



10/1/26

Romans 8:1-14

Our 19th reason to rehearse the gospel for ourselves from A Gospel Primer talks about how the cross exposes our need for a Savior. But instead of making us ashamed for needing Jesus, it magnifies His love for us and our gratitude for Him. Paul called himself a "wretched man" and "the chief of sinners." But that didn't make him wallow in shame. It filled him with gratitude. I pray that you and I will see how blessed we are for the cross of Christ, even to the point that it motivates us to pick up our cross and follow Him.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

In 2 Corinthians 3:16-18, we learned that the Holy Spirit has a huge role in our lives. He removes the veil so we can see His glory. He gives us freedom (from sin, from ourselves, from deception). He transforms us from one degree of glory (the opposite of shame) to the next. That's huge. And that's only a portion of what He does. There are tons of passages that give us more insight into what He does. Romans 8:1-14 is one of those passages.

Vs. 1-2 ~ "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death."

There is THEREFORE... what's the therefore there for? In chapter 7, Paul has just spoken about how he does the things he doesn't want to do and doesn't do the things he does want to do... evil is always close, trying to get him to serve the law of sin rather than the law of God. But praise the Lord, through Jesus we are delivered from our "body of death." THEREFORE, we are not condemned because we are IN Christ Jesus.

Why? Why are we not condemned? The law of the SPIRIT of life has set us free because we are IN Christ Jesus... buried with Him in His death and raised with Him to new life. The law of sin and death can no longer touch us. This is TRUE! This is REALITY... even when my feelings tell me otherwise! My feelings do not EVER trump the facts. Praise God.

Vs. 3-4 ~ "For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

The Mosaic law (like the 10 commandments) proved to me that I cannot earn my way to God. The law requires absolute 100% obedience. I was hopeless. BUT GOD sent His own Son to be both man and God, looking mostly like man because He "did not count equality a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself" of His glory, majesty, and beauty... to destroy the power of sin, to condemn sin, but not the sinner who turns to Him in humble repentance. Why? Because there was a righteous requirement of the law that I could not attain on my own. Jesus fulfilled the law for me and for all who "walk not according to the flesh but according to the... SPIRIT."

Galatians 5 tells me that walking according to flesh takes me to all kinds of decisions and actions that go completely against the character of God. The flesh hates God. Though I'm stuck with the flesh until Jesus takes me home to heaven, it no longer has power to rule me. Any power it has is power I give it.

Walking by the Spirit means letting Him lead me. When the Spirit leads, His love is my motivation. He grows His fruit in me... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Spirit control). What part of that don't I want??? Any time I act according to the flesh, I have huge regret! I never regret following the Spirit.

Vs. 5-8 ~ "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

So... the big question is... what am I intentionally having my mind dwell on? What will my mind naturally dwell on if I'm not intentional? Every believer has both the flesh and the Spirit within our hearts. People who have not put their faith in Jesus only have the flesh. Yes, they have A spirit, but not THE Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one who seals us for our eternal life with Christ.

The one who LIVES according to the flesh... who exists and makes a lifestyle according to the flesh...

- Has a mindset that honors the flesh and what pleases SELF. (Self-pleasure is self-sabotage.)*
- Sets its mind on death, the temporary things that will pass away and have no eternal value.*
- Is hostile to God. It HATES God.*
- It absolutely will NOT submit to the law of the Spirit of life.*

- *It can't submit to the Lord even if it wants to give the appearance of submission. But the Holy Spirit isn't there to help. Apart from Him, we can do nothing.*
- *Cannot please God... doesn't even think about pleasing Him, doesn't even desire to please Him.*

The one who lives according to the SPIRIT... who exists and makes a lifestyle according to the Spirit...

- *Has a mindset that honors the Spirit and what pleases Him.*
- *Sets its mind on life, eternal life, the treasures of heaven, and sets its mind on peace... because God IS our peace.*
- *Pleases God.*

Nothing good comes from setting my mind on the flesh. Everything good comes from setting my mind on the Spirit.

Vs. 9-11 ~ "You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

In these 3 verses the word "Spirit" is repeated 6 times. I think Paul (the author) is making a point. The Holy Spirit is the proof that I belong to Jesus. I have the promise from Ephesians 1:13-14 that when I put my faith in Jesus Christ after hearing the gospel, the Holy Spirit sealed me to guarantee that I belong to Jesus and no one can take that away. Not only does He guarantee my salvation, but He also is the proof that I've received the free gift of righteousness (Romans 5:17). Because Jesus was raised from the dead, my body was raised to new life with Him... through His Spirit who dwells in me. The Holy Spirit doesn't just seal me. He dwells IN me. I have Him taking care of me from without and from within.

Vs. 12-14 ~ "So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

I am indebted to the Father for sending His Son to fulfill the righteous requirement of the law so that I could die with Him and be raised with Him to new life. I am indebted to Jesus for laying down His life for my justification and being raised for my salvation. I am indebted to the Spirit for sealing me and dwelling in me. The flesh has done nothing for me. The triune God has done everything for me... sacrificially, unconditionally.

If anyone chooses to LIVE according to the flesh, who makes the things of the flesh his lifestyle rather than the Spirit, nothing good will come. Only death.

The truth is, in and of myself, I can't even keep myself from sin. One of the huge roles of the Spirit is that HE helps me overcome sin. He helps me even to see that I need to overcome sin. Without Him, I am deceived. But it is by the power of the Holy Spirit that I'm able to "put to death", not myself, but the actions and choices of my flesh. I need to crush the flesh, not sanctify it. The Holy Spirit is the one who does that. The evidence that I am a child of God is found in my choice to follow the Spirit and let Him lead.

The Holy Spirit will never lead me to do anything that goes against His character, His righteousness, or His law of life in the Spirit. Also, the word of God is called "the sword of the... SPIRIT." To follow the Spirit, I will absolutely follow His word. He will never lead me to do anything that doesn't align with His word.

O Lord, You have done everything for me, and You only call me to follow Your lead. The only way I can or will do that is if I crush my flesh and give the Holy Spirit full access to my heart. O Lord, please help me to give no voice to my flesh and to open my ears to whatever You have to say to me. Help me to follow Your lead every step of the way. And when I veer to the flesh in a momentary lapse of submission to You, please help me to recognize it right away and then run back to You. Praise You for all that You do!