



## Where is God's power to be found?

We might look to science to give us perspective on life. We might come up with naturalistic explanations for how things have come to be. We might want to experience the supernatural to confirm there is a spiritual dimension to life. But the book of Romans reminds us the power of God is to be found in the gospel: that in the Lord Jesus Christ, God has revealed His goodness. A scientific or naturalistic approach to God could not reveal this. Supernatural or miraculous experiences are ambiguous.

We might even miss the power of God as we read Romans. But the power of God is revealed in the gospel, which is carefully explained in Romans. In fact Romans has inspired amazing changes in the world and people's lives.

The catalyst for the Protestant Reformation Martin Luther (in 1515) wrote of his experience of studying Romans:

*"Night and day I pondered until ... I grasped the truth that the righteousness of God is that righteousness whereby, through grace & sheer mercy, God justifies us by faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before the 'righteousness of God' had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet in greater love. This passage in Paul became to me a gateway to heaven."*

In the Lord Jesus Christ we realise God is with us: that the power and forgiveness of God can be experienced in our daily lives. That being a Christian does not take us out of the normal struggles of life, but enables us to know God is caring for us in our struggles. He is working His good purposes in us, whether we're aware of them or not. The gospel reveals this world is not all there is, but in Jesus Christ those who respond to God are His children.

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