

Suit Up!

Review

- Why is this so hard? Our weakness; the flesh, sarx. Our enemy; Satan.
- Positional vs. practical truths about who and what we are in Jesus.
- Walking in the new begins with a decision to do so. What does that look like?

What are we talking about? The power to be

“The work of the Holy Spirit in your life if you are a believer is to give you the power to be a witness for Jesus Christ, to give you the power to be all that God wants you to be.” - Chuck Smith, C vs C 29

- Acts 1:8 (slide)

“When I think of the power of the Holy Spirit, it is first the power to be what God wants me to be, and this extends into every area of my life: power in my prayer like, power for a holy walk, power to be and do. Here the promise of power, and it is related to being a witness for Jesus Christ: ‘Ye shall be witnesses.’” C v C 31

- Ever feel weak, like you need more power? Here is the answer. This power should permeate our lives, like water in a sponge. Sponges in the hand of God.

“We make a mistake when we think of witnessing as something we do; in reality it is something we are. So often witnessing is associated with passing out tracts on the street corner or going door to door to declare the gospel, or sharing the four spiritual laws with our neighbor over a cup of coffee. These are all forms of sharing our faith, but doing them does not make us witnesses of Jesus Christ. Being a witness is more than speaking words; it is living a life.” C v C 31-32

- What we do comes from what we are. What are you? New nature?

- John 14-17 (slide) To have a relationship with Jesus is to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit. At least it's supposed to be that way. What's more, Jesus is the means by which we can experience a relationship with the fullness of God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Galatians 5:16-25 (slide) how not to walk in the flesh, how to walk in the Spirit
- Peter, filled with the Spirit...

Where does it come from? Love, not law

“One of our most common mistakes is that when we see an area of weakness in our life we immediately try to compensate for it and to correct it ourselves. We say, ‘I’m sorry, Lord; I’ll never do that again. I promise you, Lord.’ We mean what we say, yet we do it again. The problem is that we are trying to correct the issue ourselves, thinking that somehow, if we will only work a little harder or try a different approach, we can change and correct the weakness of our own character and nature. It is not until we are brought to the total desperation of the helplessness of ourselves, and give up and surrender, that we know the joy of His victory.” C v C 36-37

- We try to compensate this with our own personal laws. Doesn't work. Yet we are called to be holy? What's the difference? **The difference between legalism and holiness is where your heart is.**
- Why don't we get this? Depends on the gospel we received. Hellfire and brimstone, felt needs, or love? **One who has experienced God love expresses God's love.** Love tucked between power, **1 Cor. 12-14.**
- **God's love motivates Him to come after us, it should motivate us to go after Him.** Again, a marriage.

What do we do? Suit up!

● Mind

- Romans 6:11, Philippians 4:8, 1 Peter 1:13

“Anyone who lives only on the body conscious plane is living on the animal level of existence. His mind is ruled and dominated by his body needs; he does not understand the things of the Spirit, for his own spirit is dead. No wonder he seeks to relate himself to the animal kingdom, for he is living as an animal, a body-dominated consciousness. When a person is born again by the Spirit, his own spirit comes alive and, now joined to God by the Spirit, he is encouraged through the Word to live a Spirit-dominated life. As he does, he begins to have a Spirit-dominated consciousness.” C v C 25

- Garbage in, garbage out. Jesus in, Jesus out.

● Put off, put on, and go!

- Romans 8:1-4, 13:11-14, Galatians 3:26-27, 5:16, 25, Ephesians 2:8-10, 4:17-24, 6:10-18, Colossians 3:8-14, Gideon clothed with the Spirit in Judges 6, too many more!
- Soldier, runner, superhero (clip?). I was, I want to be, or I am? Difference.

How?

- **Believe God.** Don't believe to make it true, believe because it is true.
- **Be available.** Ananias with Saul/Paul in Acts 9.
- **Be humble.** Not thinking too highly or too lowly of yourself. Follow Jesus' example and He will use you.
- **Be faithful.** Luke 16. If we use what we have well, God will give us more.
- **Be focused.** Many examples in scripture of what happens when we lose and keep focus. Soldier, runner.
- **Be filled.** Ephesians 5:18. Like wanting to be out of the rain, you have to get under something. But it's the thing keeping the rain off of you. A tree, a breezeway. Get under the spout where the glory comes out.
- **How do you do these things?** Three pillars of our church. Word, prayer/power, community of believers.

Wrap

- Identity: do you know who you are?
- A character in God's story of the world.
- The main character in your own story.
- Have you had that catalyst moment where God rocked your world?
- Have you surrendered to the change and responded to God's love?
- Are you walking in the newness of life or still walking in the oldness of death?
- You can have a new nature through Jesus. Doesn't deliver you from life's challenges, but through them.
- If time, The Fair Gospel.