since the High Priest is also one who is clothed in weakness, he humbles himself by showing compassion to those who are ignorant of God's ways and stray from them.

2nd Corinthians 12:9-10.

Paul divinely hears Jesus telling him:

"My grace is always more than enough for you, and **my power finds its full expression through your weakness**."

through your weakness

Then, Paul says to us,

"So I will celebrate my weaknesses, for when I'm weak I sense more deeply the mighty power of Christ living in me."

ESV & NRSV. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; **for whenever I am weak, then I am strong**.

NIV. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **For when I am weak, then I am strong**.