

5 WORDS THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Romans 8: Empowered

2012-04-15

Ken Dryden

Text: Romans 8:1-14

Sermon Summary: Christ's life-giving Spirit empowers us to live the life He intends for us: free from condemnation and free from the obligation to the sinful nature. Last week our word was "Free" - "through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death." (Rom. 8:2) This week the word is "empowered" - "if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness." (8:10) This passage shows us that the only way in to the life of Christ is through the Spirit and the only way to grow in this life is by the Spirit.

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Have one person read Rom. 7:18-24 pause and reflect for a moment; then another reader for Romans 8:1-14. Have each person respond by answering this question: "Which one of these passages speaks most clearly to your situation today? Why?"
2. 8:1 says "*there us now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*". How is this good news for you or for people that you know? Why do people struggle with feelings of condemnation?
3. Read 8:5-8. How can we know if we are living "according to the sinful nature" or "according to the Spirit"? From this passage as well as the one in chapter 7, what are some of the emotional symptoms of life according to the sinful nature?
4. What difference would it make to live free from a sense of obligation to the sinful nature? (8:12)
5. In practical terms, how do you "put to death the misdeeds of the body"? (8:13) What is the role of the Spirit in this? What is our part?
6. What does it mean to you to be "lead by the Spirit of God" (8:14)?

5 WORDS THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Romans 8: Empowered

7. What is God speaking to you about? What are you going to do about it? Each person share.
8. Pray in smaller groups for the things that were shared above as well as any other needs in the group. Pray for opportunities this week to share with someone about Christ.

QUOTES:

“THE WORLD IS NOT MOVED BY LOVE OR ACTIONS THAT ARE OF HUMAN CREATION. AND THE CHURCH IS NOT EMPOWERED TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY FROM ANY OTHER GATHERING OR PEOPLE WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT. BUT WHEN BELIEVERS LIVE IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT, THE EVIDENCE IN THEIR LIVES IS SUPERNATURAL. THE CHURCH CANNOT HELP BUT BE DIFFERENT, AND THE WORLD CANNOT HELP BUT NOTICE.” ~ FRANCIS CHAN - FORGOTTEN GOD

“WE MAY AS WELL FACE IT: THE WHOLE LEVEL OF SPIRITUALITY AMONG US IS LOW. WE HAVE MEASURED OURSELVES BY OURSELVES UNTIL THE INCENTIVE TO SEEK HIGHER PLATEAUS IN THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT IS ALL BUT GONE ... (WE) HAVE IMITATED THE WORLD, SOUGHT POPULAR FAVOR, MANUFACTURED DELIGHTS TO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE JOY OF THE LORD AND PRODUCED A CHEAP AND SYNTHETIC POWER TO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.”
~ A.W. TOZER

May God richly bless your time together as a group!