

The Ally Within

Romans 8:1-17 ESV

- I. The dilemma of those who are saved.
 - a. I desire God and the things of God and I desire the things related to the sin nature so I struggle to enjoy either one. Romans 7:22-25 ESV “For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” *A cat can get muddy but doesn’t enjoy the mud. The new nature we’ve been given when we’re born again cannot enjoy sin the way it used to – the new nature is in the way.
 - b. I know now that I am loved and valued, yet often I find myself being unlovable and giving my thoughts and actions to worthless things. How can this be? I have been awakened to beauty as a potential, but how can I possibly have my actual life and speech match this vision?
 - c. Jesus has given His life to save me so I owe Him a debt of love and gratitude that figures out how to live in a way worthy of His sacrifice. Romans 8:11-12 ESV “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. So then, brothers,[Ⓜ] we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.” You don’t owe your sin nature anything – it has produced a bad version of you. Because of His love and His promise to you, you owe a debt of gratitude and love that seeks to live in the best version of you possible.
- II. Embracing God’s two-fold solution for our dilemma.
 - a. Satan and his demons have an internal associate living in you who shares their hostility toward God. Sin, sin nature, the flesh, the old man, the carnal nature – it goes by many names, but it puts in a spiritual war that is difficult to win.
 - b. So what has God done for us to counteract what is against us? Here is His heart toward you: Romans 8:31-32 ESV “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be[Ⓜ] against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”
 - i. He has adopted us as His own children and declared that we are in His family because of Jesus’ righteousness, not our own. There is now no condemnation for us! This is the first five chapters of Romans – 5:1 ESV “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we[Ⓜ] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” *No longer slaves who fear, but free because we are sons – my children

are my children whether they're pleasing me today or not in their behavior. Whether we're struggling to communicate or not – they don't go in and out of being my children.

1. We have this relationship and will always be brought back to the truth that Jesus died for our sins so we are forgiven no matter how long, or how badly we have fallen. Time living in condemnation is wasted time! Stop doing an end run around the cross by punishing yourself when Jesus bore that suffering for you. *Often the enemy just gives us the hammer and we're happy to beat ourselves up thinking it's humble or just because we deserve it. Self-condemnation doesn't glorify God, repent and live in the penthouse His love and delight, not the basement of shame and fear!
 2. John 1:9 ESV "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." People may not forgive you, but God will. When you don't forgive yourself, you are disagreeing with God. Embrace Christ's blood and His forgiveness.
- ii. He has given us the Holy Spirit. "Friend like this." The Christian life isn't hard, it's impossible for our old nature. Romans 8:7-8 ESV "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. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God." Whether we're rebellious or religious – we can't please God in the carnal nature.
1. Romans 7:9-25 "Me, my, and I" 43 times. Selfish ambition, self-protection, self-pity, self-promotion, self-fulfillment, self-medication. Frustrated, contradiction, but still Christian.
 2. Romans 8:1-16 The "Spirit" is mentioned 14 times – He is the ally within – without Him we can't win and with Him we can't lose. God has ordained this: Zechariah 4:6 ESV "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts."

III. The Ally within.

- a. This is the plan God made for you and I – He would put a Divine Helper inside of us.
 - i. John 14:16-18 ESV "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,^[a] to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be^[b] in you." Forever – you were made to be "us" not "I". Get used to it! This is the best version of you – you filled with the Holy Spirit.

- ii. John 14:26 ESV “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” He teaches us what is right and warns us about what is wrong. The Bible – remembrance.
- b. He reveals to us what is ours in Christ – the inheritance. Much of it is coming in the ages to come (Ephesians 2:7), but some of it is for right now. John 16:14-15 ESV “He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” 1Corinthians 2:12 “Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.”
 - *Righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17) This is all for right now. Breastplate, His peace, and His joy – these are all for right now.
- c. He is the strength that puts to death the deeds of the sin nature. Romans 6:13 ESV “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.” Not ultimate death or life after death, but deeds of death or deeds of life.
 - i. The boy asked to move the piano. Who moved it? They did.
 - ii. Samson – “What is the secret to your great strength?” Darkness must separate you from your strength – move your mind to things of self and away from the Spirit.
 - iii. Panzers at the Battle of the Bulge. *Christians without gas or ammunition.
- d. He is available to drink in every circumstance we face. John 7:37-39 ESV “On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as[Ⓢ] the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”
 - i. No matter how bad, confusing, or good – we need to drink so we can be led by the Spirit and have God’s response and outflow. Problem: this is the only plan and we have been afraid often of the Holy Spirit, or limited Him to church – we need Him for church, marriage, work, finances, everything – He is our Helper!
 - ii. Tuesday’s super connect: “He has a well of water for you and for your son.” Are you spiritually dehydrated? Take a drink today. Have you received God’s gift of righteousness? Receive it today.