

Vacate

3-7-21

Romans 8:11 (ESV)

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

In Romans Chapter 6, 7, and 8 we have been looking at how to live out the Christian life. In Chapter 6 we need to make a decision. In chapter 7 we saw the struggle that happens when we make that decision. Now in Chapter 8, we see by the power of the Holy Spirit we overcome our struggles and accomplish our decisions. While we are assuming, we have fulfilled all our responsibilities, this is not about trying harder, working harder, reading more, studying more in order to see God move. **This is about our total dependence and trust on God to do what only God can do.** This is the Holy Spirit moving in us to live the Christian life, to have victory over sin/self/flesh, to be able to persevere, not to fear, and to have wisdom as Christ intended. **This is not us doing something this is the Holy Spirit doing something.** This is engaging the Holy Spirit who has infinite power. **Let me give you a physical example.** We are struggling to dig a ditch. We often see the Holy Spirit standing above us telling us how to dig the ditch. **Chapter 8 is telling us to get out of the ditch and let the Holy Spirit get in the ditch and dig.** **We vacate and the Holy Spirit occupies.** In every situation, we vacate, and the Holy Spirit occupies. The Christian life is one vacation after another. This is the only way to have success in the Christian life. From the beginning of Christianity Jesus never intended us to try and live the Christian life without the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:49 (ESV)

And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.

The Holy Spirit indwells all Christians!

Romans 8:9 (ESV)

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Chapter 8 tells us how to vacate and let the Holy Spirit occupy! Verses 5 and 6, tell us not to “set our minds on” the flesh/sin/self while at the same time telling us to “set our minds” on the things of the Spirit. We have a responsibility! What are our minds set on? We see the same thing in Galatians.

Galatians 5:16 (ESV)

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

The word here “walk” means “be occupied with”. Therefore, “be occupied with the Spirit” and you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh. Or as in Romans 8, “set our minds” on the things of the Spirit. **With our minds on the Holy Spirit, we have opened the door for the Holy Spirit to come and occupy our circumstances. But first we have to get out of the ditch to give room for the Holy Spirit to do HIS work.**

Romans 8:11 (ESV)

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also **give life to your mortal bodies** through his Spirit who dwells in you.

The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to our “mortal bodies”. The same Spirit who raises the dead will put to death the misdeeds of our living bodies.

Romans 8:13b (ESV)

If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

We try so hard and fail so often. Often, we are in constant struggle and frustration. **The deeds of the body can only be put to death by the Spirit. The Greek verb “put to death” is in the present tense, which indicates continuous action. The battle with sin/self is not a momentary event, no matter how sincere, but a lifetime commitment. The Spirit is not a promise to those who succeed in overcoming sin, but the Spirit is God’s abiding presence in the midst of our flesh or sinful nature. The ability to sustain warfare against sin/self signals the Spirit’s presence. **Put another way, the struggle is the evidence of the Holy Spirit’s presence.** The Spirit emancipates believers from slavery to sin/self and joins them in sonship with Christ. The continuous action of “putting to death” requires a continuous walk with the Holy Spirit. Thus, we will have continuous power in life in the specific situations we face. This requires us to understand the action of the Holy Spirit.**

Notice: The work of the Holy Spirit is immediate and direct!

Mark 13:11 (ESV)

And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, **do not be anxious beforehand** what you are to say, but **say whatever is given you in that hour**, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

This immediate and direct work of the Holy Spirit will immediately lead, guide, and empower us in every situation. This is the evidence of being a son or daughter of God.

Romans 8:14 (ESV)

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

We set our mind on the things of the Spirit. As we look to the Spirit and continuously decide to “put to death” the deeds of the body, the Holy Spirit moves immediately and directly in every circumstance and situation. **Let us simplify this even farther.** We like little children facing scary and overwhelming odds, we cry out for our Daddy to reach down and save us. We don't understand all the facts or circumstances, we just cry Daddy and hold up our hands to him and know he will lift us up and take care of the situation.

Romans 8:15 (ESV)

You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

We are little children adopted into another family, the family of God. The word “Abba” is an Aramaic word that doesn’t have a clear English translation. It is still used today in the near east as an endearing term for one’s father. The closest English meaning we have is Daddy. Jesus used this word while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane before HIS crucifixion. Jesus was crying out, “Daddy.” Therefore, to live in the power of the Holy Spirit, God is telling us to continually cry out, “Daddy!” The central point to have the Holy Spirit move in our life with all the power of God in all circumstance is to cry, “Daddy!” We say, “Holy Spirit I am going to vacate You occupy.” We have the infinite power of God at our fingertips. To engage this power to see fire fall from heaven, we “set our minds on the things of the Spirit” and cry, “Daddy!”

The very first gospel message by Jesus’ disciples understood the Holy Spirit was central to the Christian life!

Acts 2:38 (ESV)

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, ‘and’ you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Pray:

Let us engage the Holy Spirit, now! Look at our own life, situation, circumstance and cry out, “Daddy.” Say, “I Vacate, Holy Spirit You Occupy!”