

Romans Part Five

Rom. 1:16 ¶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is **the power of God for salvation** to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Rom. 1:17 For in it the righteousness [= rightness] of God is revealed from faith to faith [= by faith for faith]; as it is written: “**BUT THE RIGHTEOUS ONE WILL LIVE BY FAITH.**”

“Salvation” in Romans means deliverance from God’s _____.

Rom. 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we **shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him**.

Rom. 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we **shall be saved by His life**.

Rom. 6:11 So you too, **consider yourselves to be dead to sin**, but alive to God in [= by] Christ Jesus.

Rom. 6:12 ¶ Therefore sin is not to reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,

Rom. 6:13 and do not go on presenting the parts of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; **but present yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead**, and your body’s parts as instruments of righteousness for God.



Rom. 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from **the body of this death**?

Rom. 8:10 If Christ is in you, though **the body is dead because of sin**, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

Rom. 7:9 *I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin came to life, and I died;*

Rom. 7:10 *and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me;*

Rom. 7:21 ¶ *I find then the principle [= law, customary way of life, norm] that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.*

Rom. 7:22 *For I joyfully agree with the law [= principle] of God in the inner person,*

Rom. 7:23 *but I see a different law [= principle] in the parts of my body waging war against the law [= principle] of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law [= principle] of sin, the law [= principle] which is in my body's parts.*

As Christians, each of us does have a new inner person, a new nature. We don't have two natures, but one sinless nature within us. But we are stuck in these bodies infected with sin. So, you could say that the inner person is totally in line with following God's ways, but the body is still living under the "law" or "principle" or "customary way of life" of sin. Honestly, it's like our bodies just want to live like non-Christians whose "principle" is to sin and die!

Rom. 7:24 *Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?*

Rom. 7:25 *Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law [= principle] of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law [= principle] of sin.*

Rom. 8:1 ¶ *Therefore there is now no condemnation [= sentence of servitude] at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.*



Rom. 8:2 For the law [= principle, customary way of life, norm] of the Spirit of life in [= by] Christ Jesus has set you free from the law [= principle] of sin and of death.

Rom. 8:3 For what the Law could not do, **weak as it was through the flesh**, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

Rom. 8:4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us **who do not walk according to the flesh but [walk] according to the Spirit**.

And what it means to “walk according to the flesh” is not only that we follow sinful impulses and thinking that are rooted in our sinful bodies, but that we try to change ourselves in the same way Paul tried to do as explained in chapter 7!

Rom. 8:5 For those who are in accord with the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are in accord with the Spirit, **the things of the Spirit**.

What Paul is getting at is that when you try to change your behavior yourself, you are setting your mind on what you can get your body to do, “of the flesh things.” Instead, you have to set your mind on what the Spirit can do, “of the Spirit things.”

Rom. 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death [= for the flesh-mindset, death], but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace [= but the Spirit-mindset, life and peace].

Rom. 8:7 because the mind set on the flesh [= flesh mindset] is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law [= principle] of God, **for it is not even able [= does not have power] to do so**,

Rom. 8:8 and those who are in [= by] the flesh cannot please God.

You can't change yourself. You can't get a dead body to come alive! There's no amount of commitment or effort that is going to overcome the sinfulness in your body. The mindset of changing yourself will fail because there is no power in it.

So, what is “the Spirit-mindset”? I can't try to live my Christian life in my own power. I can't think “the flesh-mindset” of what I'm going to do. That will not work. **I have to believe in what the Holy Spirit can do.**

What can the Spirit do? Paul spells it out:

Rom. 8:9 ¶ However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if [= since] indeed **the Spirit of God dwells in you**. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Do you belong to Jesus? Jesus died for your sins to purchase you from being a slave to sin. You are now one of His people. And since you are His, He has given you the Holy Spirit to dwell in you. Also, the Father, Son and Spirit share the same life being One God.

Rom. 8:10 If [= since] Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet **the spirit [= Spirit] is alive because of righteousness**.

Your body is dead and contaminated with sin. But the Holy Spirit lives in you. And the Spirit is alive and the Spirit does the right things! God always only does what is right. And if you put the Holy Spirit up against a dead body, who is going to win that battle? You guessed it, the Holy Spirit has power to overcome a dead body!

Rom. 8:11 But if [= since] 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**.

The Spirit can apply resurrection power to overcome the deadness, the sinfulness of our bodies so that we come alive with righteousness. The life that we then live is nothing less than the resurrection life of Jesus Christ through us!

So here is “the Spirit-mindset” spelled out for us:

Rom. 8:12 ¶ So then, brothers and sisters, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—

*Rom. 8:13 for if you are living in accord with the flesh, you are going to die; but if **by the Spirit** you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

In other words, if I try to do righteousness in my own power, I’ll end up doing sin and dying. Instead, I need to let my dead body be dead completely! I should stop trying to make it come alive! That’s a flesh-mindset that will never work.

Instead, I need to stop trying to do something I have no power to do. I need to depend on the Holy Spirit to transform my dead body. The Holy Spirit has resurrection power that I do not have! This is the victory. And when I depend on the Holy Spirit, that is a “Spirit-mindset.”

1. You have to believe in what the Holy Spirit can do. Christians truly “live by faith” in what God can do (the only right way to approach God).

Have you tried overcoming sin in your own power? What happened?

2. What happens to Christians who try to live with a “flesh-mindset”? A “flesh-mindset” only leads to sinful pride.

Rom. 3:27 ¶ Where then is boasting? It has been excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law [= principle] of faith.

3. When you discover from God’s Word something that needs to change about you, ask God for His resurrection power to change you.

When was the last time you asked God to change you?