

The Law of the Spirit

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Esther 8.

B. The book of Esther is representative of the Christian life.

1. The king represents the person.
2. Haman represents the flesh that deceives us.
3. Esther represents the new spirit under the control of the Holy Spirit represented by Mordecai.

II. The recognition of the true nature of Haman is the first step to the freedom of the kingdom—the believer must free himself by hanging the flesh on the cross of Jesus Christ.

III. A transfer of authority.

A. This is the moment in a believer's life where he rejects self-interest and yields to the Spirit's control.

B. This could be called the moment that a believer yields to the Lordship of Jesus.

1. Jesus has the authority over a believer's life.
2. Jesus has been there all along in the believer's life—this is not a second work of grace.
3. The believer is made aware of the right authority of Jesus through the filling of the Spirit.

C. Our defense against the flesh is not our will power but dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

1. The law of sin and death cannot be revoked, and it baffles the person. (Romans 7)
2. There is no way to alter the course of the human spirit.
3. The king had to rely upon Mordecai as the believer must rely on the Spirit.
4. A new law of the Spirit is given to the believer for victory. (Romans 8:1)

D. There is a great release of joy when one realizes that God has made a way out of defeat from circumstances.

E. When one's life is contrary to expectation, conviction arises in outsiders, which makes for powerful Christian witness.

1. Our reaction to situations is not how others react.
2. In the midst of this, others take notice.

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that there are two works of grace in the believer's life?

2. What does it mean to walk according to the law of the Spirit? How does this contrast to accomplishing things in one's own power?

3. Who has been a testimony to you of living a life contrary to expectation? What has been remarkable about this person's life? Explain.
