

## The Whole package!

A man was walking down the road one day with a heavy pack on his back. Someone driving by stopped and asked him if he could give him a lift. The man gladly accepted, and since there was no room in the front, climbed into the back seat. As they were driving, the driver looked back and was surprised to see that the man still had his pack on his back. He turned around and told the man he could lay the pack down on the seat next to him. The man replied, "Oh, I couldn't accept any more from you. You have already done too much for me!"



This is silly, isn't it. But isn't this often the way it is with us Christians?! We are grateful that Jesus died for us and that He has forgiven us. However, we often feel that we have to do everything else for ourselves. Is that the way you are?

## Power to live!

Friend, Jesus not only wants to be your Savior, He wants to give you the power to live this life successfully on this earth. Consider what this Scripture says: God works in you, both to will and to do His good pleasure. (Philippians 2:13). So God does not simply save us and then wish us, "Good luck! Hope you make it!" He is there with us every step of the way.



God works in you through the Holy Spirit He has given you. Ezekiel 36:26 & 27 declares that God takes the stony heart out of us and gives us a heart of flesh. He then puts a new Spirit within us, and helps us to walk in His ways.

Here are three practical things you should do in order to walk with His strength. First of all, recognize who you are in Christ. You are a new person, a new creation. He has

placed His Spirit in you and you are truly born again by the Spirit of God. (John 3:5 & 2 Corinthians 5:17). This Spirit has joined with your spirit and has given you many wonderful qualities. Some of these are listed in Galatians 5:22 & 23.



Here, they are described as fruit and include, love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, self control, faithfulness and so on. So recognize that He is with you and lives in you and has already done a great work in you.

## Out with the old!

Next the Bible says that we are to "put off" the old nature. What is the old nature? Only bad things like anger, pride, jealousy, lust, envy and evil talking. These things can sometimes seem to have a life of their own. Recognize that they are a part of your old nature and stop



## In with the new!

Finally, you put on the new nature. So instead of acting or reacting in a wrong manner, you put on your new clothing of love, joy, peace and so on. Instead of complaining and swearing, you laugh and praise the Lord! Instead of becoming angry at someone, you react with kindness and patience. Instead of becoming troubled and anxious, you allow His peace to reign in your heart.



The wonderful thing is that as you are obedient to God and take these steps, you will find that the Holy Spirit is there! Our job is to yield to Him, instead to the things of our old nature, and react in the way that pleases God. And when you do this, you will find inner strength that you never knew you had! It is the power of God living inside of you, giving you the victory.

## Change, change, change!

As you have begun to follow Jesus, you and those around you have probably already noticed the changes that are taking place in your life. God has become real to you and you are living out of your relationship with Him, and not just a theory that you believe in.

Living out of His strength is simply continuing on with this process! Take full advantage of the Holy Spirit living in you. Allow Him in every area of your life, even the difficult ones. As you do, you will sense Him changing you so that you live more and more out of your wonderful new nature. And you will see that God is really working in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

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## God works in you



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