

The Spirit our Helper - Walking in the Newness of Life

Introduction

- Impossible Christianity
 - Many Christians have resigned themselves to the fact—or at least it seems like a fact—that they will be failures as followers of Jesus. Forgiven, yes. Justified, yes. On their way to heaven, yes. But as disciples and Christians, nothing special. Just like my running career, we will work hard and enjoy a few modest accomplishments. We will do the best we can with our limited time, our limited ability, and our limited opportunities. And yet we will never have the requisite gifts to be truly successful. We will not perfectly keep the Ten Commandments. We will not fully live out the Sermon on the Mount. We will never pray enough. We will never give enough. We will never share our faith enough. We will not renew our city. We will not repair all that ails our nation. We will not change the world.

1. Called to Newness of Life

- **Romans 6:19**
- **Romans 12:1–3**
- **Ephesians 1:3–4**
- **Colossians 3:1–2**
- **Ephesians 4:1–3**
- **Ephesians 4:22–24**

2. The Need for Help

- **Romans 7:18–20**
- **John 15:5**

3. Our Helper

- **John 7:37-39**
- **John 16:7**
- **John 16:13-15**
- **John 14:26**
- **Ezekiel 36:25-27**
- The New City Catechism:
 - The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, comforts us, guides us, gives us spiritual gifts and the desire to obey God; and he enables us to pray and to understand God's Word.
 - He comes to live in us and fill us, and in doing so he guides us as a counselor would— supporting, convicting us of our sin, strengthening us in Christ, encouraging us in the way we should live, helping us to pray, and even praying for us when we're too weak to do so ourselves. In all this, he grows us in Christlikeness, enabling us to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do. And he gives us specific gifts to use to contribute to the building up of the body of Christ, and to love, serve, and obey God. (Leo Schuster)
- **Romans 8:9-11**

Asking for Help

- Sovereign Grace Statement of Faith
 - When Christ ascended, he poured out the Holy Spirit on the church, ushering in a greater experience of God's presence and power among his people.[1] The Spirit transforms hearts by the miracle of regeneration[2] and indwells all believers in abundant, new covenant measure.[3] The Spirit also desires to fill God's people continually with increased power for Christian life and witness.[4] To be filled with the Spirit is to be more fully under his influence,[5] more aware of his presence,[6] and more effective in his service.[7] All Christians, therefore, must continually seek to be filled with the Spirit[8] by living and praying in such a way that invites the Spirit's work among us, actively longing for God to accomplish his gracious purposes in us and through us. The filling of the Spirit brings to God's people a deeper knowledge of Christ,[9] an increased desire for holiness,[10] a stronger commitment to unity and love, a greater fruitfulness in ministry, and a deeper gratitude for our salvation.[11]
- **Romans 8:26-27**