

Foundations for Spiritual Growth – Romans 6-8 – Week Eight

What It Means to Rely on God's Power

Romans 8:1 -- 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

Introduction: Christians are often confused about what living in God's strength looks like. Does it mean everything goes our way? We never struggle with problems? In preparation for Romans 8, we want to examine the basics of living in God's power.

1. 1ST QUESTION – What is the nature of the power God offers?

2 Corinthians 3:6; Romans 7:6

- A. A covenant is the legal way that God structures his relationships with people.
- B. The Old Covenant is connected with the Old Testament law.
- C. The New Covenant is connected with the death of Jesus and the coming of his Spirit. 3:6a
- D. If we live under a New Covenant, why would anyone want to live under the old?

2. 2ND QUESTION – How do we tap into God's power? *2 Corinthians 3:4-5*

- A. Paul's question: "Who is adequate for these things?" 2:17
- B. 1st response: We must come face-to-face with our own inadequacy.
- C. 2nd response: We must discover the adequacy of Christ within us.
- D. The result: We possess a different kind of confidence.

3. 3RD QUESTION – What impact does our power have on relationships? *2 Corinthians 3:1-3, 6*

- A. Paul's experience – Old covenant thinking produced disharmony and dysfunction in the body of Christ at Corinth.
- B. The principle – The kind of ministry you adopt (new covenant or old covenant) will radically impact the culture of your church. (New covenant churches serve and love.)
- C. Application to GCC – I want us to excel at new covenant ministry.