

Session 3: How Do We Get the Power to Live the Christian Life?

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: 2 Timothy 2:1.

B. The righteousness of Christ gains us acceptance with God and the power that we need for the Christian life comes from the Holy Spirit.

1. By nature, Timothy is timid. (2 Timothy 1:7; 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Corinthians 16:10)
2. Timothy is facing a situation that will worsen. (2 Timothy 3)
3. Grace is Paul's solution to Timothy's predicament. In this case, the grace that was needed was courage.

C. We do not have the motivation within ourselves to live out the Christian life.

II. The strength that we need for the Christian life will come from outside of us- from the Holy Spirit.

A. The Christian life always involves building and watching- but God builds and watches with the builder and the watcher. God enables and we execute. (Psalm 127:1)

1. The Spirit works monergistically- that is, in some respects He works apart from our involvement. (Hebrews 13:20-21; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
2. The Spirit also works synergistically. This is qualified synergism- that is, He enables us to do the work He calls us to do.

III. Through relying on Christ to strengthen us, we can meet any challenge in the Christian life. (Philippians 4:10-13ff; Colossians 1:28-29; Colossians 4:12)

A. Paul struggles or "agonizes" for those he has not met in prayer.

B. Paul toils or "works to the point of exhaustion" in the ministry.

C. The ministry is draining and reliance on God's spirit does not eliminate the hard work. The power of the Holy Spirit does not make our hard work unnecessary- it makes our hard work effective. This is true of ministry and of sanctification.

D. We must depend on the Holy Spirit to enable us to be in practice what we already are in standing before God.

Application questions:

1. What does relying on the Holy Spirit for strength practically look like in your daily life?

2. What is the difference between “practice” and “standing” that Jerry refers to in his last point?

3. How can we find hope as we “work hard” on the bad days?
