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Welcome back. This is our Thursday night. I almost lost track.

This is our Thursday night Bible study. We're in on Thursday night. We have opened a study of Revelation.

We bounced out of Revelation for a bit to take on Ephesians so that we could actually understand who Christ is, how this all works, who we are, what is our salvation, how do we apply all of this, and so that basically we're prepared for what we, when we go back into Revelation and talk about the rapture, you're, you know where you're at. So that's the purpose of this jaunt out of Revelation into Ephesians. And we're still in Chapter 3, and this is our second session of the verses 14 to 21.

We're and we're going to look at this all the way because this passage of Scripture is stuck right between the middle of the study of our study of Ephesians, and it's a key passage. It's basically the launching point into Chapter 4, the application of all of the stuff we learn in Chapters 1 and 3. So I told you that, just as a reminder, I told you that the first three chapters of Ephesians letter described the resources of the believer, and the last three chapters describe how the believer is to live. So basically this passage is at, is the middle.

It is the, it is going from the first three chapters, giving the charge, if you will, Paul to us, Paul to the church, and this is done in a manner of a prayer. And he's, he is calling out God to do what God said he was going to do. This is exactly what we talked to.

This is how, if it's in the Scriptures, and we've talked about declaring the Scriptures back into God's face, so to speak, this is what Paul is doing. He's actually telling God, telling Christ, this is what you got to do, because this is what you said you were going to do. And if we're going to do this as the church, you have to do this.

So this, take note of how Paul does this, because this should be a source of reference in your prayers, right? You're going to see this more in a discussion document in the prayer cycle when we get to that point where we're ready to talk about that. So, and we're going to bring, we're going to come right back to Ephesians when we talk about that, and we're going to walk through it in detail, but it's, it'll be in a document format, and something that you can put in your files, and go. So, so we have all of the resources, okay? So let's sort of recap here.

We have all of the resources, all of the potential, all of the power, all of the riches, all of the energy, and all that is ours in Jesus Christ in the first three chapters, okay? We went through it from the foundation of the world. All of the, all of this was planned before there was one manifestation of a material matter in creation. So this was all pre-programmed.

Your whole life is pre-programmed from the get-go, before you even created the heaven and the earth. So then we get into chapters four to six, and this is how this is to be applied to the matter of our living, okay? We're, you're going to get a lot of this coming after we get through this, the next three weeks, or next two weeks. You're going to get a lot of this focused on, okay guys, you really want, wanted to understand how this goes down.

You're going to get it, because this is a step-by-step process we're going to go through. And so, so this is the bridge in between the passages, in between the slow passages, chapter 314 through 321, which, which we set this up to be the ignition start, okay? We talked about a car acting like a key, having the keys to our own, our own life given to us to turn this, this power engine on or leave it off. Well, this is the ignition switch.

That's what we're talking about. We're talking about, if you turn it on, this is what's going to happen, all right? And it sets up by Paul actually declaring from Christ that he'd do certain things. So the last three describe the race the Christian drives, last three chapters, four, five, and six.

The race we drive and this is how we get the power turned on. So, and before the race begins in chapter four, we have got to absolutely understand not only the ignition switch, but how to turn it on. And that's the key to the end of chapter three.

So the key thing that we've been looking at here then is that this is what we call the Christian's turn on thing. This is how we get turned on our ignition switch. This is where we really get the energy that God has already given you and I in Christ, all right? You're going to, you're going to get this several ways in the next couple of weeks, because in scripture we've been giving everything, everything.

Go back to chapter one, verse three. It says that we've been given all of the blessings that heaven can offer. So we've got everything.

It's setting there for us. So in actuality, you shouldn't pray for anything, because you've been given everything. What you need to be doing is praying for the manifestation of what you've been given to be placed here on earth for whatever benefit is required.

If you absolutely think about this in logical progression, when God says you've been given everything and you gave you everything, all right, we just don't know it yet. So as I was examining again last week's study, just to make sure that I was going to transition this right, I noted that Paul begins in verse 14 by a prayer, again a prayer. And we've already talked about that in our last study at length.

We went through the whole prayer at length last time. And he bows his knee and he prays. And he is praying that Christians would really turn on, that Christians would really begin to see the power flow, this power plant let loose, let the energy flow.

So if you look at the middle of this, he's saying, God, on the basis of the riches of your glory, I want you to release this power in the believer. Turn it on. Turn the thing on.

He's saying he doesn't want the switch being controlled by Christ. He wants the switch to be controlled by you, your free choice. So turn it on.

So he's compelling Christ to turn the power plant on. So the little word riches, okay, reminded me that Paul has used that multiple times in the first three chapters. Christians are so rich.

We're so rich that we don't even comprehend how rich we are. We have no clue. In fact, in chapter 1, verse 18, Paul prays his first prayer in Ephesians, and he prays that we would know the riches of the glory of our inheritance.

Basically, the first prayer is for knowledge base. Tell these guys what they got so that basically they can comprehend what they got. So in other words, it is an inconceivable, incomprehensible amount of richness that we have.

And having prayed that we would understand it in chapter 1, verse 3 throughout the rest of the chapters 2 and 3, he prays that we would use it. Okay, one thing is to know it. Another thing is to use it.

And that is what Paul is praying here is for us to turn the engine on. We got them. We got everything.

Now let's figure it out. Now, scientists, statistic people, physicists say that we use about one-tenth of one percent of our brain today. And I would venture to say that the average person uses about one-tenth of one percent of his brain as well.

And I would venture to say that the average Christian probably uses one-tenth or less of the percentage of the power of God that is available at his disposal. You got more power of what Christ has given you than your physical brain could comprehend or even handle. You have a threshold.

Let's see, what was that? There was a movie that came out. I forgot what it was. But anyway, this woman actually was able to turn on more power to her brain.

And as she did, she transcended realms. Lucy, that's right, Kathleen. So that is in actuality what occurs.

The more you're able to use, think about Enoch and think about Elijah, the more that you think about what you can use and apply it, the more you become Christ-like, the more you transcend realms. So in actuality, there's truth behind that movie, even though it was used for demonic reasons. But remember, that group of people knows way more than what we were ever taught from the biblical process.

But if we could utilize even ten percent of our brain, that's more capacity than our technological realm can handle right now. We would outdo AI. Let's just put it like that.

We are AI, so we would outdo the programmed AI. So we're rich. He says in chapter 1, verse 7, we have the riches of his grace.

Verse 11, we have an inheritance. Verse 14, again, we have an inheritance, incredible riches. Chapter 2, he tells us in verse 4, God is rich.

And then in verse 7, he wants to show us the exceeding riches of his grace. So in chapter 1, he says we're rich. Chapter 2, he says we're rich.

Chapter 3, verse 8, you can take a look at it. Then he should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. Once in each chapter, at least, he says that we are rich, unsearchably rich, incredibly rich, inestimable riches.

So in chapter 1, he prays that we would understand it, just understand what it is, the resource. And in chapter 3, he prays that God would enable us, that God would enable us to use it. It doesn't do any good to be rich unless you use it, okay? God provides every one of your needs, right? That's scripture.

You shouldn't worry about anything, but you're going to worry if you don't have the power plant turned on, because there's no way you can supply it if you've got withheld the key, which is you. Now, just how rich are we? Well, I don't know, and I thought about this all day again today as well. I don't know really how to illustrate it, other than to say this.

We are so rich, and I want you to walk with me on this, that we own everything God owns, that we possess everything he possesses. In case you question that, you need to read again Ephesians 1, 3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, now listen to this, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ. It means he's given us everything.

Nothing is held back to us. In Romans 8, we're heirs joint heirs with Christ. We are as rich as heaven.

God is going to in the ages to come pour out the exceeding riches of his grace and his kindness on us. There's no limit to our in Christ. Now, the problem with what we have been taught in our past is that we think those riches are physical riches.

Remember, everything starts spiritually. So, if you're not accepting the spiritual riches, you can't manifest them in your physical realm. I have said many times, give your house over to God and watch him do the payments.

Well, that is saying, okay, you own everything. Give it to him. Abide by that understanding and watch him work.

And I talked about this on Tuesday night a little bit. You should never have to want for anything if you are living in the spirit and being obedient. Now, we might illustrate it in this manner.

I wanted to find, when I was looking at this, I wanted to find the richest people in the world. And, of course, I went back in history to see who that might be and so forth and so on. So, I found out that DuPont family is the richest family in the world.

I used to know a DuPont. They didn't act that way. Matter of fact, he was stupid.

He was arrogant. And then I got a little information on the richest woman. And I thought you might be interested in this.

Mrs. Charles Jovis Walker is a black lady millionaire. Self-made, started with nothing and invented a hair straightener for the black population. She's one of the wealthiest women in the world.

Now, did you guys watch Shirley Temple in your childhood days? She is one of the wealthiest women in the world as well. She made her first million before she was 10 years old. Another thing I found was there's a lady by the name of Anna Dodge who died in 1970 and left $96 million.

And then there is Princes Wilhelmina, Helena, Pauline, Maria of Orange, the Netherlands. And she died in 1962 and left a mere 550 million to her state. But now when you come to the richest men, you go from millions to billions.

And you have J. Paul Getty, John Davis, Andrew Rockefeller, Henry Ford, Andrew Mellon, and on and on and on. But these people have billions of dollars and you can put in their gates and all of that crowd too. But I wanted to go back and just say, who are these people? So when you look at this and we talk about somebody having millions or billions, we understand that that's really rich.

Guys, some of us are going to be in that situation here soon. We can imagine the cars, the houses, the yachts, the boats, the airplanes, the buildings, the factories, the cash in the safe. We get all of that.

We can see all of that. Okay. But now let's look at it from a different way.

When we talk about being spiritually rich, we're kind of at a loss to understand that. We don't know what to look at. It's not physically, we can't physically look at it.

Okay. So these people are rich. But you got to compare them against everything in the universe that's not very rich at all.

Are they? For example, if God owns every single commodity in the universe, he's rich, right? He owns everything. That's what scripture says. He owns everything.

He's rich. Now, these people have a billion dollars. Compared to that, these people versus God owning everything, these people are paupers, especially if they're not spiritual, if they don't have a spiritual life.

Compared to what those that are in Christ have. So they got a little piece of this little speck of this earth where God's got the whole thing. He's got the stars.

He's got everything. He owns everything. So when we look at our riches, we need to think big, right? We need to understand that our wealth is God's wealth.

And I'm not talking just money. I'm talking about everything. Every asset that you have, okay? So God owns everything.

And as a Christian, so do we. There is no difference. We are really rich in the spiritual dimension, inconceivably rich, to be honest with you.

There's no way to measure that richness. Now, we've just got to stop here and put this into perspective. We get to manifest that into our physical life.

So when you look at your life and you say, oh, woe is me, and you do all of this stuff, what are you doing? You're missing the deal. You're looking at a physical life form that you've not manifested the riches from the spiritual realm to the physical realm because you are not growing in your what? Spirit. That's the sanctification process, guys.

So this is what Peter is praying. Oh, Father, I pray that you would grant them according to the riches that they would move out and know your power. That's his prayer.

And I guarantee you, we've never looked at it this way. And it's pretty sad knowing that this has been there all of our lives, mine included, to a point. It's been there all of our lives, and we have not tapped into that.

So we ought to be able to daily use them in the living, the process of our lives. That's what they're given to us for. If we look at verse 14, now I'm reminding you now of what we said last time, last week, saying for this cause, okay, there was a cause for this prayer.

In other words, because of something that happened, and we have to go back to verse 1 where he stated this statement before he was interrupted by his parenthesis, for this cause I pray, what cause? Back to chapter 2, verse 22, because you are built together in him for a habitation of God through the Spirit. That's the point. Your riches are in the Spirit.

Okay, now we're going to get, I'm writing a devotional thing about the seed of your salvation. That seed can only grow if you feed it. If you don't feed it, you're not going to get anything from it, and the primary reason for that is because you don't study.

You don't sanctify yourself. Okay, so in other words, because a believer has dwelling in him Christ, God, and the Holy Spirit, you got to try and guide there. All right, because God, man is the connection, the Spirit is the vehicle of conversation, and God is the seed.

The seed. Okay, we'll get into that at another point. In whom is Christ? God is mentioned and in the Spirit.

Because they all dwell in you, you are incredibly rich, and because of that resource, he prays that we would really begin to turn the power on so that ultimately we get to verse 20. That's our goal, and it would become a reality. Okay, that's our goal.

We need to move through this process to get to reality, which is the manifestation of these riches from the spiritual realm to the physical realm, so that we can experience them in this life. So we would see exceeding abundantly above all we could ever ask or think according to the power that works in you. You can't think the magnitude of this power machine.

Just know what, you can't. Now, this is the Christian's ignition. He wants us to get to verse 20, where we will really see the power flow, and we've got the resources.

We've got the engine. We've got the energy. We've got the power.

It is all there, but you got, we got to turn it on. Now, in Paul's discussion, here of how to get turned on, there are progressive steps. Matter of fact, there are five progressive steps in this passage.

First of all, we go down through this progression, and we talked about this last time. In the Greek, what we call lahena, which is, which purpose clauses a purpose result clause. That's the Greek word for it.

It says, it means do this in order that this may happen. Let's think about this. Ladies that like to bake, you have a progression of ingredients that you use that says, do this, do this, add this, stir this, do this, do this, add this, stir this.

Now put them, put the two ingredients together, stir it up, and put it in the oven for, that's called a recipe. It's also called in manufacturing of bill of materials. It's also called a progression.

You do one thing before you do another, before you do another, before you do that. And that is what's laid out in this passage. So we're going to get to the details of how to turn this thing on.

Okay. So we need to make sure that as we look at this, you keep in mind that this is in order of progression. You do this in order that this may happen.

When that happens, you do this in order that the next thing may happen. Then you do something else in order that that thing may happen. And that is a continuous progression of process flow.

So let's look at this. And it all starts, we talked about this briefly on Tuesday night, it all starts with the inner strength that proceeds to the indwelling Christ. Incomprehensible love, infinite fullness, and internal power.

So finally, we get to the place where internal power is released. That's our goal. But not until the inner strength, the indwelling Christ, incomprehensible love, infinite fullness, that leads to internal power.

Then we're going to cover all of this over tonight and the next two weeks so that we get all of this in our process mindset so that we know when we hit the ground running in chapter four by starting to run the race, we know how to get the engine going so that we can win. That's what we're driving to. So let's begin at the beginning.

So for Christians to really get his power turned on, for the believer to really know the energy that is there in operation, he starts with this concept of inner strength, verse 16. Now here's Paul's prayer. That you would be, first of all, strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man.

He's telling you, this is what you got to do. To make all of this work, to get this engine turned on, to manifest this in this physical realm, you have to turn on the inner man. You have to take that seed and you got to grow it.

You got to grow it. Now this is a very basic concept, but I want you to get it. So we're going to keep it as simple as I can and see that we get it.

If you don't get it, let me know. We'll do it a different way. But it's very important and an essential doctrine for the life of the Church of Christ to understand this.

So here's the first step. Strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man. Now this is where it all begins.

This is the first step and it's going to show us to know the power of God in your life. And you know most Christians never really experience it because they've never been taught how the engine works. We're doing that now.

So this is one of those things you're going to know how this engine works and you're going to know you hold the key and you're going to know it's your will that is either going to turn it on or turn it off or leave it off. So at this time, Paul is telling the Ephesian people, you're limping along guys. You don't have your eight cylinders working.

You have only one cylinder working and you're limping along. They can't resolve their home conflicts. They have hassles getting along with their family.

Think about your own life. They can't seem to adjust to a job. The neighbors give them problems.

They're sort of weak. They're sort of infirm on the inside. We're challenged with an incredible or important opportunity for service to Christ.

They feel inadequate. They try to do the best they can to be an example of Christ, but they falter. They have eternal anxieties and pressures and problems.

They've got to go to the Christian counseling center to get help. They've got to go to psychological counseling centers to get help. Most Christians never get to Ephesians 3.20. I hope the majority of you do, but I can tell you most Christians do not.

They don't even know what it is to see exceeding abundantly above all they can ask or think operating in them. They don't even know that. They never reach that level, but it's not God's fault.

He gave you everything because the energy is there. The availability is there. The engine is there.

The riches are there. It's only a matter of appropriation, and it's a sad thing that Christians, as well as the rest of the world, suffer from a weak inner man. If they absolutely knew where their power comes from, they would rise above everything and shine.

That's what he's trying to overcome here. The inner man is the real issue. You have a weak inner man.

You suffer from frustration and mental strain and emotional and spiritual imbalance. Now, we would expect the unregenerative, right? The ones that haven't accepted Christ as Savior and got regenerated. We would expect the ungenerated world to lose the battle of the inner man.

Why? Because they have no power plant. We don't expect the unregenerated people to have a great self-control over sin. We don't go into a local bar and say, all right, guys, everybody up.

Put it away. Stop this mess, and you think it's in shape up, and you think it's going to happen. You're wasting your time.

Think about the parties that we used to go to. Oh, my gosh. Some parties, you could barely stagger out of it.

I can remember. I'm telling you. I'm very transparent, so you guys are going to love me or hate me.

I remember one Halloween party one time that I woke up on the lawn of the place that we had the party. My partying life, all right? We have no control over that inner man, but our inner man, regardless of if it's not regenerated, that inner man, whatever that is, has got control over us. We were told in Ephesians 1, what? Ephesians 2, 1, that we're born with a demonic spirit.

Who's controlling us? Who's controlling that inner man before we're saved? We need to understand that, because if you don't allow that seed to grow, who's taking over? Remember, it's a balancing effect. You're regenerated, but if that seed doesn't grow, that means that your sin nature is still high. It only offsets if you grow that seed.

Let's get back into this. The inner man, regardless, must express itself. That's a condition of this physical realm.

That inner man has been programmed to express itself. It's going to express itself based upon where you're at in your spiritual life. Whatever is allowable and whatever feels good is typically our nature without that seed growing.

We're going to do what we want to do when we want to do it, and you really don't care what anybody thinks about it. You might do it in private, or you are going to do what you want, because that's the inner man. That inner man has to be addressed.

When you look at the world, and the reason why we're not to associate with or not love this world or love anything in it, why? It's because it affects our inner man. That's where it pulls. It aligns itself with your inner man.

It aligns itself with you. Who's your inner man? That's you. When you understand that you have this interpersonality that must express himself, and it's going to express himself.

I always said, when you look in the mirror, what do you see? Because you get to see exactly who you are. That inner man is telling you who you are. One way or the other, you have to deal with it.

You can't have this thing that I don't know how to put the key in, or turn it on, or whatever. I don't know what to do. We're going to get into all of that, because you're having to deal with it anyway.

That key is turned on to something. It's whether or not it's to the left or the right, but that key is turned on. Sometimes we, as Christians, find ourselves in a position where we don't seem to be able to control that inner man.

Maybe it comes out in things we say. Maybe it comes out in things that we do that are unacceptable to God. A failure to be obedient, to follow up on spiritual resources, whatever it is.

Very often, it happens even to Christians. Sometimes we even lose the struggle with the inner man. Backsliding.

The biggest issue with alcoholism is that. Any addiction is that. You don't focus on the inner self to gain the strength to overcome the physical process, and therefore, you result going back to your addiction.

You have to deal with this inner man thing no matter what. The question lies is whether or not you're going to deal with it as you are used to, or as you want it to be as a follower of Jesus Christ. That's the thing, because when you're saved, it's given all to you.

This power plant is given to you. So the question is, are you turning it on? Are you living it off? What are you doing with it? Now, what is the center man? We briefly talked about it. Let's get into detail.

What are we really talking about? We don't have to get too heavy about this. I'm not going to do this, but the inner man is just the real you. We spend a lot of time on the outer man.

Maybe this is going to help you see what this inner man is by contrast. We all look good. We're all dressed.

We have our hair combed with those that have hair. Okay, the ladies got makeup on. The guys have shaved their face.

You take the face off, you know, type stuff. We look good on the outside. We haven't missed a protein shake today.

We haven't missed a meal today to feed us. We haven't done any of that stuff. We do things with this outer man all the time, because that's what we think people see of us.

But what comes out through that is your inner man. You're either going to radiate or not. So, when you look at this contrast, you need to consider that you're dealing with the outer man on a physical level and not addressing the inner man on the spiritual level to manage the manifestation of all of these riches to the physical body.

That's what we failed to do. We need to have, let's just say challenged all of us, we need to have a challenging your self-assessment. Take a day.

Just take an average day. Just select a day that you feel like you want to, you know, play around with something and write down all of the things, all of the time frames that you do for your outer man. You know, you get up, you brush it, you manage your teeth, you do all of this stuff, you feed it, you clothe it, you make it smell good, whatever, all this stuff.

Take a day, an average day, and just write out the time. You don't have to keep step by step, but just at the end of the day, do a self-assessment. Say, okay, today I spent four hours on myself.

I ran, I lifted weights, I ate three times a day, I clothed myself, I took a shower, I, you know, all this outward stuff. Put rollers in my hair for four hours, you know, whatever you do. For those of you who do that, Sam has to do his mustache.

But anyway, so think about that and take that and then ask yourself the same question of your inner man that day. And if you would take and spend as much on your inner self as you do on your outer self, I guarantee you, you will change your life dramatically. Matter of fact, I'd go to the bank if I was a betting man and I would bet on that.

I know it happens all the time. So the inner man is the eternal part, the spirit, the soul, the real you. Now let's think about this a moment.

Let's just put this up. You have this outward person. We know that that is a satanic, this whole body is satanic, right? We already know that.

The soul is what keeps this man running. That's your energy source. But it's the spirit that tells the soul what to send the signals to the body to do.

You seeing this now? So it's the spirit. So if you're in the spirit that you were born in, in this demonic spirit that you were born in, and that's in control of your body, the demonic spirit's telling your soul to tell your physical brain to go do this stuff that the inner spirit is controlled by Lucifer himself. Now, same thing.

If you take this seed that was given to you upon your salvation and you begin to nurture that, you plant it well, you feed it well, you allow it to grow, it shakes and shiver, it starts changing things inside of you. And as this thing happens, this sin nature begins to decrease, and all of a sudden you have this breakthrough, or this seed is turned into a tree, and this sin nature is wilting. And when that happens, you're going to see a drastic change in your life.

But I bet nobody understood that when you got saved, you only got a seed. You have to do something. And that key was missed out of all my salvation experience throughout my life until I got to an adult and started studying and doing what I do.

And I bet you guys are the same. So if you look at 2 Corinthians 4, verse 16, it says Paul's making this contrast again. He's making it to the church of Corinth, and he's talking here about a situation of persecution, which he was caught in as was common at that point in time.

And he had been perplexed, he had been distressed, and he had been persecuted, and he had been cast down, and he had been bearing in his body the dying of the Lord Jesus Christ. There's a lot to suffer in Paul's ministry. Death was really working on him.

But he says in verse 16, for which cause we faint not. In other words, even though we've got a lot of trouble on the outside, a lot of hassle on the outside, a lot of persecution, and so forth, we don't faint. Why? Why do we not faint? Because of that inner man.

That's your strength. Through our outer man, I'm sorry, though our outer man perishes, watch this, yet the inner man is renewed or better refreshed day by day. I die daily.

I refresh my inner man daily with the dying to Christ. Now, you see, Paul was never preoccupied with the outer man. In fact, he says God delivers fresh strength to the inner man every day.

Now, think about that. As soon as you wake up, wow, what a great thing that you say, God, I want my refreshment now, please. Okay? Because he says he does it every day.

So why doesn't he, why wouldn't he do it if you asked for it? But he declared it. That's what he tells you to do. That is the process of growth in the spiritual life.

Your inner man being strengthened. That is this thing called Christianity. That's this thing called justification, sanctification.

Okay? Your inner man being revitalized and renewed every day. In 2 Timothy 4, verse 17, Paul talks about the fact that the Lord came to him in a time of distress and strengthened him, giving him victory over the lions that would have devoured him. Paul was very conscious of strengthening the inner man.

Now, watch this. The outer man decays. As soon as you're born, this body dies, begins to die.

And the older you get, the more it declines. You can't avoid it. That is what time has dealt us.

We're not in timelessness anymore. We're in time. So there is a time to this body.

It just happens. The older you get, the further it declines. And the older you get as a Christian, and the more you grow as a Christian and are refreshed every day, actually, your spiritual growth, leaving the base, say, of your outer man does not go like this.

The spiritual growth does not ascend up like that. It goes like this, because the outer man diminishes, declines, and decays while the inner man ascends, which means the older in Christ you get, the older you get as you're renewed by the Spirit, the further away you come from the outer man, Enoch and Elijah. The more they grew that seed to a tree, and the more they understood that the more they fueled that tree, the further they got away from the physical outer man, the physical man itself.

Christ says, you're no more a mortal being. Why? Because they grew the inner man. So the more you grow in your spirit, the less you're concerned about your outer man.

The whole process is for the Spirit to take over your life. It says, be like Christ. Put on Christ.

It's talking about the Spirit. It's not talking about this outer shell of something. It's talking about that internal Spirit, that inner man.

Now, if you're getting old, and you're concerned about it, and you're getting old, and you're afraid of dying, and you're getting old, and it bothers you a whole lot, then I would venture to say that your inner man is not ascending in proportion to the declining of your outer man. You should be growing in strength as you're getting older, and the more you understand, the more you understand that this physical body you're going to leave behind, and it's your spiritual self that's going to exercise whatever life you've got left in this physical form. To what? To do what? To pull down those riches into this physical life, so that you can experience the abundance that Christ has given you.

God has a way of just making everything right. But you've got to act, okay? It says, faith without action is dead, okay? So, you have to act, and you have to act on, number one, that seed. That seed, okay? It's a process, all right? But our inner man is revitalized, increasing richer, deeper, and stronger every day.

Now, that's what he's after. That is what he's trying to say to us. Friends, if this is true, Paul, you say that his inner man was renewed, and revitalized, and refreshed every day.

Why isn't it true of me? Because the simple answer here is the renewal of the inner man is dependent upon the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit works is dependent upon your yieldedness. You have to yield to the Spirit. You have to give up this physical, natural self with your sin nature, your demonic spirit.

You've got to get rid of it. You've got to work at it. Remember what I said.

You can have your ticket. That's the seed. You can have your ticket, but you might not like what you get when you get there, if you haven't done what you need to do here, which is grow that seed.

The New Testament says, quench not the Spirit. The New Testament says, grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby you're sealed. Now, if you grieve the Spirit, and you quench the Spirit, you cut off the resource.

You have no access to the power plant. We're going to get into some scriptures where it says, basically, you're given a veil. Enough is enough.

He's going to give you x amount of time. But when enough's enough, what he's going to do, he's going to do to us, just like what he did to Israel. He's just going to say, okay, you got your ticket.

There you go. I'll see you there. You're not going to do anything with what I'm trying to give you.

So therefore, I'm not going to spend any more time with you. You're going to become deaf and dumb. You cut off the flow of refreshment.

Then your inner man is not revitalized every day, and you're not going to experience what Paul experienced, what he's trying to teach us. The key thing then, let's go back to Ephesians. The key thing here is to start with it.

You be strengthened with the might by his Holy Spirit in the inner man. In other words, that you allow the Spirit of God to do that revitalization, refreshing, renewing ministry day after day. But that can't happen if you're not strengthening your inner man through your sanctification process.

Now, the inner man's got to be strong or you can't fight the world. You have no strength. You have the power plant.

Think about it. You got this power plant sitting there with all the resources you need, and you're fighting every day. You come on and say, and tell your spouse, I'm totally exhausted.

I'm mentally shattered today. I just can't take anymore. Oh my gosh, that would have never happened if you had understood what the inner man is supposed to be doing.

Think about it. The Apostle Paul had that battle. In Romans 7, the seventh chapter of Romans, Paul is saying, in my inner man, I delight in the law of God.

Romans 7, 22, I delight in the law of God in my inner man. You know, it wants what is right. It wants what is right.

But he says, the thing I want to do, what I don't. And the thing that I don't want to do, I do. Because he is fighting this inner natural process.

That's what he's doing. And he says, I have a weak inner man. It has the right desires, but I have this outer flesh that messes it up.

Can you imagine Paul being the murderer, the blasphemer? I mean, and trying to deal with all that while you say, it's unbelievable. You couldn't have picked a better example for us today. With all the things Paul did in his life is absolutely that which we do today.

And I bet, okay, have you ever done this? After you've done something, you say, I wish I hadn't done that. Yeah. Okay.

Because what you didn't do is express the inner man. You allowed your physical flesh to take charge. Remember I said, what's the first thing you need to do on every decision? Ask the Spirit, what should I do? And here you see, he says, O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death.

And then he says, I thank God through our Lord Jesus Christ. But he doesn't know the answer yet. He just says, I know it's in Christ somewhere, but I just don't know where it is.

And then you go into chapter eight, and all of a sudden, Paul gets slapped. I call it hit by two by four, because all of a sudden he discovers the Holy Spirit and how the Holy Spirit works. And he says, the law of righteousness is filled in me through the walk in the Spirit.

In other words, he now knows what's going on. I said, Paul is not any other example than us, because that's what we do. We go at it, and then we say, oh gosh, I wish I hadn't done that way.

Because if I'd only done that, then things would have turned out much different. Well, that's what Paul was talking about in Romans. He had a weak inner man.

He discovered the Holy Spirit, and all of a sudden, the Spirit strengthened his inner man to the point where basically that's all he looked for. Now listen, you cannot experience the inner strength, and the Greek theory is to be powered with power, to be dynamited with dynamite, to be strong with strength, to be mighty with might. That's the idea.

You'll never know that on your own, because you can't do it. You're dead. You have no strength.

You'll never know maturity. I want you to think about this. Maturity until you allow the Spirit of God to do his renewing work.

You say, well, is he there to do that? Oh yeah, he's there. If any man not have the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. He tells you right there.

Romans 8, 9 says, every Christian possesses the Spirit, and if you possess the Spirit, Jesus said, you shall receive power after the Spirit has come upon you, and that the power is there. The Spirit's there. It's a question of appropriation.

It is inside of you. Do you guys have any issues with the definition of appropriation? That is the actual, that's the act of putting something into motion. Now you say, well, what's the key? Okay, let's go to Galatians 5, 16.

Walk in the Spirit, and you'll not fulfill the lust of the flesh. That is just the most simplest truth right there. Walk in the Spirit.

Now the New Testament word walk is the word of daily conduct. If you go to Greek, do the translation, whatever, you get a definition called daily conduct. So what it's saying is, conduct your daily life in the power of the Spirit.

Conduct your daily life yielding to the Spirit. Conduct your daily life with a consciousness of the presence of the Spirit of God. That's just basic.

We must be Spirit-controlled, Spirit-filled, Spirit-conscious, Spirit-led. Okay, all of the things necessary. That means walking in the Spirit.

You can't just remember the Holy Spirit ever so often. It says walk with the Spirit. The walk is a picture of a step at a time.

Every step taken in the energy and the power and the yieldedness to the Holy Spirit. In other words, before you do something, you ask what you should be doing about it. Over in Ephesians 5, 18, look at what it says.

And be not drunk with wine in which is excess, but be filled with the Spirit. The Greek says, be being kept filled. The continuous flow.

Let it be a constant thing. Constantly filled up with the Holy Spirit. Now, the Holy Spirit's inside of you, but what is it saying? Where's the filling up process take place? This is like your car engine where you have no gas and you need to put gas in it to make it work.

This is exactly what happens to us. Where's your gas tank? It's the Holy Spirit. It's always filled.

What is not always filled? Your mind. Your physical brain has to be continuously filled. So the process of transferring the gas through the soul to your physical brain is what takes place in the spiritual world as we do it with a car.

So the constant filling of the Holy Spirit is the process of your spirit seed that's grown into a tree that now tells your soul what to do and your soul tells your brain. And therefore, the more that happens over and over and over and over and over again, you're not going to have to worry about it. It's going to take over your life for you.

So you get up in the morning and it's a question of decisions, right? We do one thing after another. We process it in our mind. We figure out what we're doing.

All of life is nothing more than a decision. You decide whether you're going to get out of bed or not. And you decide on what you're going to eat or what you're not going to eat.

It's decision after decision after decision after decision. The simplicity of walking in the Spirit is simply yielding each one of those to the Spirit. Instead of you thinking about what you're going to do today, why don't you say, Holy Spirit, help me figure out my day, please.

Please, you know, give me my day planner. Those of you who like to plan all day. You say, well, in order to do that, you'd have to be thinking about the Holy Spirit every time a decision came.

That's absolutely right. That's what it's supposed to be. And you say, well, if I go around thinking about it, the Holy Spirit all the time, you know, I'd be like some bruised and bleeding Pharisees.

Okay. That is actually a term in Jewish history, blue and bruised and bleeding Pharisees. This is what happened in those times when a woman walked by, the Pharisees closed their eyes because they didn't want to think sinful things.

And when they closed their eyes, they forgot where they were. And they ran into buildings. That is actually written in Jewish history.

So you get this term bruised and bleeding. So they thought it was a sin to look at a woman. Every time a woman came up, they closed their eyes and they kept running into buildings.

So we don't want you to be that way. We don't want you to be stumbling around into walls or whatever. All we want you to do is be conscious of the Spirit.

So to wrap it all up, just be conscious of the Spirit. It's that simple. You fill your mind with the Word of God.

You see in Ephesians 5.18, it says be filled with the Holy, be filled with the Spirit. A parallel passage, you can go over to Colossians 3.16, and it says, lest the Word of Christ dwell in you richly. It's the same thing.

Okay, just another way of saying it. You allow the Word of God to saturate you. The Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you.

And as I hide the Word in my heart, as it saturates me, it becomes to control my thinking process. Remember, everything begins with a single thought. And if you have enough time to think about it, you have enough time to ask the Holy Spirit what you should be thinking about.

Remember, this should be an ongoing conversation. You're supposed to be praying or praising God all day long, right? Well, that's the Holy Spirit. You're talking to the Holy Spirit, guys.

So whatever decision you fix in the minute, you should ask, okay, Holy Spirit, what should I do? And if you don't get an answer, you don't do anything. You can't take charge. Okay, you can't take that back and be in the Spirit.

So as it controls the thinking process, then the Spirit of God brings it to mind instantaneously at the point of each decision. The whole purpose of this is programming. If you go through and continue your sanctification process, and you grow, you feed this seed, and you understand that you need to be in constant communication with the Holy Spirit, that's not talking.

I mean, you could be, you know, thinking, whatever. You then allow that Spirit to take control, and then it becomes a process that that's where you go to all the time. It's automatic, and then you need to yield to it one step at a time.

I strengthen my spiritual muscle when I do that. Every time I yield to the Holy Spirit, I exercise my spiritual muscle, and I get a little bit stronger in that inner man. Paul says, I can do all things through Christ, who what? Strengthens me.

But I've got to yield to Him to do that. I've got to yield to His Spirit. I can't do it apart from Him.

Now, Paul is praying that our inner man would grow strong as we yield to the Spirit. You'll never do that until you're in the Word of God. We all receive the Holy Spirit, but that Holy Spirit doesn't do anything unless you feed it, and the food comes from the Word of God, the Bible.

So, in fact, 1 Corinthians 12 says, we've all been made to drink in the one Spirit, but for some of us, it's been a long time since we had a good drink, a good drink of the Spirit. We've been functioning in the flesh. If you want to drink in the Spirit of God, systematically study the Scriptures.

You might not miss your protein drink, but I wonder if you would miss the time in the Word of God. You're thinking about the outer man, not the inner man. So, how do we do this? Just spend the equal amount of time studying the Word of God and intimately talking to God about what He says in His Word.

You will literally be revolutionized. When you read a passage of Scripture, you should probably ask the Holy Spirit, what does it mean? Because unless you're in deep in lexicons, legal stuff, and all this other stuff with the knowledge of history, you're not going to get the revealing that basically the Scripture needs to give to you. So, I would say, ask the Holy Spirit to define it for you.

Give me the definition of this, please. But you see, we don't do that. We worry about that outer stuff, and the inner man limps along until we come together, and you get your shot in the arm by being together in this family three times a week, and then you go your merry way again.

Well, we can't do that. I started this process on Tuesday night by talking about this in a way that would sort of ease the skids, if you will, getting into tonight, because we need to grow this family, and in doing so, one of the processes to do that is to create the environment that we can all talk, and we can all be accountable one to another, as Scripture tells us to do. So, by doing that, then this church will grow.

I'm talking about your fruits. Your fruits will grow. That's what I'm talking about.

I'm not talking about numbers, and numbers are going to come when God wants the numbers to grow, but you will have fruit growing in your life. You will see results. So, when you feed the inner man with the Word of God, and you feed it, and what happens is the inner man has truth in its frontal lobe.

What you're giving your soul, your spirit, is the acknowledgement that you're giving it the truth that is coming from your study. What did I say? God doesn't trust us. We have to earn His trust.

Why? Because He gives you the seed. He gives you a ticket. You're going to be in His home.

You're in His family, but you're not doing anything about it. So, the first thought is the Word of God, and the Spirit has a handle to turn you into God's will, and once you've exercised your will towards the Holy Spirit, you're strengthened your spiritual muscle, and that's how you grow. Guys, we lift weights.

We get these big muscles. We get whatever, okay? We lift weights. We get strength, but we also are building a physique.

That's the same process that this inner man has to go through. You got to work it. You got to work it out.

You got to feed it. You got to stuff. You got to do all of this stuff.

Now, people think, well, I don't know if I could ever get to that level. You see, I'm just sort of a class two Christian. I think of a missionary, or you think of a pastor or somebody as sort of a spaced out strange being, but they're up there on some spiritual level, and oh, it would be wonderful, but it's so beyond us, okay? They don't even preach this, teach it.

The only difference between you and me, I said this Tuesday night, the only difference between you and me is I'm talking and you're listening. I got the same problems you got. I have the same Satan that runs around, you know, biting at my rear end all the time.

I got the same struggles in life as you do. There's no difference. The only difference is God took a two by four to me and says, you know this stuff, teach it.

That's really all that's different. I don't have a mystical contracted guide. I'm not between you and him in this purgatory type manner, trying to feed things up and down.

No, no, no. No, I don't. I am just like you.

I need to spiritually strengthen you, which I do that hopefully in my teaching. I need to be accountable to you. I need to be open with you.

I need to be able to talk to you just like you talk to one another. Somewhere as a Christian, you've got to begin in this. And you begin to say yes to the Spirit of God.

The Word of God is in you. The truth is there so that you can respond to it. The Spirit of God gives you the impulse to what is right to do.

You've got your moral compass. You know what's right. You do what is right.

You strengthen your spiritual muscle. And as you do it time and time and time again, the more and more and more resources becomes available to you. Finally, at some point, it becomes the flow of your life.

You're beginning to operate on another plane. You'll begin to respond automatically. Your life will be revolutionized.

And you know what happens then? Spiritual growth has always been defined as the decreasing frequency of sin. This is what happens. You see, the more you exercise your spiritual muscle, the more you yield to the Spirit of God, the more the Spirit of God controls your life, the less sin is there.

Remember, Satan runs away. It's never the absence of sin. You're always going to have that.

You're never going to get to sinless bliss until you die. It's the decreasing frequency of it. And I said that as your sin decreases and your spiritual life increases, that it hurts more.

Here's the reason why. Because for the devil to get you to sin in that environment, it's got to be so heinous. Okay.

That it actually hurts. Because you know as it's happening, it's wrong. And because of that, you've worked so hard to do the things that are right.

And you open this door up. Now it hurts more. It's not the normal way of life.

So therefore, it takes a while to rebuild that relationship, right? It's just like a marriage. You've got to rebuild that relationship. That's what it means to be strengthened with the might by His Holy Spirit in the inner man.

And you can start right where you are, okay? You can start by absorbing the Word of God, by saying yes to the Holy Spirit. Maybe you're tempted to be angered. You're tempted to be lustful.

You're tempted to be thoughtless or prayerless. You're tempted for whatever it is. Instead of worrying about it, just say yes to what you know is right.

And you've then exercised your spiritual muscle. You're a little stronger when you do it. And that's the process that Paul is after in this prayer for us, okay? To start the engine, to allow us to grow, understand chapters four through six, and the application of all of this this resources that we've been told that we have.

So then someday you'll grow up and be like Paul. You say, oh no, I could. Same God, same Holy Spirit, same resources, same power.

It's all the same, guys. Maybe it's a different wheel, all right? You need to exercise your will as he did. Every one of us is different.

Our gifts are different. Our talents are different. We have different wills.

The Apostle Paul got to the place where it didn't matter what happened to the outer man. That's the reason why he went into Rome when everybody was convinced that you're telling him not to go, when he got arrested and wrote the Ephesians letter. He didn't care about the outer man.

He grew so far away from that perishing outer man because the ascendancy of his inner man was going so vertical. That's the key. You can make this skyrocket by keeping your head in the Word of God and feeding that inner man.

He was, Paul was so far away from it. And in Acts 20, Paul said, none of these things moved me because I don't count my what inner outer man worth anything. Anyway, for me to live in Christ and to die a simple gain, get rid of this outer man thing.

This thing is just a problem. That's what Paul thought about. And that's what Paul is praying for us to do.

Now, in 2 Corinthians chapter 11, the Apostle Paul told us a little bit about his ministry. I think you're going to find this interesting. He says, five times I received 39 strikes.

Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked.

A night and a day I had been in the deep in journeyings, often in pearls of water, pearls of robbers, my own countrymen, Gentiles, the city, wilderness, perils, perils in the sea, perils among false brethren, weariness, painfulness of watching, hunger, thirst, fasting, cold, nakedness, and besides that, the care of the church. This is not going to be something that happens without some level of outer man issues. That's what he's saying.

He says in verse 30, in fact, I will glory of the things that concern my infirmities. It just helps keep me, my concentration on the inner man. The focus that we have to do is stop focusing on this outer man and the things of this world and begin to focus on our inner man.

Paul said in 2 Corinthians chapter 4, verses 9 to 11, I'll read, I'll read it out of, so I'll read it for you. We are handicapped on all sides, but never frustrated. We are puzzled, but never despair.

We are persecuted, but never do we stand alone. We may be knocked down, but we've never knocked out. Every day we experience something of the death of the Lord Jesus, so that we know also the power of the life of Jesus in these bodies of ours, and this is the reason we never collapse.

He says we may get it on the outside, guys, but Jesus is giving it on the inside, and that's why we never collapse. And then in verse 16, he says the outer man suffers wear and tear, but every day the inner man receives fresh strength. So the issue for us tonight is, are we concentrating on our inner man? You will never get the ignition turned on until you do it.

You will flounder around in impotence until you do it. If you want to ever get to Ephesians 3.20, you first got to get Ephesians 3.16 done. You'll never know what it means to have exceeding abundantly above what you can ask or think happening in you until you have started in verse 16.

Until it is a daily routine for you to yield to the power of the Holy Spirit, and by that I simply mean to obey what you know is right before God. As the Spirit of God gives you the right impulse in your life, you say no to temptation. You say yes to the Spirit.

You've exercised your spiritual muscle. You have been renewed that day because of that. And you have been refreshed that day.

And though your outer man got one day older, your inner man got one day stronger. And gradually you're going to grow grow away from the mundane. You're going to grow away and you're going to come closer and closer to God of your salvation.

Further and further away from the things of this world that don't matter, and less and less preoccupation with them. And so as you're strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man, you're ready to take the next step. That will be next week.

So what we've got is we've got the first order of business to do in verse 16. Because you can't go to verse 17 until you've got 16 done. Remember, you've got to do this to achieve this, and once that's achieved, then you go to the next step.

This is step one, guys. This is step one. Questions? Comments? Things you don't understand? Yeah, David? Jim, I think probably probably even up until today, I always thought that if I was to speak to the Holy Spirit, it was somewhere out there that I wasn't sure if it was going to hear.

But correct me if I'm wrong. The Holy Spirit lives in me. So when I speak or ask, it doesn't have to go too far.

It's just there. It's there. Yeah, I know, my friend.

It is a direct Wi-Fi connection or hardware to Jesus Christ. When you talk, when you pray, you're praying to God the Father, but the God the Father is part of what's inside of you. Remember, I said God the Father is that seed? That seed.

So when you pray, you're praying to your inner man, your spirit, as the connectivity point to get to the throne room with God immediately. You have no waiting period. Yeah.

Good. Thank you. Anything else, guys? Sure.

Yeah. Yes, Pam. Okay.

I've always got something. I've always thought of myself, you know, I've got the incorruptible flesh. Then I have my soul, my mind.

That's where decisions and choices are made. And then I have the real me, the regenerated spirit man within me. And I've got, you know, regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

And I've always considered that the flesh and the spirit, the real me, war over control of the soul. And that's what I kept hearing tonight is that whichever one you feed the most is going to be, you know, the strongest. And I think of this scripture also, if I sow to the flesh, I'm going to reap corruption.

And if I sow to the spirit, as you talked about tonight, you know, feeding, then I'm going to reap, you know, eternal life. But whichever one that I feed, as you said tonight, is going to be stronger, and then we'll have control over the soul where those decisions are made and right choices are made. Yep.

That's the way I've seen this. And then you're teaching tonight. That's my summary for myself.

And it lines up with what, you know, it just comes down to, are we sowing to the flesh, the lust of the flesh? Are we sowing to the spirit? And every time, and it is a daily thing, every time I tell my flesh, no, my flesh becomes weaker, and the spirit stronger. Yep. You're exercising your spiritual muscle at that point by the decision that you've made.

Yes. So is that, am I on the right track there? You are. You are.

I mean, and the thing we need to realize is that, is it one way or other, we're going to feed our inner man. It's a matter of whether or not you consciously do it with the word of God to give you the strength to get that power plant turned on, which gives you all of the blessings in the world, okay, in the heavenlies, or you choose not to and you feed it through your walk in darkness. That's, we're going to feed it.

We have no choice. Right. We have no choice.

Right. It's going to go one way or the other, but it's your choice as to which way that goes. Yeah.

We're going to feed one of those continually, every single day. And there's another scripture that I love because there is no condemnation for those who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit. We're not condemned.

Right. You know, but anyway. Right.

Good points. Thank you. Jane.

Actually, it's Kevin, Jane. Hey, my computer's not working. So question is this basically actions you take in every day that you sort of think about it and it's like, okay, I probably wouldn't do this, but this is probably the right thing I should do.

And when you think about your spirit and normally I just did something today that I'm normally, I'm like, I shouldn't do this because this guy did this or whatever, but you know what, I'm going to go and help them out anyway and not even talk about and bring up what happened in the past. And I just did it and I wouldn't even accept money for it. And I just thought this is what God wanted me to do.

You're spot on. You're spot on. You know, I appreciate you Kevin a lot and in all kinds of ways, even your friendship.

And I know that I know in what I feel in my heart, you are absolutely trying everything to make sure that you are tied to that spirit every day. And that's what the scriptures say to do. You strive, you strive for the process that's in So buddy, you're there, you're doing it and praise the Lord that you swallowed your pride and self and went and did what you did because that glorified God in front of him by doing that.

That's a tremendous thing. I got a long ways to go and I'm just learning. Yeah.

We're here for you too, whatever you need, you guys. What else guys? All right, let's pray. Buddy, thank you for this evening.

Thank you for the time of worshiping you through your word. We ask that you basically help us as we continue our effort in sanctification. We want to continue to feed this seed that you placed inside of upon our salvation, which we call the inner man.

And we want to make sure that the Holy Spirit takes his charge of our life. So work with us in assuring that that's the process in each one of our hearts and our minds. Remove the struggles around that.

Give us some slack on the conviction of things so that we can get used to the process and work. I ask you to work with us as your word says that basically you're going to provide the strength in our heart and the ability to understand and the actions that are needed through faith to accomplish this objective of making sure that we're feeding our spirit to your work. And Father, we ask that basically you continue the protection recognizance in place.

We ask that you continue to meet the needs as more and more needs are coming up. And we pray for those that are in harm's way, that basically your hand of strength, protection, health, and all the needs are met as they come up. And Father, we ask all these things in my name.