



SERIES: Ephesians

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Friday, January 29, 2021

Scripture: Ephesians 3:16-17

TITLE: Quit Living Like a Beggar

There was an Englishman named Julian Ellis Morris, who liked to dress like a beggar and go door to door selling razor blades and soap. At the end of the day, he would return to his mansion to change, and depart for an expensive dinner out on the town. That story sounds ridiculous, but it is true. He could have lived like a king any moment of any day, but lived like a pauper most of the time, when he should have been living like a king.

Many Christians today live like Julian Morris. We live in spiritual poverty - stuck in our spiritual walk, when we have access to unlimited spiritual resources. Well, how can we live like spiritual millionaires? How can we get moving again, spiritually? Paul answers this question, as we continue in Ephesians 3:

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources, he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. (Eph. 3:16-17, NLT)

I love that Paul reminds the Ephesians, and us today, that God offers us “glorious and unlimited resources to provide us with inner strength”. Paul’s prayer is that they be empowered to capitalize on these resources. It’s not that Paul is asking God to release these resources, but rather, that they would act upon them.

Just like Julian Morris, who though he had access to incredible wealth, he lived like a hobo most days; we can do the same. We have access to power and strength and spiritual resources, but we either don’t know how to activate them, or choose not to, like Mr. Morris.

My family and I were in Wisconsin this past summer on vacation. My son hopped into a golf cart and put his foot on the pedal, but the cart didn’t move. “What gives?” he asked. “Doesn’t this thing have gas?” I asked him, “Have you turned it on?” “Uh, no,” he said, “How do you do that?”

So, you may not know how to access these resources, or you just choose not to, so you’re spiritually stuck, and not growing. Paul says, when you turn on your relationship with Christ, “Christ will make His home in your heart, and then your roots will grow into God’s love”.

You see, to be saved, you don’t just ask Jesus into your heart and end it there. You repent of your sins, and turn to Christ as Savior and Lord. At that point, the Spirit dwells inside you.

But just because the Spirit lives in you, you may not have made it very welcoming. Just like I can have a guest in my house, if I don’t prepare the room, and spend time with them, they will feel out of place, and so will I.

Paul is saying, for you to get moving spiritually, you need to live like a Christian. You need to make room for Christ, and develop that relationship, so that power, love, and all the spiritual resources are realized.

If you're feeling disconnected from God and spiritually stuck, this is my challenge for you: First, pray that God will move near to you. Tell Him you don't want the Spirit to feel out of place in your life. So draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Second, what is one thing you can and will do to know Jesus better? I've found that when I spend time with Jesus, I want to follow Him more. Will you read a piece of the Gospels? Will you talk to a pastor? Will you engage in a reading plan here at Back to the Bible? Whatever it is, don't settle.

The power, love, and spiritual resources are there for us to enjoy. But God won't force it. So talk with Him, and spend time with King Jesus today.