

GET RID OF THE BAGGAGE

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For many people, the thought of becoming a Christian is far removed from the realms of possibility. Many see no redeeming qualities in their life, nor do they see any personal strengths that will serve them. In simple terms, they don't have what it takes. You might be surprised to discover that no Christian has ever had what it takes. In fact, without God's Spirit we would all be miserable failures; the apostles included. God refuses to allow our weaknesses and failures to get in the way of his plans.

This first scripture asks the common question that all men ask.

JOB 25:4 How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean *that is* born of a woman? Job asks how can we have an equal and balanced relationship with God?

Our natural interests and thinking doesn't seem to fit in with spiritual ideals.

1COR 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. *Our sinful nature and worldly aspirations was a barrier to all of us.*

God gives us a way to make the changes that we need to make.

JOH 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. Jesus is describing the anointing of the Holy Spirit... the explanation he gives is beyond belief.*

The Holy Spirit empowers us to do the things that we once weren't able.

ACT 1:8 But ye shall **receive power**, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:... *an eternal assistant.*

ROM 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me **free** from the law of sin and death. *The baggage has been totally removed. We have it made, but unfortunately doubts and fears can arise.*

Something appears wrong... we still make mistakes and have feelings and desires that aren't Christian.

2COR 4:7 But we have this treasure in **earthen vessels**, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. *It is not our willpower nor deeds that wins the battle... it is a free gift from God... applied through faith... it is God who delivers, God who forgives, God who makes it all possible.*

1PET 4:12 Beloved, **think** it not **strange** concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some **strange** thing happened unto you: *temptations are common, weakness is common... overcoming is common!!*

Sometimes people find it hard to understand that Christians sin and that the sin is manageable. Some think that ongoing sins aren't able to be dealt with in a confident way. The following verse highlights the fact that even more is available once we receive the Holy Spirit.

ROM 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath (*vengeance*) through him. *The offer is better now than when we were unsaved. Even though much is expected from us; when it comes to dealing with default, even more is offered than what we were promised before we were saved.*

also **HEB 9:13** For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: **14** **How much more** shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge (*future tense ...the sins they have yet to commit*) your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? *God is fully aware that guilt, fear, weakness, unbelief, pressure, etc, will cause us to stumble unless they are effectively dealt with. These feelings are nothing more than baggage if they are not dealt with. God has made it clearer than ever that we have an ongoing daily cleansing... it is essential for our wellbeing and confidence. Minimising our sin is also a priority.*

The following addresses the cycle of guilt and offers a clear explanation of God's will towards us.

LAM 3:18 And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the LORD:

19 Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.

20 My soul hath *them* still in remembrance, and is humbled in me. *This is the typical reaction from people when they fall short emotionally and spiritually from their service... then comes God's comfort.*

21 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

22 *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. It is not our strength, but God's power that keeps us in safety. Many make the mistake of believing that their spiritual efforts are what keep them saved. It is God and God alone that gives us our safety and peace.*

23 *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. God's plan is much bigger and greater than what we think... there is no room for baggage... there is no reason to fall short of the glory of the Lord.*

There is no position or situation in life where God is unable to help... it is all based on your willingness to walk in the Spirit and be cleansed by the Spirit... over to you.