

“Fully Equipped for the Journey”

I have with me this morning my suitcase. There is a group of nine of us in the morning that is leaving for Honduras and I am packed and ready to go. I have tried to prepare them for the journey that is ahead for the next six days. I have told them what to pack, how to pack and then spiritually we have fasted, prayed and studied. But not to unnerve any of those this morning that are going, I want to announce that I am not fully prepared for everything and anything that could happen on this journey.

I have prepared the best I can based on my own personal experiences of traveling around the world and from the wisdom of Bro. Bobby who lives there. But something could happen that I don't have in my suitcase.

But I am on another journey that is far more important than going to Honduras, England or Africa. I am on a journey of life that will take me beyond this world. And I want to declare to you this morning that I am fully equipped for the journey of life.

Pastor, that is a mighty bold statement to make and almost arrogant. But the basis of my statement is not by my experience or expertise, but rather I am trusting totally in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ who died, was buried but rose again. The person of Jesus is with us in the person of the Holy Spirit.

So, let 's talk about that journey.

I. The Christian life is a journey.

Webster defines a journey “travel from one place to another; trip.”

The Christian life is not just a beginning coupled with a joyful ending; but it is that which is in between the beginning and the ending.

If we were traveling by train, I would liken it to whistle stops. The journey is not to just get on board the train and ride it to the first whistle stop and get off. Its not to get off at any whistle stop, but it is to remain on the train until the end.

When the train stops at another train station, you don't switch trains, you don't board other trains that seem more reasonable to the mind, and you don't board other trains just because its the popular one to get on.

When the train goes through the tunnel and life gets dark, we stay on. When the train goes through the valleys and we feel depressed, we stay on. When the train rides through the night and it seems that this will never end, we stay on.

You see, our Master and Lord stayed faithful for the full length of the journey. And because of that and Jesus lives in us through the Holy Spirit, we can make it through to the end of the journey. We've already seen in chapter 8 of Romans that the Holy Spirit is the God we know today and He is the Spirit of Jesus. The only way Jesus is with us is through the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

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CrossRoads Baptist Church
April 12, 2009 10:15 a.m. Easter
So, it is right and fitting to say.....

Romans 8:9-11
Romans Series #53

II. The Holy Spirit is sufficient for the beginning of this journey.

Romans 8:9 “Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

The work of conviction and conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:8-11 “And when He has come (speaking of the Holy Spirit), He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment....”

John 3:5 “Unless is one born of the water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” The water is repentance and only the Holy Spirit can convince someone that they are a sinner and need to repent and be forgiven.

Paul said in Ephesians 2:1 that “you were dead in trespasses and sins,....” In 8:10 he says the “body is dead because of sin.”

Dead means “corpse.” - an empty shell.

That is what life is without Jesus - an empty shell. Isn't that the reason luxuries do not make a life; relationships do not make a life; success does not make a life. It's because you are but an empty shell. Fill it with whatever you wish to aspire to, but eventually it leaves you empty.

Then it is only the Holy Spirit that can raise that dead body and spirit to life.

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Romans 8:2 “For the law of the Spirit of life in Jesus Christ....”

The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of life. In John 14:6 Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life.”

Death is the consequence of sin; life is the reward of justification.

Death is the absence of God; life is the presence of God.

So, if you not the Spirit, you are not Christ.

No Spirit = No Jesus. The test of saving faith is the presence of the Holy Spirit.

III. The Holy Spirit is sufficient for the continuation of this journey. Romans 8:10-11

Paul somewhat says this in reverse order for in 8:11. This verse implies that if the Spirit can raise us at resurrection, it can give us victory over the law of our members now.

Romans 8:10 - this Spirit is life of righteousness. The answer to being all God wants us to be is not keeping the law, but is the indwelling of the Spirit of God.

II Peter 1:3-4 “as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him, who called us by glory and virtue,....that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

While the physical body is decaying, the inner man (the spirit) has lost the ability for decay. Instead, I have escaped that decaying process and because of the divine nature abiding in me through the Holy Spirit I have everything I need for life and godliness.

IV. The Holy Spirit is sufficient for the earthly ending of this journey. Romans 8:11

The journey does not end with death. With everybody else, death ends the journey of life. But not for a Christian.

Verse 11 is one of my favorite verses in the whole Bible.

A. The Spirit Raised Jesus from the dead.

He mentions only the human name of Jesus here in verse 11. This is only the second time in Romans that the single name is used (the other is 3:26). This refers to the fact that Jesus was like us - in place of weakness - but God raised Him up from the dead by the Holy Spirit.

B. The same Spirit will raise us from the dead.

That same Spirit that dwells in us will “quicken” or give life to our mortal, dying bodies.

We already have within us what is needed for resurrection. The Spirit has been made alive in us at

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the time of regeneration and will suffice for us at the time of resurrection.

V. The Journey does not require a ticket, it requires a trust.

Well, what you need for this journey is not a ticket. Some say you need a ticket, but that carries the idea that it is something you can buy, purchase or acquire on your own. Oh no.

This is not insurance you buy.

This is about trusting.

Ephesians 2: 8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith,....”

Grace is God’s enabling power to do what He’s called you to do. (My definition). So, we are saved by God’s enabling power.

Through faith. We believe that God has provided everything we need for salvation - past, present and future. Our trust is no longer in us or our works, but in the finished and promised work of Christ.