



8/12/25

I just finished a book about "dying to self" and one of the things the author said was trying to live for the flesh AND for God at the same time is like trying to be on the west coast and the east coast at the same time. It's physically impossible. The author was from the 1600's so he didn't know about technology like FaceTime and Zoom, but even so... Even with technology, we can't physically be in 2 places at once. And we can't physically or spiritually be with God and against Him at the same time. That's what Romans 6:1-7 is all about...

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Romans 6:1-7 ~

Vs. 1-4 ~ "What shall we say then?" What shall we say to what? What shall we say to the fact that "where sin increased, grace abounded all the more" (Romans 5:20)? "Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?" Are we to make sin a practice in our lives saying that we have been freed from sin only to go back to it? "By no means!" That would be crazy!

"How can we who died to sin still live in it?" That's like when a person who struggles with drug abuse or alcohol abuse goes to rehab, gets completely clean... and then rushes out to a drug dealer or a bar the moment they get released. That would be devastating. The same thing happens when I choose to live for my dead flesh rather than to live for Jesus.

But I have been baptized, not just in water, but in Christ Jesus. Water baptism is just a symbol, a picture, of what happened when I turned to the Lord in faith. I was baptized into Jesus. I have been immersed into His death so that my old self that would have faced the wrath of God could die. Just as Jesus' body was buried in the tomb, my old self was buried with Him. And just as Jesus rose from the dead by the glory of the Father on the third day, I was raised with Him... to new life.

What does it mean to be raised to new life? 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that it means "If anyone be in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come." It means that I've been sealed by the Holy Spirit who is now at work to transform my heart and

mind to love what Jesus loves and hate what He hates... to think like He thinks... to live like He lives.

When I was living for SELF, I was miserable. Even the things that promised satisfaction were a lie. I was deceived. No good fruit came from my broken life. Jesus didn't free me so that could go back to that misery. He freed me so that I could run from that misery.

Vs. 5-7 ~ I have been united with Jesus in His death and united with Him in His resurrection. As sure as Jesus died, rose, and ascended to heaven... I have died and risen, and my home is waiting for me on the day that I will ascend to heaven to live with Him forever.

Why should I worship Jesus? Because I will never feel the weight of what I was destined for without Jesus. I will never feel the pain of 39 lashes by a whip covered with broken glass and thorns to rip my skin apart so that I am so badly afflicted that I can't be recognized. I will never feel the crushing of a crown of thorns beat down into my head. I will never feel the nails pierce my hands and feet. I will never experience the mocking of people like me who didn't understand that Jesus was enduring all that suffering so that we wouldn't have to... And even if I should suffer the physical pain Jesus endured, I will never have any comprehension of the crushing spiritual trauma He endured by taking all that sin on Himself that He was completely innocent of... and all the wrath of the Father poured out on Him. When I received Jesus as my Savior, He protected me from ALL the suffering and pain He experienced on my behalf. Why would I go back to the reasons He had to die?

My old self that hated God died for a purpose... that my body of sin might be "brought to nothing." The Greek word for that is transliterated, "annulled." My body of sin was annulled through Jesus, rendered ineffective, abolished. This was done for a purpose... that I would no longer be enslaved to sin. Sin no longer has power to rule me. It sure feels like it does sometimes!!! But through Jesus, I will never face the condemnation that my sin deserves. Jesus did that for me.

"For one who has died has been set free from sin." I am free from the guilt and punishment I deserve. Just like someone suffering with cancer is set free from that cancer when they die, and they do not take that cancer with them to heaven... so I have been set free from the cancer of sin. When I physically die, my old body of sin will not come with me to heaven.

The hard part is, my old self doesn't realize that it's dead, and sin still tries to get me to make myself its voluntary slave. I don't have to. What can I do to live in that freedom? To walk in that newness of life? I need to stop focusing on my failures and start focusing on Jesus' faithfulness. I need to cry out to Him for help. He will answer when I call.

O Lord, please help me to continue to draw closer to you rather than to sin. Help me to remember that I've been set free from sin. It sounds too good to be true... but it's true. Praise Your name!