



7/11/25

*As we launch into our study on Romans 1-8 during our sermon series, Free Indeed, we focused on Romans 1 during this week's Chosen and Cherished podcast. The more I study scripture the more I am impacted by the immense role of faith in Christ in our lives. We can do nothing of any spiritual value without faith! If you'd like to listen to the podcast, please click on the following link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Romans 8:5-11 ~*

*In Romans 8:1-4, I learned that Jesus fulfilled what the law required in order for me to be saved, because I could not fulfill it in my own flesh. The evidence of my salvation and righteousness is NOT that I live according to the law, but that I WALK according to the Spirit. Walking according to my own flesh keeps me obligated to the law... and that does not go well for me because I have no ability to follow the law perfectly, which Galatians 3:10-12 tells me, is what would be required for me to be saved under the law.*

*Walking by the Spirit does NOT mean that I ignore what God wants me to do... but it is only by the Spirit in my life that I'm able to obey... AND I'm not judged by my obedience, but rather by my faith in Christ. That is the difference between walking according to the flesh and according to the Spirit... The former walks without faith in God, but rather in self. The one who walks according to the Spirit walks in faith. How serious is this???*

*Vs. 5-8 ~ Where I walk is where I live. If I live according to the flesh, my mind dwells on the things of the flesh. These things are in direct opposition to the things of God. They are the things that lead to death, both physical and spiritual... eternal death. Nothing good comes from the things of the flesh, no matter what lies the world tries to sell about them. The mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God. It hates God. It wants nothing to do with God. Those who are IN THE FLESH, rather than IN CHRIST, cannot please God. Even good works done in the*

*flesh will not please God because they are done without faith in Him. "And without faith it is impossible to please Him" (Hebrews 11:6).*

*The thing is... if I am IN CHRIST, which I am, I still have the flesh in me that has been crucified, but it doesn't know it's dead yet. It's like a chicken with its head cut off... dead, but still running around... trying to pull me toward dwelling on what's dead rather than the freedom I have in Christ.*

*To walk according to the Spirit is to LIVE according to the Spirit and to set my mind on the things of the Spirit. It means that I live on the basis of what the Spirit calls good... and I center my thoughts and my purpose on what the Spirit says is good... and this brings life, eternal life... and peace. When my life and mind are set on the Spirit, I experience the joy of life IN CHRIST, and I experience a stillness of my soul... peace. If I'm not experiencing that, there's a good chance I'm letting too much of my flesh have a voice in my head and heart.*

*It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit working in me that I can submit to God and please Him... and that I even want to submit to God and please Him. To submit to the Spirit, I have to ACTIVELY and INTENTIONALLY speak truth to my heart or I will let the old lies of the flesh take over.*

*Vs. 9-11 ~ The wonderful news is, I am not IN THE FLESH because the Spirit of God dwells in me. Ephesians 1:13-14 tells me that when I heard the gospel of Christ and put my faith in Him, I was sealed with the promised Holy Spirit "as a guarantee of my inheritance with God." The evidence that I am saved IN CHRIST JESUS is that the Holy Spirit dwells in me. To not have the Spirit is to not have Christ. To not have Christ is to be IN THE FLESH and to not have the Spirit.*

*But... because Christ IS in me, with His Spirit dwelling in me, even though my physical body will die because of the corruption that came into the world through sin, the Spirit in me gives me eternal life because "the righteous requirement of the law" was fulfilled in me through Jesus. Even though my physical body will die, I will be resurrected someday into a new, transformed eternal body. Philippians 3:21 says that Jesus "will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself."*

*So... for me to set my mind on the flesh is to set my mind on what won't last. It's focusing on the breath of a life on earth as if it were everything of value... when it is truly passing away... just like how a breath vaporizes before my eyes in the cold. To set my mind on the Spirit is to live with the hope of eternity with the One who BREATHEs eternal life into me... to live with God where all the corruption of my flesh and this world and the devil will be destroyed forever. If I truly live with eternity in mind, I WILL live in peace and joy. O Lord, please help me not to get caught up in the temporary things of this world. Help me to say with Paul, "This light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen (the things of this world), but to the things that are unseen (the things of eternity). For the things that are seen are temporary, but the things*

*that are unseen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).*

*The Holy Spirit dwelling in me is massive! Do I understand His power at work in my life? I cannot do what pleases God in my own strength because my own strength is the flesh. But the wonderful news is, I don't have to! The fact is, I HAVE received the Holy Spirit as a seal and I CAN walk according to His goodness in me. I CAN live by the Spirit with my mind SET on the Spirit. He will help me. O Lord, please help me not to let shame of my failures stop me from drawing close to You. Help me to recognize when I'm drifting to my dead flesh and help me to cry out to You for help! You will always answer. Praise Your name!*