

New Covenant - the Root of Sin - Part 4

by Zac Poonen

Zac Poonen emphasizes the importance of understanding God's divine power and love to overcome sin and live a godly life.

Duration: 10:11

Scripture: Joshua 10:12-14, John 15:4-5, Galatians 5:19-21, 2 Peter 1:3-4

Topics: "Divine Nature", "Godly Living"

Description

This sermon from 2 Peter chapter 1 emphasizes God's divine power that provides everything needed for a godly life, likening our bodies to the land of Canaan where no giants should rule. It highlights the importance of true knowledge of God, His intense love, and the wonderful promises He has granted us. The sermon also delves into the significance of partaking in the divine nature through surrender to Jesus, drawing parallels to a branch abiding in a tree to produce fruit.

Transcript

2nd Peter chapter 1. In 2nd Peter chapter 1, we read like this, God's power, verse 3, 2nd Peter 1 verse 3, divine power means the power of God, has given us everything, not in relation to money and poverty and comfort and ease, no, everything relating to life and godliness. Everything you need for eternal life and for a godly life on earth has been given by God's power. It's in the will, sealed by the blood of Jesus.

Whether you have it or not is another thing. You may be sitting in your little hut because you don't know your inheritance and allow the devil to steal everything which should be yours. You know that the children of Israel, even after they entered Canaan's land, they allowed the Canaanites to live in most of it.

And then later on some other people would come, the Moabites would come and somebody else would come and they would just occupy the place and Israel would say, well, we've got a little corner here, I've got a little hut here, isn't that enough for me? God said, no, this whole land should be yours, it's for me and you just allow these enemies to occupy it and that's exactly what God says to you today. This body of yours is the land of Canaan. Are there giants living there? That body is supposed to be for God, 100%, from head to foot.

No giant should be living in this land of Canaan. You know that your body is the land of Canaan? And if a single giant is ruling any part of your body, your eyes or your tongue or your ears or anything, telling you what to do, telling you what to read and watch on the internet, telling you what books to read, telling you

what to do and how to speak and everything, boy, that giant needs to be killed. You read the book of Judges, that's exactly what the Israelites never did.

God has given us His power. In the book of Joshua, God is willing to stop the sun for 24 hours to make His people overcome the enemy. What does that teach me? It teaches me that God is willing to do anything to help me to overcome every sin in my flesh.

Imagine if you believe that, that God will even stop the sun to help me to get victory. I believe that. God will do everything.

That's the meaning of this verse. His power has given you everything needed for a godly life. Through the true knowledge of Him who has called us to glory.

You see, there's a true knowledge of God which means all this is not Old Testament stuff. This is New Testament stuff. And I'll tell you, this is not great philosophical stuff.

Do you know who wrote this? The fisherman who probably failed in a few classes in his school. He wasn't as clever as you. He wasn't a graduate.

He was a fisherman, but he had the revelation of the Holy Spirit. And that's what we need. That God has given us His power through the true knowledge of Him means to know what a wonderful God and Father He is, how He wants to give me everything.

That's the true knowledge of Him. The devil's told you that God's not interested in you, or He won't listen to you, or you're so insignificant and you're not important, and you listen to all those lies, then you don't have a true knowledge of God. No wonder you don't have His divine power.

He says this divine power comes through the true knowledge of Him who called us. Know Him as one who loves you intensely, far more than you realize. You know, I'll tell you something.

I believe one of the greatest shocks and surprises you are going to get when you see Jesus face to face is how much He loved you. You say, Lord, boy, You love me so much. Oh, I wish I'd known that on earth.

You see the Father and you'll be shocked when you discover how much He loved you and how much He wanted to do for you. And here you are on earth always condemning yourself and thinking God's angry with you and God's upset with you over something here and something there. And you live like that, miserable, listening to all the wretched lies of the devil and making your life miserable.

I'm not throwing stones at you. I was like that myself for many years. I finished with that.

The devil can't fool me about God anymore. I know my Father, the true knowledge of Him. That's the way.

And by this, verse 4, He has granted to us, granted means it's a gift, His wonderful promises. Promises of God are all magnificent and precious. And the purpose of all these promises is that through those promises, you can partake of the divine nature.

I told you about the nature of the tree coming into the branch. You ask that branch, How in the world do you produce such lovely apples? Oh, I just surrendered to the tree. The nature of the tree comes in.

And that should be your answer. How did you become such a sweet, humble person? I don't know. I just stayed in Jesus and He just let His light flow into me.

How is it you're not a proud, arrogant person like all the other people in the world? I don't know. I just stay in the tree. That's all.

It's just like an apple. I mean, do you think that branch thinks, Oh, boy, look at me producing such wonderful apples. Not at all.

It doesn't have any such high thoughts about itself. Because it knows if it's cut off from the tree even for one second, that's the end of its producing anything. So, my dear brothers and sisters, when John the Baptist said, An axe has to be laid to the root of the tree.

He was telling us that something fundamental has to be hit right inside. Right inside. Jesus has come.

The Holy Spirit has come to hit something inside and what is that? What do you think is the root of sin? The fruit we know, telling lies, adultery, lustful looks, hatred, anger, bitterness, witchcraft, strife, conflict. This is all the fruit which comes out of the flesh. Well, what is the root? See, let me turn you to Galatians in chapter 5. In Galatians chapter 5 it speaks about the deeds of the flesh in verse 19.

The deeds of the flesh. That means the fruit which comes out of this tree called the flesh. What are they? Immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing and things like these.

I'll tell you something. When I went through that list once, I said, yeah, I can understand all of these but I don't understand this sorcery, witchcraft. I said, how does witchcraft come out of the flesh? I thought witchcraft was something else from outside.

No, I believe God's word. Where does your anger come from? It doesn't come from outside, does it? Outbursts of anger. It says your outbursts of anger.

Where does it come from? There's something within you that wants you to get angry. Or take another example. Jealousy.

Where does that come from? There's something in our nature that wants to be jealous. You don't have to get it from outside. Or disputes.

To get into a fight with somebody. I mean there's something within you which wants you to fight with your husband or wife or somebody at home or neighbor or any such thing. Envy.

Where does that come from? Verse 21. There's something within that comes out. What about idolatry? Worship of idols.

You know there's something in man that wants to worship idols? The Bible says. It's not just something on the outside. The idols may be of different types.

One fellow worships an idol of wood and stone. Another fellow worships science or nature or money or his job. Something.

But man wants an idol. And if you're not a wholehearted disciple of Jesus Christ, I can tell you in Jesus' name you do have an idol. Maybe your wife.

Maybe your house. Maybe your job. Maybe your profession.

Maybe something is an idol. It's from within. Man wants an idol because the devil is always trying to help him to find some other god to replace the real one.

And the same with witchcraft. From within there's a desire for man to get involved with sorcery and witchcraft. You say, no, I don't have such desires.

Well, you don't know. The Bible says these are the deeds of the flesh. They are.

That's why Harry Potter books have got such wide sales. How do you think it became the number one sales book in the world? You think it's because of something godly in it? No. It's because of the sorcery in man's flesh.

And you can feed it, if you like. Just like you can feed pornography. I don't think there's any difference between reading pornography and reading Harry Potter.

It's the same thing. It's just fruit on the left side or fruit on the right side of the flesh. What does it matter? It's the same rotten thing.

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