

# Things of the Spirit - New Life

Yesterday I was at a funeral for a cousin that is gone way too soon. I don't like visitations or funerals. I'm awkward at them because I know that death is a lie. I know that as we saw last week when we looked at the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit, all will be raised, the just and the unjust.

Then as a preacher, one of the hardest things to do is listen to other preachers when they don't have the same theology as you. So as this Catholic priest was sharing, I'm hearing things that are not true and things that are not biblical and I'm just hoping for a nugget of truth.....Jesus said that when you know the truth the truth will set you free.

So I'm waiting.....then I hear it. We are quantitative people. We are always looking at the quantity, the amount we have, the amount we can gain, and life is short. We don't have quantity in the number of years on this earth. Even someone who lives to be 100+, that's really not that long.

Life is not about the quantity, it's about the quality. Life is short, you can bank on that, and there isn't anything you can do about it, but you can choose to live it with excellence. And you can live a life that is superior to the life that you live right now.

There's this song by Micah Tyler - Different

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Church, THIS is what our prayer must be. Through the work of Jesus on the cross and in the grave, the power of the Holy Spirit can resurrect your life and any situation in it.

But what then? Is that it? There has to be something more. Jesus surely didn't die that brutal death on the cross just for us to have "another shot".....

What follows the resurrection? NEW LIFE

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

We are granted newness of life through Jesus Christ, and because of that do not live in the past.....you are not who you were.....and you should live with a renewed purpose.

Renewed purpose is the reason for new life.....it's the whole point. Purpose is the reason something exists or is done. You are offered new life through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.....and you are offered that new life for a reason.....renewed purpose....to know that you were created for a reason....saved for a reason.....

Jesus loves you and has a plan for your life! One that is just for you. One where you can make a difference in this world. One that is for Him!

It's up to you to seek Him and find out the specifics. But I'm going to get you pointed down the right path this morning. If you believe it, say Amen!

**Ephesians 4:1-3 (NKJV)**

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

When we see "therefore", it's important to look back at the preceding verses. Therefore means "as a result of" or because of that.....then, this....

In the first three chapters of Ephesians, Paul lays out some doctrine, the principles of Christianity. He tells the church what they need to know about faith in Jesus.

He tells about Jesus, what He has done, and our identity and position as believers. These are the things we need to not only know but also believe! You gotta think right if you are going to act right...

See we've got to know the doctrine before we can apply the doctrine. It's amazing how many people claim to be Christians yet do not know the principles of the faith that they claim. I'm not saying you have to know it ALL.....but how do you apply what you don't know?

So Paul lays out some doctrine (I encourage you to read Ephesians 1-3 this week).

Then Paul makes this transition here in chapter four....therefore.....as a result of who Jesus is, what He has done, and your identity and position in Him.....because of all of that....

I, a prisoner of the Lord, (someone who is captivated by the love and goodness of God), I encourage you.....I BEG you.....to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called.

Paul takes us from principle to practice.....Now that you know these things, here's what you gotta do! Christianity is a working faith....you don't work to get saved but when you get saved you work!

Paul is a guy who gets it, right? Paul was against Jesus, killing Christians, and Paul had this encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus that changed his life. Paul knows that he'd be a fool to turn back after such an encounter. Paul met has been overtaken by God's love for him.

He's been so affected that he is imprisoned by this love. He can't get away from it if he tried. Paul was literally in prison when he wrote this letter but here he says "the prisoner of the Lord"....

When you are in prison, you must rely on the person who has you locked up to provide food, water, clothing, shelter, all of your needs and even your wants if you can get them. And as prisoner of the Lord, Paul was reliant of Jesus by His Spirit, to provide all that he needed in life.

And it's from that position, he instructs us, encourages us, and even begs us...."to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called"

## WORTHY

How many of you feel worthy of the calling of God? I think sometimes words trip us up. We know we are not worthy. We know we are not deserving of what Jesus has done for us. We know we are not deserving of the Holy Spirit calling us to the kingdom to be a servant of the Lord!

But this isn't worthy as in deserving. Paul is not saying walk like you deserve the calling.....

For my nerds out there, the Greek word for **worthy** here is **AXIOS** (axe-ee-ah-oh) and it means having the weight of another, weighing as much as, of like value or worth. It literally means "bringing up the other beam of the scales."

So if you can picture an old set of scales, picture trying to balance the scales. What is on one side should be equal in weight to what is on the other side. Do you get that?

So something is being weighed.....what is being weighed? You have to look at what is on each side of the word worthy. "walk worthy of the calling with which you were called"

On one side you have **walk** and on the other side you have **calling**.

You start with your walk. In the church people talk a lot about their walk, meaning their walk with Jesus....their faith. But do you know that EVERYONE starts with a walk. Everyone has one no matter if they are with Jesus or not.

This walk is the person's life. It's where they are going, how they progress through life, how they conduct themselves. Everyone has a walk....the questions are: Who are you walking with? Where are you going?

Every person, if they are alive, they have **WALK** already on the scales and we begin with that side having all the weight, it's down to the floor.

But on the other side you have your **CALLING**.....this is your invitation by the Holy Spirit. This is not just salvation but the invitation of the Holy Spirit to live the life God created you for. The invitation to follow Jesus daily. The invitation to receive every spiritual blessing. The invitation to take up a new position as heirs and fellow members of the body of Christ!

Can I tell you that just like everyone has the walk.....everyone has the calling.....

The Holy Spirit is calling everyone to accept this invitation. Jesus died once for..... ALL. God so loved the .....WORLD. He desires that.....ALL would come to repentance.

“walk worthy of the calling with which you were called”

Picture the scales.....What Paul is saying is to PLEASE let your walk....your life....be balanced by your calling. By default, life is all about me....what I want....what I need....my family.....my time.....my money.....my \_\_\_\_\_.

It's one sided. Life is one sided when everything in our life is about us. You must let the calling that God has for your life, bring balance to your life!

The life you live should be balanced by the life Jesus gave for you and the life that He has called you to. The life that Jesus showed by His example....

**1 Peter 2:21 (NKJV)**

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

If you have accepted that invitation.....are you letting it bring balance to your life?

You need to know that when the Holy Spirit works in your life.....it's not supposed to remain the same! That calling starts to bring balance to the walk. The scales start tipping.

If the scales are fully tilted toward your walk and the calling has no bearing on your walk. I hate to tell you but you haven't accepted the invitation.

It's like to received the invite in the mail, you may have even sent back the RSVP, but you didn't actually GO to the wedding!

Maybe it's that you think it's too hard. You think you can't do it. You need to know today that you may be weak but if you accept the invitation, the Holy Spirit is strong!

The Holy Spirit is weighty, if you will let Him, He'll jump on that scale and begin to bring balance to your life!

**Romans 8:9 (NKJV)**

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Have you accepted the invitation, is the Spirit in you? Are you in the Spirit?

**Ephesians 3:16 (NKJV)**

that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

He will strengthen your inner man for this supernatural walk, one that is balanced by the Spirit!  
You can't do it on your own!

**Romans 8:13 (NKJV)**

For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

There isn't one man or woman alive that has the power to balance those scales in their own strength or by their own effort....

**2 Corinthians 3:5 (NKJV)**

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,

See God has chosen you from before the foundations of the earth. He created you because He wanted you. He wanted you then and still wants you today. He wants you just the way you are....baggage and all.

That's the invitation, that's the calling waiting to get on the scales.

But then He desires to not just be on the scales but to bring balance to your life by leading you by His Spirit away from that old man, away from the flawed image of who you are, and into the perfect image of Jesus!

It requires our dependence on the Holy Spirit to help us follow the example that Jesus set for us. Seek to put off the old man....

**Ephesians 4:22 (NKJV)**

that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

**Colossians 3:8-9 (NKJV)**

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

And put on the new man....

**Ephesians 4:24 (NKJV)**

and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

**Colossians 3:10 (NKJV)**

and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

This is a process.....however we should not be content with baby steps or the HOPE of eventual progress.....

We've got to cry out in the Spirit and seek Jesus. We have to say "this is not good enough" and "I can't do this on my own"

Old habits are hard to break, the temptations of the world, the flesh, the devil, are so enticing and on my own I am so limited and weak.

I need the Spirit of the living God to bring balance to my walk. I need this NEW LIFE!

Will you accept the invitation today?