

THE FRAILITY OF MAN, THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT (Chapter 3 The Power of the Spirit)

Now that we know why man cried out for the Law, and why the Law was necessary we need to understand the Power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish both.

First, we must realize the Holy Spirit is able to change us from the inside out. His dwelling in our hearts is not just a cliché but a reality. Only He can, and only we can allow Him to do so. (**1 Cor 3:16**: *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*)

We must never underestimate the purpose and power of the Holy Spirit in directing our lives and giving us the power to do what He directs. Believers who attempt to live for God in their own strength are denying the very reason He the Holy Spirit was given. (**Acts 1:8**: *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*) We must never forget the purpose and power of the Holy Spirit is that we might be His witnesses in this dark world. It is so easy for us to get so wrapped up in self and our little world that we forget, and or ignore the broader purpose for out being filled with the Holy Spirit. Also take note it does not say the Holy Spirit is Power, but He is able to give us power for whatever God is calling us to do.

This is what Strong reference #1411 says about the word power as used here. (*dunamis*) force, miraculous

power, it means the ability to do or accomplish what we could not normally do without this power.

The Holy Spirit enables us to do and accomplish what we were not able to in the flesh.

Understand there is no greater hindrance to walking with and serving the Lord than sin. When we are standing on the precepts of sin it is like looking down into a giant black hole that we know we are about to fall into. This is when we must recognize that He the Holy Spirit is the only one who can give us the victory. Consider; **1 Cor 6:9-11**: Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, **10** nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

This portion eliminates us using grace as license to call ourselves believers and yet live a sinful life. The sorrow we feel concerning our sinful ways must not be of the flesh as that accomplishes nothing but of the Spirit. (**2 Cor 7:10**: *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.*) Take time to consider the weight of that verse. This is speaking to the practicing of sin, not simply having a fall as we all deal with that from time to time.

The idea of this chapter is overcoming the flesh by the

power of the Spirit. Consider this portion of scripture carefully; **Rom 7:18-25**: For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. **19** For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. **20** Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. **21** I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. **22** For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. **23** But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. **24** O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? **25** *I thank God — through Jesus Christ our Lord!*