

ROM 219 - **Position + Power = Action - Gal 5:25**

Last wk - we began that incredible text in ROM 8
about us being Children (& even Heirs) of God

& that FAVORED STATUS (being Children of God)

is the Relational side of what we studied back in ROM CH 6
which was Our Position in Christ

& we were just left in AWE over considering
this New Favored Status - of being Children of God

Because that means SO MUCH to every area of our lives

& really - I thought we must be ready
to move off the subject of "Walking in the Spirit"

because we'd been studying that - for 4 previous msg's

HOWEVER - as I reviewed Both
the "Under his Influence" Msg's - & us being Children of God m

I felt like I needed to PAUSE just one more time

& really consider our RESPONSE
to these incredible truths - we've been studying

So today - I'd like to Revisit - our OVERALL response to;

Our POSITION - in Christ

Our POWER - in the Holy Spirit

Our ADOPTION as sons & daughters of God

See - Our POSITION in Christ (& as Heirs of God)

PLUS our POWER in the Holy Spirit

SHOULD equal ACTION - in our daily lives

ACTION as in - Real, Lasting, Transforming CHANGE in our lives

See - If all this Divine Revelation doesn't actually **CHANGE US**

Then - all these incredible truths have just become
a bunch of information

& then we'd become HEAERS only - & not DOERS of the Word

In fact - one of the saddest things to occur in the church is;

HEARING - without - DOING

INFORMATION - without - ACTION

& then we all just go home & no one is ever really Transformed
no one's life ever really CHANGES

JAS 1:22-25 - NLT (*turn*)

22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror.

24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.

25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

God HELP US - to put ACTION - to our INFORMATION

God HELP US - to be DOERS - and not just HEARERS

So - Let's Pray - & we'll look at this word - **ACTION !**

Thru-Out the N.T. - The Christian Life is likened to a RACE - & to a BATTLE (among other things)

& in both a Race & a Battle - ACTION is Required on our part if we intend to STAY in the Race - or win the Battle

True CHANGE in the Christian Life really does require Real EFFORT

& often - it feels like a very real BATTLE

In fact - the Bible describes Walking in the Spirit as - A BATTLE

Gal 5:16-17 - ESV (*turn*)

16 But I say, walk [guide your life] by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to [NLT = fighting] each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

& then (in Gal 5) after both the DESTRUCTION of the Flesh & the FRUIT of the Spirit - are listed

The section ends with Gal 5:25 - our KEY VERSE today

Gal 5:25 - ESV

25 If we live by the Spirit [positionally], let us also walk [guide our lives] by the Spirit [practically].

This text in **GAL 5** - is about **THE BATTLE** that exists for us to **actually live** in accordance with our **Position** as Children of God

& the **POWER** to do that - is clearly seen here **in V.25**

If we live by the Spirit - If that's our Position - **THEN**
let us also walk by the Spirit - in our daily Practice

Do you see our **Responsibility to ACTION** here ?

IF this is our **Position** - then let's "**ORDER OUR LIVES**" Accordingly

This is **really** just a very Complicated way of saying;
If **Jesus Christ** is really Living in us - **LET'S ACT LIKE IT !**

But **what** I'd **REALLY** like to **address** today

Is - the **Double Edged Truth**
of **your life** being **Transformed** by the Holy Spirit

There IS a Double Edged Truth
to the Transformation that **comes into** a Christian's life

Here it is;

- #1) it is **100%** the **Holy Spirit** that Transforms your life
- #2) **YOU** must take **ACTION** - for your life to be Transformed

BOTH OF THESE TRUTHS - ARE ABSOLUTELY TRUE !!

& as a **Bible Teacher** - I **DON'T** have to pick one or the other
I have to **TEACH THEM BOTH**

Because **the Bible** teaches them **both**

For 3 Msg's - I did my best to teach the **Holy Spirit's 100% ROLE**
in **Transforming** your life

BUT - if the **Holy Spirit's role** is **100%**
then **HOW MUCH** is Our Role??

Well, **strictly theologically** speaking - - **it's 0%**

But **I promise** you - if you Take **ZERO ACTION**
you will have **ZERO TRANSFORMATION** in your life

We **MUST** actually **TAKE ACTION**
in order for **the Holy Spirit** to **Transform** our lives

Heb 12:1-2 - is a great Vs.
to start our Journey toward ACTION today - (in the NLT)

Heb 12:1-2 - NLT (*turn*)

1 . . . let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. . .

Here we have **BOTH SIDES** of this **Critical Life Changing Truth**

In V.1 - We MUST take ACTION

We must "strip off" the weight of sin,
that slows us down, & so easily trips us up - AND

We must run with endurance, the race God has set before us

That is ACTION - & it requires some Strenuous EFFORT

BUT - HOW do we CAST OFF that Weight of Sin
& run the race with endurance ??

Vs. 2 tells us - *by keeping our eyes on Jesus,*
the champion who initiates and perfects our faith

It's Your ACTION - But it's His LIFE - that brings the transformation

Let's turn it around - & look at the same truth again
(this time we'll use the ESV)

Gal 2:20 - ESV (*turn*)

20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Paul says : It is ALL Christ - - it is ALL His life in me
in fact - I NO LONGER even live - but Christ lives in me

... *but then* - In 2Tim 4:7 - at the end of Paul's life - he says

2Tim 4:7 - ESV → →

2Tim 4:7 - ESV

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Fighting the Good Fight

Finishing the Race

Keeping the Faith

These are words of **RESPONSIBILITY** - these are words of **ACTION**

It **IS Christ's life** that's being **LIVED** in Paul

But Paul **DID** have to **take ACTION**

all the way thru - & **even to** the end - of his **physical life**

He had to **FIGHT the Good Fight**

He had to **RUN with Endurance** to **Finish the RACE**

He had to **KEEP the Faith**

He had to **make** that **CHOICE** - & he had to **take** that **ACTION**

even tho - it was **ALL Jesus Christ** living in him

Alright - let's look at one more comparison

PHIL CH 3 is one of my favorite texts (& *includes my life vs.*)

& in it - Paul begins by listing
his "Prior to Christ" accomplishments

& then - in Phil 3:7 - Paul says

Phil 3:7-8 - ESV

*7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.
8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing
worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have
suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order
that I may gain Christ*

Then skipping to Vs. 10 - ESV

*10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and
may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,*

Paul's life had become - ALL CHRIST

& Paul counted ALL his own accomplishments & efforts as LOSS
for the Excellency of KNOWING CHRIST

He put NO VALUE - in anything He's done - in & of himself

But then - look at the Very Next Vs

& see Paul's ACTION - in response to this great truth

Phil 3:12-14 - ESV → →

Phil 3:12-14 - ESV

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul is SIMULTANEOUSLY saying;

#1) He counts all his own accomplishments - all his has own efforts as worthless - in order that he may **KNOW CHRIST**

#2) He is **ALSO Pressing on - **Forgetting** the past & **Pressing** to the **goal** for the prize of the **upward call** of God**

in ONE TEXT Paul says BOTH;

1) **NONE** of My Own Efforts **matter** - AND

2) here is the **STRENUOUS EFFORT** I am now putting forth **because of** the life of Christ in me

It requires ACTION TO:

To **Put** Jesus Christ **FIRST** in our lives

To **Press** on to make Him **our own** (*personally*)

To **Forget** the Past & **Press Toward** all that God has for us

Our **POSITION** in Christ - PLUS

The **POWER** of the Holy Spirit

Must **EQUAL** - **ACTION** in our lives

It **IS** ALL **THE LIFE** of *Jesus Christ* in us
It **IS** ALL thru **THE POWER** of the *Holy Spirit*
& at the same time
it is **OUR Responsibility** to take **ACTION**

Let me just put up a **few more Vs's** that clearly show this truth

Rom 13:12

1Cor 9:24

2Cor 10:4

Gal 6:9

Eph 6:11ff

1Tim 6.12

Jas 1:12

& then **let me wrap** this section up - with **HEB 10:36**

Heb 10:36 - ESV

36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

Our **Position** in Christ is **100% SECURE**

Our **Power** in the Holy Spirit is **100% SUFFICIENT** . . .

But we have need of endurance, so that when we have done the will of God - we may receive what is promised

HANG in there

STAND on your **POSITION** in Christ

BE continually **FILLED** with the Holy Spirit

& TAKE ACTION

Join the Battle - Run the Race - Go ALL IN
& the God of Heaven - will Radically Transform your life

Now - for the second half of the msg today - I'd like to talk about
the NUMBER ONE "ACTION of Transformation" in the N.T.

This Action of Transformation is found thru-out the NT

But it comes Primarily from - GAL 5 - EPH 4 - COL 3
& it's most often called - the Put-Off / Put-On Theology

& today - we'll use EPH CH 4 to review it - (turn) - (I'll use NLT)

We're talking about our responsibility to TAKE ACTION
as CHILDREN (& HEIRS) of God

We'll start in Eph 4:17 - NLT

17 With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused.

Here is your first ACTION of Transformation
Live no longer as the Gentiles [unbelievers] do

Both the ESV & the NKJ say "WALK" here - (*no longer WALK*)

The word LIT means; to regulate your life - to conduct yourself

We are no longer to "Regulate our Lives" as UNBELIEVERS do
because they are '**Hopelessly Confused**'

Eph 4:18-19 - NLT

18 Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him.

19 They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.

We are NOT to live like those who's *minds are full of darkness* & who wander far from the life God gives

& who have no sense of shame
& are living for lustful pleasure - & practicing impurity

We've got to NOT live like the Unbelieving World

& NOTICE - these 2 Vs's actually describe
the eventual downward spiral of the Sin Nature

Man does not improve the SELF (*Sin Nature*)
the Sin Nature spirals down - to destruction

So - our first Action of Transformation
is to NOT spiral down that same path of sin - to destruction

& then Vs. 20 makes the contrast

Eph 4:20-21 - NLT

20 But that isn't what you learned about Christ.

21 Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him,

We know that isn't what we've learned about (in) CHRIST
We've learned that - - Sin = DEATH , Christ = LIFE

We've known that ever since we RECEIVED Christ
& ever since we learned the truth that comes from Him

& so - ***WHAT then IS our Response***

Our Response that comes - FROM our POSITION in Christ

Our Response that comes - THRU the POWER of the Holy Spirit

Our Response is Clearly LAID OUT in the Next 3 VS's

EPH 4:22-24 - NLT

22 throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ('throw off')

23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. (let)

24 Put on your new nature, created to be like God - truly righteous and holy.

These are words - of ACTION !

words of Running the RACE

words of Winning the BATTLE

& they are OUR RESPONSIBILITY in the Transformation Process,

THROW OFF - Violently EJECT your sinful life

LET - the Holy Spirit renew your thoughts & attitudes

PUT ON - your New Nature in Christ

Unfortunately - the Holy Spirit will **NOT** throw off your Sin Nature
UNTIL you give it the **first HEAVE-HO!**

& **as soon** as you **Throw Off** your Sin Nature
the **Holy Spirit** will be your **POWER** to throw off your Sin Nature

& **Unfortunately** - the Holy Spirit will **NOT FORCE**
New Thoughts & Attitudes into your mind

But if you will **LET** Him - **INVITE** Him to - **COME** to Him
then He **WILL** "*renew your mind*" - & give you a **NEW Attitude**

& **Unfortunately** - The Holy Spirit will **NOT FORCE** you
to Put-On **the New Nature**

But if you will **CHOOSE** - to **PUT** on the *New Nature*
Then - the **Holy Spirit** will actually **BE** that *New Nature* - **IN YOU**

THROW OFF - your old sin nature

LET the Spirit - renew your thoughts & attitudes

PUT ON - your New Nature in Christ

THAT - is the **PROCESS** - for **ALL** *Biblical Change*

It's the **3-STEP** Process – that *Absolutely, Positively* **WORKS**
EVERY TIME a Believer *truly* puts it into *practice*

THROW OFF - means - *To Crucify – Repent of – Change Direction*

RENEW - means - *To Renovate – Transform – Make New*

PUT ON means – *To Take Upon Yourself – Be Clothed With*

So - The "Dave Paraphrase" of Eph 4:22-24 would be;

*Crucify & repent of your old sin life. Let the Holy Spirit renovate
& transform your thoughts & attitudes. And take upon yourself
the new nature of Jesus Christ living in you*

NOT in your own Strength - But by your own CHOICE

Crucify the **Old Life**,

Be *Renewed* by the **Holy Spirit**

& **allow** Jesus Christ – to *Live with Free Reign* - **in you !!**

Again - this is the process

of all **BIBLICAL TRANSFORMATION** in our lives

& it **DOES come** - from our **POSITION** in Christ

& it **DOES come** - by the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit

But **it is ACTION** - that **WE** must take

THAT is the *Life Changing Transformation Process*

That is **Available** to **each one** of us **TODAY**

& that is **THE PROCESS** for accomplishing
the command we started the Msg with - **LAST WEEK**

Rom 8:12-14 - let's use the **NLT**

12 Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.

13 For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

As Believers - Children of God - we are **POSITIONALLY**
led by the Spirit of God

We have **more PRIVELEDGE** - *in Christ*
& **more POWER** - in *the Holy Spirit* - than we **could ever imagine**

SO - **as our Title Vs** says today

Gal 5:25 - **ESV**

25 If we live by the Spirit [positionally], ***let us also walk by the Spirit*** [in practice].

Amen?

Let's Pray