

"The Mechanics of Vivifying"

Change – Pt. 4

July 14, 2024

["vivify" = to enliven or animate"]

INTRO ...The Dawn of a New WAY of Life So... What's Informing Your Pursuit of Change in Your Life?—Demands or Expectations of Others (spouse, friends, religious community)?? ..."Sick & Tired of being Sick & Tired"!?? ...But we're speaking about it from the "theological moment" of Romans 8!!

ENABLED to Change (The Mechanics of Vivifying)

Rom 8:3-16 [The Story of a New Life]

"The Spirit is the dominant figure in Romans 8. The word pneuma occurs twenty-one times in the chapter, and all but two refer to the Holy Spirit." **Douglas Moo**, "The Theology of Paul and His Letters", p. 226

"In this section Paul elaborates what he had previously established in Rom. 7:5-6: the Spirit as God's alternative to Torah and antidote to the flesh, since both of these belong to the 'before Christ' side of things. The Spirit is therefore the key to our new relationship with God, as children who are heirs with Christ of eternal glory. Not only so, but the Spirit is also the key to our enduring present suffering, while we await that final glory." **Gordon Fee**, "God's Empowering Presence", p. 515

v. 3 ...The ENABLING INDICATIVE—"God has done" ...God Solved the "Unrighteousness Dilemma"!! (Ie the Sheer Incompatibility Problem of God Dwelling in Unrighteousness!)—**THIS is Man's Great Dilemma!**

...**But Note—This "Justification" is a DOORWAY Not a DESTINATION!!**

v. 4 ...a Means to an End—"in order that" ...we might walk according to the Spirit (and righteousness be manifest in us)

Rom 6:4 "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, **IN ORDER THAT**, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might **WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE**"

Gal 2:20 | have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And **THE LIFE I NOW LIVE** in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Christianity is about LIVING (Expressing/Manifesting) A LIFE! (This is what sits at the "Epicenter-of-CHANGE" ...THE Reason We Change is Because a NEW LIFE is Being Expressed/Manifest Through Us!!)

...This got misplaced by the 1st Century Judaizers

— This is the mechanics of Islam!

— This was the heart of the CRUSADES!

- **Clarify** - Adam wasn't merely a creature who was to express his existence by living out some prescribed moral code. No, God formed man and then BREATHED His Life into man—thus making man the unique expression of the life/spirit of God! "DEATH" occurred when God's Spirit Departed from Adam—YET, Adam still had some form of living, functioning existence AND he had access to some kind of "moral code" (The Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil). ...**When Jesus does Rom 8:3** ("*God has done what the law weakened by the flesh could not do. By sending his own Son*" [*the Substitutionary Atonement of the Christ*]) **it is "IN ORDER THAT" the Lost Life of the Spirit may Again be Taken Up in Man!!**

The Biblical 'MECHANICS' of Living This New Life

...We enter the Magic Kingdom—IN ORDER THAT we might ride Space Mountain and go on The Jungle Cruise and tour Cinderella's Castle!! ...BUT there are some "Mechanics" to "Doing the Magic Kingdom"

...**There are some MECHANICS to Living This New Life (presented in Romans 8)!!** ...There's More Here than the "Turnstile of Justification" where we "realize" and "celebrate" that we're no longer on the outside! ...But NOW, "the Adventure of Space Mountain and Jungle Cruise" are INSIDE of US ...WANTING TO GET EXPRESSED!!

HOW Do I Release the Adventure of the Spirit-Kingdom Inside of Me?

(1) Mortifying & Vivifying are Two Sides of Our "Here & Now" Coin of Life

- Jesus invitation to Life begins with Featuring Death!

Lk 9:23-24 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

Jn 12:24-25 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

...**The Introductory Brochure of the Christian Life FEATURES an embracing of "Putting Things to Death"—IN ORDER THAT a New Life May Emerge!** (Paul would say—"I die daily" - 1Co 15:31)

- BUT, the Christian Life is NOT Just about DYING!! ...It is about Learning to Receive & Express Spiritual New Life!!

Rom 8 - "*we walk according to the Spirit*" (v. 4) ... "*the Spirit dwells in you*" (v. 11) ... "*we put to death the deeds of the body, by the Spirit*" (v. 13) ... "*The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.*" (v. 16)

2 Cor 4:7-11, 16 ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹ For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ...¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

v. 7 ...we have an "inhabiting/indwelling treasure in us that manifests 'surpassing power'!!!! ...This New Life in the Spirit is Supposed to be MANIFEST!!

v. 8-11 ...This Expression of Life is accompanied by something DYING!!

Check out the "SO THAT" [Gk. 'hina'] in this passage!! ...We're NOT just doing Mortification and Death out of some Moral Requirement or Obligation!! ...Death is a MEANS to LIFE!!

Php 2:13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

1 Cor 12:4-6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

Col 1:29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

...The Story of This New Post-Pentecost-Chapter is one of the Return of the "Spirit-Animated-Life"!!

(2) "Spiritual Rehab" - The Return of the Spirit to Fallen Men (Relearning to 'Walk')

Gal 5:16-25 ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

...v. 16 ...another reference to Rom 8:4 ... "walk (do life) according to the Spirit NOT according to the flesh"

...Again, the presence and reality of the flesh AND the Spirit are acknowledged. ...Again, there is a list of things to be MORTIFIED (put to death) in this life of the "Here & Now" (v. 19-21, 24)

"First, Paul meant that we should deprive our evil desires of their strength and of their power ...the Greek word translated 'mortify' can also be translated 'kill, (deaden, deprive of power).' ...Second, when the apostle Paul said that we are to consider the members of our earthly body as dead to sin, he meant that we should fight against those evil desires. In at least thirty different passages of Scripture, Paul said that we ought to fight, wrestle, and strive against evil desires. ...Indeed, the Christian life is a fight. It is the good fight of faith whereby we lay hold of eternal life. If anyone thinks that the Christian life is easy, he knows very little about it. In fact, it is doubtful that he is a Christian at all, because the Christian life from its conception to its consummation is a battle. It is a life-and-death struggle with the world, the flesh, and the devil." **Wayne Mack**, "A Fight to the Death", p. 74-76

...There is also another "walk" that is introduced as available—"Walking by the Spirit"—elsewhere we have encountered something that sounds like "put-ons"

Col 3:12-17 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

...These are "VIVIFYING MECHANICS"!

...Then there's v. 25 "If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit."

...This New Life (which was lost in Adam) is being "RE-LEARNED"! ...almost like a person who's been in a terrible accident and they're needing to learn how to walk or talk again!

So... "This New Living means—KEEPING in STEP with the SPIRIT"

...It is an ATTENTIVENESS & INTENTIONAL ENGAGEMENT of the Holy Spirit! ...Where is He? What is He doing in Your Life?