

## **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?

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

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

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