

TITLE: EMPOWERED OVER DEATH

TEXT: Romans 8: 9-11

Big Idea: The Holy Spirit empowers us to live a victorious life enabling us with divine possession, divine power, and divine prospect.

Introduction

- The resurrection of Jesus is the most important event for every Christian. This is what our faith is based upon.
- Christians in the New Testament base their faith on the resurrection of Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 15: 14, “And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.”
- “The resurrection power of Jesus secured for us a newness of life.” — Lailah Gifty Akita.
- Paul says there's a connection between what has happened to Jesus and what happens to us. So Jesus didn't just die and rise, but in Him, we died with Him. We rose with Him and that has massive implications. That's not just symbolic. We spiritually have been raised with Christ.
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ is important as a testimony to the resurrection of human beings, which is a basic tenet of the Christian faith.
- God did not leave us on our own to live the Christian life. God sent Jesus to forgive us of our sins, and God sent the Holy Spirit to help us live a life that is pleasing to him.
- Paul described what it's like when we live according to a sinful nature. Now he describes what it's like when the Spirit of God lives in us.
- Paul tells us three things that happen when the Spirit of God lives in us. There is...

I. A FRESH POSSESSION [Romans 8:9]

- Paul writes, “*If indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you*”[v.9b]. Not only are we now in the Spirit, but the Spirit is in us. This is a mutual indwelling. We now are living in the realm of the Spirit, and the Spirit is living within us.
- We are controlled by the Spirit. When we are truly born-again, the Spirit of God lives in us.
- We don't want to think in terms of being controlled like a robot. The idea is more along the lines of what is the primary influence in our life. Before we became a believer, our sinful nature ruled or dominated our life. But now that we have come to Christ, the Holy Spirit becomes the new dominant force in our life. We are no longer controlled by our sinful nature but by the Spirit.

II. A FRESH POWER [Romans 8:10]

- Please note how interchangeably the Holy Spirit and Christ are used. In the previous verse, Paul said the Holy Spirit is in us. Now, he says that Christ is in us. Christ is in us by His Spirit.
- To have the Spirit is to have all of Christ within us. In reality, Christ indwells us by His Spirit.
- Our body doesn't change when we become a Christian. It is still dead because of sin. In other words, it is still a mortal body. Our sins have been forgiven, and we have been freed from the power of sin, but the results of sin still linger in our body. We still get old, we still get sick and we will still die.
- But even though our body is still dead because of sin, our spirit is alive because of righteousness.
- Jesus is the One who accomplished, achieved, and secured righteousness for us. Because Jesus was successful in His mission of salvation, the Spirit of God can now work to make us alive and apply the salvation that Jesus accomplished.
- We are made alive in our spirit by the Holy Spirit, therefore, we have a new power to live the Christian life that we never had before. We are now alive unto God, the truth of Scripture, and the kingdom of God.

III. A FRESH PROSPECT [Romans 8:11]

- We established in verse 9 that the Spirit of God dwells in the believer. Notice He is the Spirit of God the Father in verse 11 and the Spirit of Christ in verse 9. It is interesting how interchangeable each person of the Trinity is. It is not modalism, which means just one person. There are three Persons within the Trinity. These verses point us to the reality of the Trinity.
- Our spirit has been redeemed on the inside by regeneration, and at the end of the age, there will be the redemption of our body. Our total person will be redeemed, both spirit and body.
- Notice the connection between Christ's resurrection and ours. God raised Jesus from the dead. We have the Spirit of God living in us. Therefore, God will raise us from the dead also. This is the hope of every believer. Those who died with Christ will be raised with Christ.

CHALLENGE: Resurrection Sunday reminds us that there is nothing to fear, even death!

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain"- 1 Corinthians 15:58.

DISCUSSION:

1. Describe your Christian life. Do you find it difficult or easy?
2. According to what you have learned today, what should you do to overcome your difficulties?
3. How can you live a life that is pleasing to the Lord? Share.