

Summary

- a) This session is the third of ten sessions that looks at a vital principle that fosters Spirit-led living.
- b) The third principle that we will examine is this: The strongest part of your being—whether spirit, soul, or body—will be the part that influences, leads, and governs you.
- c) If your spirit is the strongest part of you, you will live a Spirit-led life. This will be our focus in this message.

Introduction

- a) Read Ephesians 3:14-21
- b) The strongest part of your being always determines your state, whether you are spiritual or carnal.
- c) If your soul or body is the strongest, you will be driven by your mind, will, emotions, and five senses.
- d) If your spirit is the strongest part of you, the three functions of your spirit—intuition, communion, and conscience—will drive you. As a result, you will organically live by the indwelling life of Christ.
- e) This brings me to the third law or principle of living the Spirit-led life. The strongest part of your being—whether spirit, soul, or body—will be the part that influences, leads, and governs you.
- f) I refer to this principle as the law of strength. If your spirit is the strongest part of you, you will live a Spirit-led life.

Your Spirit Is Like a Smartphone

- a) Hopefully a simple analogy will help you see the importance of this law.
- b) Since you likely have a smartphone, you probably already know there are four vital components that make it an incredibly useful tool: the phone itself, the apps you install, the connection to the internet (whether through Wi-Fi or a mobile network), and a fully charged battery.
- c) Your spirit is like a smartphone.
- d) The three functions of your spirit—intuition, communion, and conscience—are like apps installed on a smartphone.
- e) Your spirit-to-Spirit union, which connects you to Jesus and the Father in heaven, is like Wi-Fi, connecting you to the cloud.
- f) And the strength and power of the indwelling Spirit, applied to your spirit, is like a smartphone charger.

Recharge Your Spirit

- a) For a smartphone to be used to its maximum potential, you must have the right apps installed, be connected to the internet, and most importantly, have a fully charged battery.
- b) As you know, if the battery is low on power, it won't take long until the phone shuts off and is useless. I'm sure you have received those annoying alerts telling you the battery is about to die.
- c) No matter how great the apps or how fast your internet connection, a phone without power is worthless. In a similar way, if your spirit is not fully charged by the power of the indwelling Spirit, then your spirit-to-Spirit connection with the Lord is suppressed by the soul, and the three functions of your spirit can't operate.

- d) To live from the spirit by the power of the indwelling Spirit, therefore, your spirit must be the strongest part of your being.
- e) If your soul is the strongest part of your being, then you will be a soulish Christian governed by the mind, will, and emotions.
- f) If your body is the strongest part of your being, then you will be governed by the flesh.
- g) In both cases, self-life in the soul will be the life source from which you live. This means your spirit will be suppressed and inoperative, and the indwelling life of Christ will be dormant within you.
- h) However, if the indwelling Spirit strengthens your spirit with His power and might, transmitting His life, love, nature, resurrection power, and overcoming victory to your spirit, then your spirit will be the strongest part of your being.
- i) When this happens, divine order takes place within you, making your spirit the leader; your soul the processor, expressor, and executor of the spirit's input; and your body the soul's servant. You will then be "led by the Spirit of God," as Paul said in Romans 8:14.

Strengthened with Power

- a) One of my all-time favorite prayers, which I try to pray almost every day because it's vital to living by Christ's indwelling life, is Ephesians 3:14-17.
- b) In these four verses, Paul prayed the Ephesians would be strengthened with God's power in their spirit so Christ would dwell in their hearts by faith.
- c) Let me take a minute and break apart this glorious prayer, so you can better understand it and apply it to your life.
- d) Since Paul said a mouthful, let me emphasize two key phrases:
 - 1. To be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man;
 - 2. So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith (we will focus on the first phrase in this session and the second phrase in session 19).

Dynamis Power

- a) When I read, study, and meditate on Scripture, I love to dig into a verse in its original language. This helps me draw out the richness of what the author was communicating and is instrumental to the Word being planted deep into my heart. Over the years, I have found this to be incredibly helpful.
- b) Using this technique, I'm going to break apart the second half of Ephesians 3:16: to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man.
- c) Strengthened in the Greek means "to make strong," "to empower, increase in vigor, be strengthened," or "wax strong."
- d) To live from the spirit, your spirit must be strong, not weak. Your spirit must be the strongest part of your being, stronger than your body and soul.
- e) Power in the Greek is *dynamis*, and, as we saw in session 7, it means "strength, power, and ability." It means "inherent power." It is power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature. It is power which a person or thing exerts and puts forth from its innate nature.
- f) *Dynamis* is the power for performing miracles; the power for moral living and excellence of soul; and the power for ability. And it's this last phrase that really resonates with me.

- g) The indwelling Spirit makes your spirit strong with power for ability. This is not just power for miracles or moral living. It's the power which gives you the ability to live by Christ's indwelling life.
- h) Through His Spirit refers to the inward power of the indwelling Spirit. Not to the baptism of the Holy Spirit that comes upon you and gives outward power to be Christ's witness by miracles, preaching, prophesying, and boldness (see Acts 1:8).
- i) Thankfully, you don't have to choose between one or the other. You can and should pursue both—the power of the Spirit that comes upon you for outward ministry and the power of the Spirit released into your spirit for Christlike living. But in context, Paul has in mind the indwelling Spirit transmitting His power for ability into your spirit, so you can live by Christ's indwelling life.
- j) In the inner man refers to your spirit, the deepest part of your being. When the indwelling Spirit strengthens your inner man with power for ability, He makes your spirit the strongest part of you.
- k) Paul's prayer for the Ephesians can be boiled down to this short, simple, but powerful prayer: Father, please strengthen my spirit by the indwelling Spirit's power for ability.
- l) I encourage you to add this prayer to your daily prayer life, so you can live by Christ's indwelling life.

Applied Power

- a) Do you remember back in session 7, where we looked at the Spirit's resurrection power in you? Well, this prayer is how you activate the Spirit's dead-raising power within you. It's how He transmits His unlimited power directly to you.
- b) Because of the indwelling Spirit, the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, you have anytime access to God's power for ability—an inward strengthening by divine power making your spirit stronger than your soul and body.
- c) This inward strength enables you to do whatever God has called you to do, obey whatever God has called you to obey, overcome whatever God has called you to overcome, and be whoever God has called you to be.

God's Power in You Is Mighty

- a) Now, I want to unpack just how strong God's power truly is. To begin, Paul was gripped with a divine burden for the Ephesians to know by revelation "the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe" (Eph. 1:19).
- b) In context, God's power toward us is not a power you beg heaven to send down upon you. It's a power resident within you because of the indwelling Spirit.
- c) It is a power, as Paul said two chapters later, "that works within us" (Eph. 3:20, emphasis mine). And this power, according to Paul, is "able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20).
- d) Just how awesome is God's surpassingly great, super-abundant, unimaginable, and incomprehensible power within you?
- e) Paul said this power "raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church" (Eph. 1:20-22).
- f) This is a ton to digest, so let me break it down. The power of the indwelling Spirit within you is so mighty it:

- Raised Jesus from the dead;
- Raised Him up to heaven;
- Enthroned Him as King of kings and Lord of lords;
- Placed everything in subjection under His feet;
- and made Him head of the church.

God's Power Only Operates by Revelation and Faith

- a) Without revelation and faith, however, this mighty power will be inoperative, sitting dormant within you, as is the case with many born-again Christians.
- b) This is why eye-opening revelation of the indwelling Spirit's power is essential. When you have a spirit of wisdom and revelation—and you know that you know just how mighty the indwelling Spirit's power truly is—faith is awakened in your heart.
- c) And faith is necessary for God's power to flow in you and through you.
- d) In short, God's power in you effectually operates only when you have authentic faith awakened by the Spirit's inward revelation in your spirit.
- e) And the good news is this power, which surpasses greatness and defies all logic and reason, cannot be earned or merited.
- f) The Lord releases His power within you freely by His grace if you will ask Him and believe Him. As you do this and receive His power in your spirit, you will have the ability to live by Christ's indwelling life.

Praying Daily for Spiritual Strength

- a) Using Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-17 as a model, I encourage you to pray daily for the indwelling Spirit's miracle-working, dead-raising, leper-cleansing, sight-restoring, water-walking, and universe-creating power to make your spirit strong.
- b) Like the power of dynamite, which destroys a high-rise building in a matter of seconds, the *dynamis* power of the Holy Spirit is able to strengthen your spirit as the uncontested leader of your life.
- c) Praying like this will always shift your orientation away from a soul-led life or a body-led life to a spirit-led life.
- d) Speaking from experience, I assure you, if you incorporate this prayer into your prayer life, the Spirit will transform everything about you.
- e) He will strengthen your spirit by His power, enabling you to overcome self-life in your soul and sin in your body.
- f) Asking the Father to strengthen your spirit by the miracle-working power of the Holy Spirit is like recharging your smartphone. It must be done every day if you want to live from your spirit.

Waiting On the Lord

- a) Isaiah said, "Those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary" (Isa. 40:31).

- b) If you develop a daily discipline of waiting on the Lord in prayer, asking Him to strengthen your spirit by the indwelling Spirit's power for ability, you will gain new strength.
- c) You will become like an eagle that soars high above and has a heavenly perspective. You will be invigorated with fresh energy, enabling you to accomplish whatever the Lord has called you to do.
- d) No matter how challenging and dark your circumstances might be—whether you face a crisis in your health, finances, family, job, or ministry—if you will wait on the Lord in prayer and ask Him to strengthen your spirit with power for ability, you will experience a breakthrough.
- e) The Spirit will enable you to do whatever God has called you to do and to be whoever God has called you to be. This is why a consistent prayer life is so crucial to living a Spirit-led life.

Whatever You Feed Grows Stronger

- a) Think about it like this. When your spirit is 15% charged, your flesh is 85% operative, making you carnal.
- b) On the other hand, when your spirit is fully charged, your flesh has no power to exert its influence, making you spiritual.
- c) Many don't realize just how much the soul and body influence the way they live.
- d) Take the body, for example. When your body goes without food for several hours, especially on a fast, you quickly see how much the body influences your thinking and attitudes. As we like to say in our house, you will get hangry, meaning you will get grumpy, irritable, and impatient due to a lack of food.
- e) Because the body and soul are both naturally strong and will govern your life if given the opportunity, it is vital to wait on the Lord and pray until your spirit is strengthened as the uncontested leader.
- f) In Galatians 6:8, Paul described this exact concept, using the metaphor of sowing and reaping. He said, "The one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."
- g) Whatever part of your being you feed grows stronger. If you feed your soul and body, constantly thinking about yourself, getting what you want when you want it, and satisfying the cravings of your body, you will be carnal. And like Paul said, you will reap corruption.
- h) On the other hand, if you spend time waiting on the Lord daily, setting your mind on Christ in you and how He has transformed your spirit, asking the Lord to strengthen your spirit as the uncontested leader of your life, and communing deeply with Him, you will reap eternal life.
- i) And as you know from the last session, eternal life is not somewhere you go; it is a Person you know.

The Law of Strength

- a) Speaking from experience, the law of strength is one of the most important laws of the Spirit-led life. If your spirit is stronger than your soul and body, your spirit will influence, lead, and govern your life.
- b) The law of strength is like the law of aerodynamics while the law of sin and death in your body is like the law of gravity. Let me explain.
- c) Paul said, "I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members" (Rom. 7:23).
- d) Two verses later, he said, "So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin" (Rom. 7:25).

- e) Notice the law of sin worked in the members of Paul's body. And with his flesh Paul served the law of sin.
- f) Like the law of gravity, the law of sin and death works without fail. The only way to overcome the law of sin and death, like its counterpart the law of gravity, is for a greater law to supersede it.
- g) This is why Paul said, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death" (Rom. 8:2). The law of the Spirit—or as it pertains to this session, the law of a strong spirit—sets you free from the law of sin and of death.

Overcoming the Law of Sin and Death

- a) In the natural world, an airplane employs the law of aerodynamics and overcomes the law of gravity by flying 30,000 feet in the air. But if you shut off the engine midflight, the law of gravity kicks in, and the plane will crash every single time.
- b) Applied spiritually, when your spirit is stronger than your soul and body, the law of strength helps you overcome the law of sin and death that is always at work in your body.
- c) But like a plane that loses power midair and crashes, you will descend into a carnal state if your spirit becomes weaker than your soul or body. This is true one hundred percent of the time.
- d) That's why maintaining a strong spirit is so vital. It is the only way to overcome the natural pull of the law of sin and death in the body and to overcome self who always wants to reign in the soul.
- e) Without a strong spirit, self will be in charge by default, and the law of sin and death will overcome your spirit's desire to live by the indwelling Spirit.
- f) No matter how nice you are or how good your intentions, if you allow your spirit to grow weak, your flesh will take over. You then will gravitate toward selfishness, sin, and spiritual death every single time without exception.

Pray Until the Shift Comes

- a) In the previous session, I described praying until the shift comes. Let me now add a few more thoughts to this idea.
- b) When Elisha, the mighty prophet, was near death, the king of Israel came to visit him. Rather than receiving pity, Elisha prophesied over him, instructing him to take some arrows and strike the ground.
- c) The king, perhaps thinking this prophetic act was a little odd and not knowing how many times to strike the ground, went through the motions and struck the ground only three times.
- d) Because the king lacked a killer instinct, Elisha rebuked him and said he should have struck the ground five or six times. If the king had resolve and determination, he would have persisted in this prophetic act until victory over Aram was ensured.
- e) But the king didn't have the heart of a warrior and champion, and instead of conquering Aram, the king of Israel only inflicted a little damage (see 2 Kings 13:18-19).
- f) Praying until the shift comes is somewhat like this story. If you lack the heart of an overcomer, you will either skip prayer or offer up a flimsy prayer rooted in doubt and unbelief. Doing this will keep you carnal.
- g) Conversely, if you persist like a champion and pray until the shift comes, waiting on the Lord to transmit His power for ability to your spirit, you will shift from living by self-life in the soul to living by Christ's life in the spirit. You will shift from being carnal to being spiritual.

- h) I discovered this principle the hard way. I now know if I fail to pray until I experience the shift, I will regret it later. When I fail to pray until the shift comes, I'm likely to grope around gloomy and depressed. I might experience anxiety or worry about a situation. Or I could respond to someone in an unkind, unloving way.
- i) Praying until the shift comes is a matter of spiritual life or spiritual death. That's why I can't afford to skip too many days of waiting on the Lord.

Spiritual Instincts

- a) All life—whether *bios* (animal life), *psyche* (soul life), or *zoe* (divine life)—has instincts. Every life form has an inherent inclination towards a particular set of complex behaviors. These instincts are innate.
- b) For example, my golden retriever Zeke, who has *bios* life, has inborn instincts to eat, to try and eat again, and then to hopefully eat any table scraps he can find. Every morning around 6 a.m. and every night at 6 p.m., almost like clockwork, Zeke scratches his paw on furniture, a cabinet, or an appliance, insisting to be fed. Besides eating, Zeke also has instincts to sleep, use the bathroom, and bark at anyone he sees out the window.
- c) A while back, I watched a documentary called *The Power of Scent*. In this show, a team of researchers were on the trail of tiger sharks near the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. The tiger sharks were drawn to Raine Island by the smell of dead sea turtles.
- d) Masses of sea turtles go to Raine Island every year to lay their eggs in the sand. But often, the sea turtles struggle to get back to the ocean. They flip over on their backs and roast to death in the brutal Australian sun. When the tide rises, it brings the dead sea turtles into the ocean where swarms of tiger sharks wait to devour them. These tiger sharks, by their innate sense of smell, instinctively know where to go for a savory meal.
- e) Similar to golden retrievers and tiger sharks, when you live by *psyche* life—or self-life in the soul—you also have natural instincts that operate organically. These instincts—whether your mind, will, emotions, or five senses—naturally lead and govern you.
- f) Well, the same is true when you live by Christ's *zoe* in your spirit. You have spiritual instincts that operate organically. As previously mentioned, these instincts are intuition, communion, and conscience.
- g) Here's my point. When your spirit is strengthened by God's power, the innate functions of intuition, communion, and conscience are awakened.
- h) This enables you to receive revelation, discern God's will, hear God's voice, sense the Spirit's guidance, avoid lawlessness, and stay on the path of holiness and life.
- i) Sometimes, when I teach about the spirit, some wonder how they can become more aware of their spirit's intuition. They want practical steps or guidelines. My answer is it doesn't really work like that.
- j) Focus instead on your spirit becoming the strongest part of your tripartite being. As you practice this regularly, your spirit's intuition grows stronger and sharper over time.
- k) And like any instinct, your spirit's intuition begins operating and functioning organically, enabling you to commune with the Lord deeper and follow Him step by step.
- l) As your spirit grows stronger, you become more aware of your spirit's intuition.