

Living the Resurrected Life (Part 2)

By Jim Hollandsworth

At the moment of your salvation, you died with Christ and rose with Him. God's will is that you reckon the truth of that transaction, not merely considering it a fact, but choosing to depend upon it. The old master of sin and death is gone, never to return. The new master of righteousness and life is here, never to leave. You have the necessary provision in your spirit for your soul to live victoriously going forward. Sin is powerless to rule you.

In Part 1 we gave the first prerequisite for living the resurrected life: *Reckon your position in Christ*. Let us now consider a second prerequisite.

Prerequisite #2: Rely on your provision to put-off and put-on

Your provision's name is Holy Spirit, and He has not only justified you, but has also sanctified you positionally. He wants you to appropriate His enabling grace (your provision) as you learn to submit to Him as your new master, not to indwelling sin.

Jesus never sinned ... He never lusted ... He never burst out in anger ... He was never irritable ... He never worried ... He was never proud. Which means that if you depend on Him to live His life through your life, you will not lust or burst out in anger or become irritable or worry or have a prideful heart. That's what it means to be a partaker of the divine nature and escape the world's corruptions (2 Pet. 1:4).

The key is to learn to stop depending on self and start depending on Christ who lives in you.

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

This is Romans 6-8, condensed into one verse. Notice the first half of the verse summarizes our death and resurrection with Christ. But the latter half of the verse focuses on our life of faith in Christ as our enabler. Progressive sanctification – or we could say, the resurrected life – is by faith. That doesn't mean we sit back passively and do nothing. It means we trust our Lord to enable us in our doing! Paul makes very clear that sanctification is by faith.

This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Galatians 3:2-3

The very serious error occurring in the lives of many believers is works-sanctification. By that I mean a fleshly effort of doing things with the expectation of becoming spiritual. Instead of depending on the Holy Spirit by faith to produce conformity to the image

Christ, the tendency is to try harder, do more spiritual exercises. Perhaps read the Bible more and pray more and witness more and work hard at resisting sin. It's very subtle and very deceptive. Satan knows how to counterfeit. But it inevitably results in defeat and failure. I know, for I was in that rut for many years of my Christian life. My heart desired to please the Lord, but I was going about it wrong, in my own strength rather than His. All the while, I thought I was on the right track.

One day God graciously showed me what was missing – simple dependence on Christ for victory over sin and enablement to serve. I realized that the same thing required for salvation (faith) is required for sanctification. Somehow we tend to think we are saved by faith, but then sanctified of our own effort. We may not articulate it that way, but that is often the way we live. It is not what the Bible teaches but has become widely accepted in modern Christian thinking. How, then, do we understand the put-off, put-on passages in the New Testament?

***Mortify** therefore your members which are upon the earth ... **But now ye also put off** all these ... **Put on** therefore, as the elect of God ... (excerpts from Colossians 3:5,8,12, emphasis mine).*

Notice the emphasis on putting off and putting on. If we are not careful, it can become an exercise in fleshly effort on our part – trying to do it and failing. Of course, that begs the question, how do we fulfill the command to put-off and put-on apart from self-effort?

*Lie not one to another, seeing that ye **have put off** the old man with his deeds; And **have put on** the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him. (excerpts from Colossians 3:9-10, emphasis mine).*

The key is recognizing we have already put off and already put on. Sound confusing? Let me explain.

When you got saved, you died with Christ and rose with Him. Your old man was crucified; the new master moved in. Your spirit was made completely righteous. At that point, in your spirit, the old man was put off, crucified; and the new man was put on, created in Christ Jesus. Even better, the new master moved in – Jesus Himself! Here's what that means. **Because your spirit has already positionally put off the old and put on the new, your soul now has the opportunity to draw upon the provision that resides in your spirit and thereby to put off sin and put on spiritual graces in your everyday Christian life.** Of yourself, you are completely incapable of doing this, but the new master is able. That is why we must be filled with the Holy Spirit. To be filled is to let the Holy Spirit take control. He will never force you to be filled. You must choose to have Him fill you, believing He has already done it.

Let me share with you a practical way to appropriate these truths. When you have your time with the Lord in the morning refresh in your memory that you have died with Christ and have risen with Him. (I often encourage folks to read Romans 6-8 every day for thirty days until this truth is engraved in the mind). Ask the Lord each morning to fill you

with the Holy Spirit so that you might live the resurrected life throughout the day. Then believe that He has already done so!

When a temptation to sin comes along, instantly pray – no matter where you are or what you are doing – pray quietly in your mind. Ask the Lord, based on His provision in your spirit, to help you take the way of escape and walk in victory. Believe that He has already answered the prayer, and then take the way of escape. That is how we must live each day of our lives – looking to Him moment by moment for victory in every situation.

In Part 3 we will learn two final prerequisites for living the resurrected life and discover the glorious result.