

A blurred high-speed train is captured in motion at a station platform at night. The train's lights create a streak of orange and white, contrasting with the dark background. The platform is illuminated by overhead lights, and a person is visible in the distance. The overall scene conveys a sense of speed and modernity.

# FAITHFUL

IN A CHANGING WORLD



**BIBLE**  
BY THE BEACH



# Simon Vibert

- Stand firm in your fight against the Devil
- Put to death the sinful nature
- Resist the pull of the world



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# Seminar Two

## Sunday 14.15-15.15

*“Put to death the sinful nature”*

“Don’t you know there’s a war on?”

Living in enemy occupied territory

# John Owen – *on Mortification*



# Romans 8

v1 God does not condemn the Christian

v2f The law is weakened by the flesh

v3 God came in the likeness of sinful flesh

v4 we now live according to the Spirit not according to the flesh

v5 where you set your mind determines how you live

# Romans 8 cont...

v6-8 setting your mind on the flesh means death

v9 the spirit dwells within the Christian which changes everything!

v12 there is no condemnation, but there is a new obligation!

# John Owen (1616-1683)

From relative obscurity to the seat of the University  
and the Puritan controversies

Comparing *Death of Deaths in the Death of Christ*  
and *Sin and Temptation*

# Romans 8:13

“If ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body ye shall live” (KJV).

# The Goal of mortification

## Rooting out indwelling sin

We must test our lives according to the fixed standards of the word of God, and, with the help of the Spirit, determine any slippage. Sin will take undefended territory, or to use yet another analogy:

“... nothing can prevent this but mortification that withers the root and strikes at the head of sin every hour...”

# The Agent of mortification

## The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit takes away our stony heart, removing pride and stubbornness (Ezek. 11:19, 36:26). All this is a gift from God, (“without Christ we can do nothing”, Jn. 15:5).

The fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:19ff.) enables us to abound in grace, to weaken and destroy the habit of sin, and to bring us to the cross of Christ.

# The Method of mortification

## Godly Habits

As a man nailed to the cross; he first struggles, and strives, and cries out with great strength and might, but, as his blood and spirits waste, his strivings are faint and seldom, his cries low and hoarse, scarce to be heard; when a man first sets on a lust or distemper, to deal with it, it struggles with great violence to break loose, it cries with earnestness and impatience to be satisfied and relieved;

# The Method of mortification cont...

but when by mortification the blood and spirits of it are let out, it moves seldom and faintly, cries sparingly, and is scarce heard in the heart; it may have sometimes a dying pang, that makes an appearance of great vigour and strength, but it is quickly over, especially if it be kept from considerable success.

# The role of the Holy Spirit in mortification

Owen warns: “Unless a man be a believer, that is one that is truly ingrafted into Christ, he can never mortify any one sin” (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5).

The Holy Spirit awakens the conscience. A dead religion, which only seeks to modify behaviour without cultivating a love for Christ, will only harden the heart

# Heeding Word and Spirit

Sometimes God specifically convicts of sin (as he did with Joseph's brothers), more usually it is through the preaching of the word: "God often hews men by the sword of his word in that ordinance, strikes directly on their bosom-beloved lust, startles the sinner, makes him engage unto the mortification and relinquishment of the evil of his heart"

# Grow in self-knowledge and self-awareness

Owen believes that your personality and constitution affect how you react to sin. Paul sought to bring his body under subjection (1 Cor. 9:27). Temperance alone does not mortify sin, it needs the help of the Spirit. “Watch...take heed” (Lk. 21:34). Strike early! (Jms 1:14f.).

# Meditate on the excellency of the majesty of God

Consider, then, I say, to keep thy heart in continual awe of the majesty of God, that persons of the most high and eminent attainment, of the nearest and most familiar communion with God, do yet in this life know but a very little of him and his glory.

# Meditate on the excellency of the majesty of God

The Spirit alone convinces the heart of evil and guilt,  
and the sin which needs mortifying;

He reveals the fullness of Christ for our relief  
( 1 Cor. 2:8);

He establishes expectation of relief in Christ  
(2 Cor. 1:21);

# Meditate on the excellency of the majesty of God cont...

He brings the cross into our heart “with its sin-killing power”;

He is the author and finisher of our sanctification (Eph. 3:16-18);

He is the strength and support we need, he groans with, and for us (Rom. 8:26), and he enables us to prevail.

# Death to sin and life in Christ

*There is no standing still in the Christian life – either we fight the flesh or we drift backwards*

- 1. Know Yourself*
- 2. Work on Godly Discipline*
- 3. Crucify Selfish Ambition*
- 4. Root Out Stubborn Sin*
- 5. Seek the Holy Spirit's Presence and Help Daily*