

# The Power of His Resurrection

by Major Ian Thomas

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of letting God be God in our lives, trusting in His power and ability to accomplish anything.*

**Duration:** 42:35

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 16:1, Psalm 107:20, Luke 1:30, John 6:37, Ephesians 2:8, Philippians 2:12

**Topics:** "Resurrection"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of demonstrating the presence of God in every aspect of our lives. He uses the story of David and Goliath to illustrate the power of faith over physical weapons. The preacher highlights that God is not looking for worldly accomplishments or talents, but rather for individuals who have learned to live by the principle of faith. He also emphasizes the significance of God's word, particularly Jesus Christ, as the ultimate expression of God's message.

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## Transcript

The Apostle Paul, in the fullness of time, God sent his son, born of a woman, to redeem them that were under the law. The psalmist, he satisfied the longing soul and he filled the hungry soul with goodness. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death.

He broke their bands in thunder. He sent his word and healed them and delivered them from their destructions. He sent his word.

Or let's put it another way, God gave us his word. The biggest thing God ever said. Jesus Christ, his incarnate son and our Saviour and our Lord.

And when God wanted to say the biggest thing he ever said, his eyes ran to and fro throughout the whole earth looking for a young lady, hardly more than a teenager, whose heart was perfect toward him. For the eyes of the Lord ran to and fro throughout the whole earth looking for the man, the woman, the boy or girl whose heart being perfect toward him, he may show himself strong on their behalf. So if at the outset of this introductory evening session tonight, you turn with me just for a moment to the first chapter of Luke's gospel.

Luke and chapter 1. God sent his angel to this young lady, this virgin girl. And through the lips of his servant, the angel Gabriel, God said, Fear not Mary, verse 30, thou hast found favour with God. Now

when did Mary find favour with God? Humanly speaking, this is our first introduction to the young lady.

We have the foreshadowing of course, as all of us know in the Old Testament. That foreshadowing that God gave us in the third chapter of the first book in the Bible, Genesis 3.15, God rebuking Satan. I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed, it the seed of that woman.

Jesus, to be born of Mary, shall bruise your head. In the process you will bruise his heel. In the seventh of Isaiah, God said, I will give you a sign.

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son. Thou shalt call his name, God with us, Emmanuel. The word incarnate, the word made flesh.

The word who was in the beginning with God was God and by whom all things were made. In the ninth chapter, unto us a son is given. His name, everlasting father, mighty God, wonderful counsellor, prince of peace.

And the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this, something inexplicable, apart from a divine intervention. Without human explanation. So, the foreshadowing is there in the Old Testament that this is our first personal encounter with Mary.

And to this young lady, little more than a teenager, God says, you have found favour. When did she find favour? We know nothing about her educational background. We don't suppose that she ever went to Bible school.

She never hit the headlights. But you see, God had been watching the little girl grow up. For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, looking, looking simply for any boy, any girl, any man, any woman, anywhere, who will let God, as God, be strong on their behalf.

And in all kinds of little ways in which we are totally unaware, this young girl, in her early childhood and in her early teenage years, had learned to reckon with God on the assumption that, as God, He was big enough for the job. Nothing more complicated than that. Nothing that was recorded for your information or mine, till now unnamed, unsung, unknown, unrecognized.

But that's exactly where God chooses. Those through whom He's going to accomplish His timeless end. Every now and again, of course, that choice, based upon their disposition, surfaces.

And the world becomes aware of their availability. And the things that God is pleased to accomplish through them. Not always, always at once.

But long ever before any boy, girl, man or woman comes out into the limelight, recognized to be the human vehicle of the divine end, God's been watching. That's where He selects each one of us. In the little nitty-gritty things that are unknown, unsung, unadvertised.

But where He sees us demonstrating a certain disposition toward God that allows Him to move magnificently in all the power and dynamic of deity into our human circumstances, allowed by us, in His faithfulness, responding to our faith, to demonstrate His integrity. That has found favor. That's why God didn't expect her to be shocked, overwhelmed, incredulous, or cynical, when He made a fantastic proposition.

Fear not, Mary, thou hast found favor with God. Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, he shall be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David, and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom, of which he will be king.

There shall be no end. And not in cynicism, not in incredulity, but with wide-eyed wonder, says she to him, God's messenger, how shall this thing be, seeing I know not a man? The physical premise? Absent. Betrothed, yes, indeed, to a man called Joseph, but the marriage not yet consummate.

The answer was very simple. God's answer always to the question in our hearts as to how some divine end is to be accomplished. God, the holy girl, shall come upon thee, and the power of the highest shall overshadow thee, therefore also that holy thing that shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Absolutely no exclamation but God himself, the zeal of the Lord of hosts, will do this. And by the way, Mary, just for your encouragement, it may interest you to know that your cousin is in the sixth month and in three months' time another little baby boy is going to be born, John the Baptist, of whom it was said of her, Elizabeth, that she was barren, infertile, physically incapable of bearing. So, for your encouragement, with Elizabeth, Mary, it was too late, and with you it's going to be too early.

Because, you see, with God nothing shall be impossible. What was her reaction? Well, the reaction of Mary, presented with this fantastic proposition, was precisely that that God anticipates of any boy, girl, man or woman whose heart is perfect towards Him. And you cannot find anywhere in the Bible a more magnificent nor simpler illustration of the true substance of faith.

Behold, said she, the handmaid of the Lord available. Be it unto me according to your word. That's all.

In all its sublime simplicity. In other words, said she, to God's servant, the angel Gabriel, God said it. Let him do it.

What do you think God does when He has any boy, girl, man or woman in His presence for whom He has some delightful plan, part of His timeless strategy, and who, presenting the proposition, simply looks into God's face and says, You said it. You do it. He does it.

And that boy, girl, man or woman has learned the secret of living miraculously. A quality of life that has no possible explanation but God Himself in action. Every great missionary enterprise has been established on that simple basis where some boy, girl, man or woman, finally in the presence of God, presented with the proposition, faced with incredible odds, humanly speaking, everything impossible, simply said, God, You said it.

You do it. And He did it. And of course in that simple way we discover why it is that God chooses this one and that one and ignores so many others who to us might seem highly commendable and highly qualified.

You remember how in the fifth chapter, the first of Paul's two epistles to the Thessalonians, Faithful is he that calls you who will also do it. In other words, everything to which God calls you or me, He Himself, as God, is prepared to do. So what would be illogical about anything to which God calls us? Absolutely nothing.

Reiterated, of course, in the second chapter of Paul's epistle to the Philippians where he says, More in my absence than in my presence work out your own salvation with free and friendly because everything that

God ever gave me when I was converted, God gave you. For it is not Paul the Apostle, it is God who works in you both to will and do of His good pleasure. But what would be illogical about anything that God wills for you and for me if He as God, having willed it, prepared Himself as God to do it? Nothing.

And this is the sheer simplicity of the Christian faith so long as you and I are prepared to settle for God's terms. And that is that He as God just happens to be big enough for the job and created you and me so engineered that the presence of the Creator in all the fullness and dynamic and illimitable resources that are inherently His as God, so created, so engineered man, that the presence of that Creator within the creature is indispensable to His humanity. And so all He asks of you and me is that disposition which the Bible calls faith that lets God do it.

But you know, the Lord Jesus said in the 22nd chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, Many are called, but few are chosen. Why do you imagine that the many who are called so few are chosen? Well, I trust that by now the answer is demonstrably obvious. Faithful is He that calleth you who will also do it.

And to the many who are called so few will let Him do it. So few will adopt that childlike simple relationship to God that actually lets all God loose, releases the divine energy, and allows Him to flesh out in your humanity and mine those eternal purposes that are quite beyond our human reach but gloriously possible to the God of the impossible. Of the many who are called so few will let Him do it.

But Mary, you see, was chosen because she was prepared to let God do it, and God knew it. That's why He chose her, because He had been watching, watching. In all those years of insignificant little things in which she demonstrated a disposition, a very simple disposition.

She didn't tell God that she'd take on the job and roll up her sleeves and clench her fists and grit her teeth and say, leave it to me. She fully was cognizant of the fact that it was beyond her reach. And so her disposition in saying, you said it, you do it, was simply, I can't.

You never said I could. You remember? But you can. And always said you would.

She'd learned that as a child. And we've discussed this on many occasions when it's been my joy to minister to some of you folks here. I can't.

God never said I could. He can. Always said He would.

Now, if you can't and God can, what's the smartest thing to do? Let Him. And the moment you've learned that, you've learned what it means, first, to become a Christian, and secondly, how to be the Christian you've become. How did you become a Christian? What did you have to do to redeem your soul? How much did you have to pay? What examination did you have to sit and pass? What long list of good works or self-improvement did you have to present to God in order to know that you were redeemed? Well, you say, there was nothing of that.

He said, Whosoever cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out. He said, My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me, and I give to them eternal life. And there came a day in my life when my soul awakened to a sense of need.

I recognized what He said. And in that moment of true repentance toward God and simple faith in Jesus Christ, I said, You said it, you do it. And He did it.

And you're redeemed. And you wouldn't claim one iota of credit for the fact because you simply took, though you didn't deserve it, what God delights to give who don't deserve what He's waiting to give. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God's eternal life.

And all you did was say, You said it, you do it. Thanks. And He did it.

Well, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him. In other words, enjoy His life in you now as you once enjoyed His death for you then and reckon with the fact that the One who gave Himself for you rose again from the dead to give Himself to you so that you can step out into the dawn of every new day marvelously energized and furnished unto every good work by the divine presence of One who clothes His activity with your redeemed humanity. And every new situation arises no matter whether it be threat or promise, opportunity or responsibility, you bow yourself out, you bow Him in and say, Lord Jesus, You so engineered me as my Creator, God and Redeemer that Your presence within me is indispensable to my humanity and I want to know that I'm counting on the fact that in this particular situation, at this particular moment, You're big enough for the job.

Thanks. You're in business. Now, isn't that simple? Now, this is a principle to live by and it's a principle we're going to talk about this week.

You see, when David looked at that lion, that lion looked so big. Then David looked at God and that lion, he says, looked so small. So I slew him.

Isn't that simple? You see, when he looked at the lion, it looked so big and he felt so small but when he looked at God, God looked so big and the lion looked so small. So he did a very sensible thing. He slew him.

What a complicated way of living. And David would go on to tell you, he said, When I looked at that bear, that bear looked so big. I felt so small.

But then I looked at God and God looked so big and the bear looked so small. So I took him by the beard and slew him. Did anybody notice? Well, nobody on earth because the record isn't preserved for us until after the event.

And that's simply by his own testimony. But God was watching. And when you see, God saw that little shepherd boy deal with bears and deal with lions on God's terms of reference by that disposition within his heart that reckoned with the fact that the God in whom he trusted was big enough for bears and lions.

God said, I got a king. I got a king. Turn to it.

It's in the first book of Samuel, chapter 16. 1 Samuel and chapter 16. And God said to Samuel, Stop sobbing over King Saul.

Don't waste your sympathy and your pity. How long wilt thou mourn for Saul seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? God said to Samuel, Samuel, he's a writer. Fill thine horn with oil and go.

I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite for I have provided me a king among his sons. He said, I got a king. Now Samuel didn't know who it was.

Didn't even know how many sons Jesse had, but God did. And he knew precisely which of those eight sons would replace Saul as king of Israel. Just a little ruddy faced shepherd boy who had learned how to

deal with lions and had learned how to deal with bears on the simple basis that God just happens to be big enough to be God if only we'll let him loose and handle those situations with which we are confronted.

You see why so few of us enjoy the fantastic excitement of this miraculous quality of living that has no explanation but God himself is that we seldom learn to let God be as big as God is. We're always trying to be man-sized for God instead of allowing God to be God-sized in the man. Now David as a little boy had learned to let God be God-sized.

So God said, Thou shalt anoint unto me him whom verse 3 I name unto thee. God wasn't in any doubt as to who was going to be king of Israel because you see the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth looking for any little boy any little girl any man any woman anywhere who'll let God be God and in response to what the Bible calls a heart that is perfect toward God shows himself strong in their behalf. Isn't it interesting to think that God's accumulating names right now?

You've got a little family back home has God got a king or a little queen among your kids?

You teach a Sunday school class Bible class preach in some pulpits when you look at those faces in front of you some looking sleepy others looking unpromising some looking unintelligent every now and again one who appears to be alert don't be deceived somebody beautifully dressed and somebody a little shabby somebody obviously the byproduct of an affluent society somebody only just making the grade just get excited about what you don't know because you see tucked away within the heart of some boy, girl, man or woman in that congregation God's got a king and he knows because he's been watching that bunch of rascals you teach on Sunday morning chewing gum looking out of the window sticking pins in the one in front God's got a king in that bunch because all kinds of things are going on in

the hearts of those kids that you don't know about in ways that are unsound and unseen but one day it's going to surface always have an unshakable confidence in the word of God and the power of God the Holy Ghost to take that truth that you present in general and make it the truth in particular to most unlikely people and in their own hearts maybe too timid too shy too reserved too admitted they're beginning to experiment in the silence of their heart in those little things of life that are immensely important and meaningful to them and mean absolutely nothing to anybody else but in those areas of experiment they're letting God be God they're growing in a way that you would never dream until the day one day God says I've got a king Samuel did verse 4 that which the Lord spoke he came to

Bethlehem and they were somewhat alarmed at his presence come as thou said they peaceably he said yes peaceably I'm going to church why don't you sanctify yourselves and come to church with me and it came to pass verse 6 when they were come that Samuel looked upon Eliab and from the sheer physique of the man fine magnificent perfect specimen of humanity he said to himself surely the Lord's anointed is before him but God said uh uh the Lord said to Samuel look not on his countenance or on the height of his stature because I have refused him don't be impressed by his physique man looketh on the outward appearance of Samuel but the Lord looketh on the heart I'm not looking for muscle I haven't counted the hairs on his chest I've been looking at his heart what concerns me Samuel is a man's

disposition not an impression he can make on his fellow human beings his heart so if you're thinking about Eliab said God to Samuel forget it I have refused him then Jesse called Abinadab made him pass before Samuel and God said again uh uh so Jesse made Shammah to pass by and God said uh uh and so Jesse brought four other sons and God said uh uh uh uh uh seven times God said uh uh and when God says uh uh he means uh uh so finally you see Samuel said you've got any more sons we're running out running

out of sons I hear said he to Jesse verse 11 I hear all thy children and he said there remaineth yet the youngest and behold he keepeth the sheep just a kid in the hillside and Samuel said unto him send and pet him and we will not sit down till he come hither and he sent and he brought him

in he was running and with all of a beautiful countenance and goodly to look on and the Lord said arise anoint him this is he I've got a king then Samuel took the horn of oil and he anointed him in the midst of his brethren and the spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward so Samuel rose up and he went to Ramah touch away in that family a little boy had learned to deal with lions and learned to deal with bears on God's terms of reference you'll remember that King Saul himself whom God rejected as a young man was of no mean stature the son of a Benjamin whose name was Kiss hmm in terms of this I'm citing from the ninth chapter you're familiar with the facts he had a son whose name was Saul a choice young man and a goodly there was not among the children of Israel a goodly, a

person than he from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people and he was rejected because he was a moral coward because he played to the gary he wanted to be popular and for the moral coward he was he always blamed the people they did it and God said I've rejected him no matter how impressive he may have been as a young man he ended up by his own testimony a man who played the fool now we're told in the 17th chapter of the first book of Samuel and the third verse that the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side and there was a valley between them and there went out a champion out of a camp of the Philistines named Goliath a gap whose height was six cubits in a span and he had a helmet of brass upon his head and

he was armed with a coat of mail and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass and the Philistines said verse 10 I defy the armies of Israel this day give me a man that we may fight together and when Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistines they were dismayed and greatly afraid who do you think they were looking at? well the giant you see they hadn't learned the principle that a little shepherd boy had come to know and seen his sheep on the hillside and these you see the king and his men when they looked at the giant felt so small but David came around because he'd been sent if you remember by his dad to bring some packed lunch for the all the brothers and a few cheeses for the captain and all the men of Israel verse 24 of that chapter when they saw the man

fled from him and were so afraid and the men of Israel said have you seen this man that has come up surely to defy Israel if he come up it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free to Israel in Israel and David you know sort of talking to his older brothers and taking the cheeses listened to their conversation so finally he muscled up somebody and said verse 26 what shall be done to the man that kills this Philistine and take it away the reproach from Israel and by this time David was getting quite quite indignant who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God and finally you see he had become the sort of talk of the town this was the whippersnapper

and they brought him to David and they brought him to Saul and in verse 32 David said to Saul let no man's heart fail because of him thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine and Saul needless to say said to the Philistine I am not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him but a youth you are only a kid he is a man of war from his youth and then David told the story he said thy servant verse 34 kept his father and there came a lion and a bear and took a lamb out of the flock and I went out after him and I smote him mind you he said to the king when he looked when I looked at the lion he looked so big but when I looked at God he looked so small so I killed him and then that bear came and that bear learned

nothing from the lion and when that bear came he looked so big

and I felt so small but then I looked at God and God looked so big and that bear looked so small and I smote him thy servant verse 36 slew both the lion and the bear and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them he, he hath defied the armies of the living God the Lord that delivered me out of the port of the lion and the Lord that delivered me out of the port of the bear he, that God will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine now that's quite an arguing with David and so said so and the Lord be with thee a very pious thought he'd much rather David go than go himself and David we're told in verse 40 took his staff in his hand chose him five smooth stones out of the brook and his sling in his hand of course when the Philistine came he mocked him and said you think I'm a

dog that you come out against me with a stick and the Philistine cursed David by his gossip then said David verse 45 to the Philistine thou comest to me with a sword and with a spear and with a sheath I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts the God of the armies of Israel whom thou hast defied you haven't defied me you haven't defied King Saul you haven't defied this army of men you've defied the living God this day will the Lord deliver thee into my hand and I will smite thee and I'll take thine head from thee and I'll give thee the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth that all the earth may know that there is a champion to maintain the cause of Israel and David is his name then he said that all the earth

may know that there is a God in Israel a living, a real one a living one not a rubber dummy not just a name not a stained glass window not a melancholy history of somebody who lived long ago but a God who is alive and well and very much in business that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel and all this assembly shall know that the Lord sayeth not with sword and spear for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hands and God said I've got a king I've got a king you know this is the supreme privilege that God has given to you and to me to demonstrate precisely now today in the nitty-gritty of living on earth he's given to you and to me the privilege of demonstrating no matter what walk of life we may be in no matter what our human circumstance that there does

just happen to be in heaven a God who is big enough to do the job have your family found that out?

I mean you mums and dads by the way you confront your problems do your children know there's a God in the land who's alive and well and with whom you enjoy a living, intimate, dynamic robust, adventurous and related are you a pastor of a church? is your primary occupation to make quite sure that everybody knows there's a pastor in that particular church or are you particularly concerned that everybody, pastor or no pastor knows there's a God in that particular church who's alive and well teaching in a school? running a business downtown? pioneering some financial empire? what's your primary preoccupation? what you are what are you primarily concerned about? that everybody recognizes just how smart you are in business? or how fine you are a coach because your team always wins? what's your supreme preoccupation?

God has entrusted to you and to me one supreme priority and that is no matter whether it's in the home or in the business or whether it's in school or whether it's in church whether it's on vacation in every area of life you and I are to demonstrate indisputably by the quality of lives that we live and the way we handle our problems that there's a God in the land and He lives and David verse 49 put his hand in his bag and he took sense of stone on this planet and he smote the Philistine in his forehead that the stone sunk into his forehead and he fell upon his face to the earth so David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone and smote the Philistine and slew him but there was no sword in the hand of David no sword in his

hand but faith in his heart in a God whose eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth not looking for a fat bank balance not looking for a three and a half inch skin not looking for a whole string of academic degrees not looking for some built in inherent native talents and gifts all of which are perfectly legitimate and all of which if God so pleases he can use at his pleasure that's what he's looking for he's just looking for any little girl any little boy any man or woman totally unknown unsung unrecognized he's learned a principle to live by no sword in his hand but faith in his heart in a God whose eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth looking for any boy girl, man or woman his heart being perfect toward him are such that he God being who he is can show himself strong on their behalf and then there's only one person to be congratulated God himself what a delightful thing it is that we have been redeemed in the precious blood of God's dear son that we might be sealed by the Holy Ghost so that the Lord Jesus on earth today may close himself with our humanity and others looking into our face who will say isn't Jesus Christ marvellous because we've learned to live to the praise of his glory reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord and it's also simple so long as we're prepared to let him do it of course if you don't you'll fight your own bears you'll fight your own lions and you'll fight your own giants and you know what you'll find out that the bears and lions and giants that you meet are just as busy as you think they are when you look at yourself instead of looking at God but he's told us to reign in life by one Christ Jesus and be more than conquerors through him that loves you and to embark upon that incredible adventure whereby every day dawns making ourselves available to the living Christ who's promised to close himself with our humanity and all his divine activities we look into his face and say he said it he did it I can't but you can and that's all I need to know let's go

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