

# **Spirit Empowered Living**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: 2 Peter 1:3-8.

B. Both the sufficiency of God and the commitment of the believer are necessary to Christian living.

C. The power of God usually implies the work of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13; 1 Corinthians 2:4-5)

D. Spirit-empowered living is really Christ-empowered living- He is the source of the power and the Holy Spirit is the agent of that power.

E. We need spiritual wisdom to know what the will of God is and His strength to do it. This is the work of the Holy Spirit and we are dependent on Him to reveal these things to us. (Philippians 4:13; Luke 10:21; 2 Corinthians 12:9)

## II. God has given us everything we need for life and godliness. (Colossians 1:9)

A. God has deposited everything we need in our spiritual bank, but we have to withdraw it in order to be fruitful.

B. We have to take responsibility for our spiritual development, but we absolutely need God's strength to do this.

C. The experiential, saving knowledge of Jesus and our participation in the divine nature describe our spiritually organic union with Christ that empowers us to live godly lives. (2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Corinthians 1:30)

1. "Organic union" implies a living, integral connection. (John 15)

2. This does not mean that we are passive in this relationship. Our responsibility is to remain in Jesus. (John 15; Colossians 2:6-7)

## III. Remaining in Christ means that we renounce any confidence in our own wisdom, power or merit; that is, we declare spiritual bankruptcy.

## IV. Remaining in Christ means that we rely on God's Word and on prayer to access God's power and to have hope. (Romans 15:4, 5, 13)

A. The Holy Spirit uses the scriptures to bring wisdom and hope to our Christian life.

B. Through prayer, we cast aside our own confidence and acknowledge our dependence on Him.

C. There are four ways that people attempt to live the Christian life. Only one is Biblical.

1. We seek to live the Christian life by our own strength. This leads to discouragement.

2. We turn all responsibility for living the Christian life to Jesus. This is not scriptural.
3. We have a partial dependence on God- we can handle the daily part of Christian character on our own, but we need Him for the “big stuff.”
4. The Biblical way is to “abide in Christ.” We rely on God’s power all day long in every circumstance of life to empower us to live a committed Christian life. (Philippians 4:11-12)

**Application questions:**

1. What does it mean to have an “organic union” with Christ?

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2. Of the four ways of living the Christian life that Jerry describes, which most accurately describes your daily walk with Christ?

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3. How does the Holy Spirit empower us with Christ’s power?

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