

Simply Christ
Gospel Newsletter
Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

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What Gives You Power Over Sin?

I knew a man who was a lifelong alcoholic. One day he sobered from a night of drinking and realized he had severely beaten his wife in a drunken rage. He said “If alcohol can make me do this, I will never drink again,” and he did not. This man lived another twenty-five years and never touched another drop of alcohol. I cannot dispute that this man exercised power over the alcohol which once had so much power over him.

The church of our generation has so foolishly embraced the belief that God’s people are still sinners and will continue to sin as long as they live in a fleshly body. From this basis of universal sinfulness, much teaching and effort is applied seeking to give the people power over the sin that dominates them from within. From the time of conversion, most Christian people are assured that God, through the Holy Spirit, will help them overcome the workings of sin in their members. And so, they step into a lifetime process of seeking this **“power over”** *“the power of darkness”* Colossians 1:13 which works in their own heart.

The alcoholic I mentioned above exercised absolute power over alcohol. Yet, he did not credit God or even Alcoholics Anonymous for this

power. His power was in the force of his will. He was still angry, deceitful, and vengeful, but his power over alcohol never failed him even once. This man had more power in his depraved condition than the vast majority of Christians who profess that the Holy Spirit is giving them power every day.

The “Holy Spirit” does not give us power over sin. This is neither His work nor His purpose. The Holy Ghost is sent to teach us, guide us, lift us up into the glories of Christ, and anoint us for the work of the ministry. God’s complete answer for sin is found in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. The Bible says, *“Wherefore Jesus also, **that he might sanctify the people with his own blood**, suffered without the gate.”* Hebrews 13:12. The word of God is clear. Jesus Christ is our sanctifier and he does this through the power of his shed blood. The book of Hebrews tells us that the one who sanctifies the people *“...is not ashamed to call them brethren.”* Hebrews 2:11. The Holy Ghost did not shed a single drop of blood for you, and He is certainly not your “brother.”

The truth is, “Nothing in redemption gives us power over sin.” God’s answer for sin is not to grant us power over it, but to take it away. 1 John 3:5. This is how he makes us free. A person with fornication in their heart needs power over it, but the person who is free from lusts in their heart does not. You only need power over sin when it is present in your heart.

Jesus never promised to give us power over sin, but he did promise to make us free from sin. John

8:36. Those who seek to exercise power over sin fight a continuous battle which is never won. The person who is made free from sin simply rests in the victory of Christ.

Are you a believer? Can you believe the words of the Apostle Paul which are written below?

“Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” Romans 6:18.

“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.” Romans 6:22.

“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.” Romans 6:6-7

If you still cannot believe the words written by the Apostle Paul, can you believe words spoken by Jesus himself? He said, ***“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”*** John 8:36.

As long as a person believes that sin must always have a place in their heart, it will! Though they exercise absolute power over it until their last breath, as the alcoholic mentioned above did, that person will still die in their sin. John 8:24. Only the blood of Christ can wash it away. This is ***“the truth,”*** and if you will believe it, ***“the truth shall make you free!”*** John 8:32.