

# ROMANS: TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

(Romans 8:1-11)

**MAIN POINT:** As we grow in grace in this life as Christians, we realize the greatest gift God has ever given us is His Holy Spirit in our lives. Tragically, most of us don't even acknowledge He exists at all.

\*Family died on their land in poverty; unknown to them sitting on million gallons of untapped oil (worth 100million)

## READ Romans 8:1

-Paul had just finished commiserating in Ch. 7:25 "wretched man that I am. Who will set me free from this body of death???" Jesus will!! Jesus does. *Jesus Has. **Jesus did what we never could do!!***

**Vs. 1: "Therefore there is now *no* condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus."**

Routine Dr. visit. Feel fine. Tests. Imagine, the min. you get the call- Cancer. Inoperable, devastating, 4 weeks to live.

**Death Sentence. Doom.** (Then, doctor wrong person...oops. *my bad*). FINE. **No death sentence!** Us=condemnation/sin

-In Adam (Original Sin) = sin nature; bent; willful choice to sin;=**GUILTY**. **Depraved** (void of God).

-**BUT**...*IN* Christ, *now* b/c of His death; His resurrection; His grace toward us =Salvation/Rescue.

\*Justification (NO LONGER GUILTY) -Righteousness=right standing before holy God. = GIFT!!!!!!

**VS 2:** For the law of the Spirit of life *in* Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. The mercy of Jesus gives good news that even though we were dead in our sins and transgressions against holy God, that even while we were still sinners, Christ Jesus DIED for the ungodly (YOU); therefore **IF** you are *IN* Christ now...the Spirit of Life (Holy Spirit) has made you alive (Regeneration) and has rescued you from mankind's two greatest obstacles/enemies:

**Sin and Death!!** = **Cause for celebration, worship, gratitude**, mercy, evangelism=telling others!

**VS 3:** For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did* -What the Law (O.T. Levitical Law which requires sacrificial system to temporarily atone for our sins) =what the Law could **not** accomplish - i.e. bring salvation and righteousness to our sinfulness & unrighteousness =**LAW: Mirror** (shows us our sin **BUT** cannot change/erase our sin). **Can't fix us BUT...** **God Did**...God made the demand of obedience=perfect righteousness. **& He fulfilled it!**

**How?** **VS 3:** By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh [a human -not that Jesus was sinful, just made into the weakness of humanity/flesh] and as an offering for sin [atonement], **He condemned sin in the flesh**[God punished Jesus as Jesus became our very sin on the cross], =Jesus **became a human**, a man, weak/flesh & lived a perfect/sinless life. Fulfilled perfectly the Law of God (on our behalf & as our Representative to the Father); and then Jesus **became sin**, our sin, and He took the brunt of the just punishment that was due to you and me -on the cross.

**VS 4:**so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. We who are NOW in Christ (no longer spiritually dead/depraved **BUT** spiritually ALIVE and forgiven, loved, adopted, new identity, new name, new hope) -we don't have to go through the ceremonial/levitical Law to earn righteousness (we never could) - **BUT** Christ fulfilled our righteousness; Christ fulfilled the LAW for us; & **now we are *IN HIM!***

**-So what is the result of our life being spiritually changed/converted from death to life?**

1. We are immediately **born again** (Jn 3:37); NEW Life; New Creature (2 Cor. 5:17)
2. Our **Name** is written in the Lamb's Book of life (Lk 10:20; Rev. 20:15); Secured/Assured (Jn 10:28)
3. We are indwelled w/Holy **Spirit** (Rom. 8:11); Sealed w/Spirit -Deposit/down pymt (Eph. 1:13)  
-Jn 14:23 "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." Father/Son/Spirit take up residence in our heart
4. We become the very **temple** of God -His Spirit lives w/in US (1 Cor. 6:19)
5. We become a **child** of God (Jn 1:12); Citizenship changes: Heaven (Eph. 2:19); New Identity

6. We are forever forgiven, cleansed of sin, made holy (sanctified), & declared righteous (Justified) -1 Cor. 6:11 “Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”
7. We become part of Christ’s **Church** on earth/heaven (1 Cor. 12:13) -*Baptized into One Body*

All of this happens to us the *moment* we get saved/rescued/converted from life to death. **This is our new POSITION as a Christian.** (Our new reality). **This is what is TRUE about you.** This is what is the **TRUEST TRUE** truth about your life today (*if you are in Christ*). More than what you feel, or what you do/don’t do, more than your victories/failures, Highs/Lows -*in Christ* \*Position=No longer sinful/HOLY; No longer guilty/FORGIVEN; No longer lost/ADOPTED  
No longer Condemned to die apart from Christ b/c our sins/NO CONDEMNATION  
-This is HOW The Father **sees** you (IN Christ); this is how the Father **treats** you (as HIS)  
-This is exactly where the evil one attacks you, distracts you, lies to you, dissuades you.  
-This is **WHO you are IN Christ**, positionally. This is your NEW station, new reality, NEWEST, TRUEST YOU above all else. You are in Christ & b/c cross...**everything has changed!!!**

-**Then**, we learn *HOW* do we function NOW positionally –NOW that my life has changed -*what now*  
-We begin a NEW walk, a new journey into daily Christlikeness. We begin to Grow spiritually -U?  
-We need help (community); “**our Christian walk is a community project**” =NEED discipleship -U?  
-Paul, moves from our Position, to our **DESCRIPTION**: Practical Help for the Christian to live daily and walk out victory: **How do we live out our new position in Christ?**

**VS 5:** For those who are in accord with the flesh [live according to the flesh] set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are in accord with the Spirit [live according to the power of the Spirit], set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is **life and peace**, <sup>7</sup> because the mind set on the flesh is **hostile** toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

**Whose your TEAM? Rangers/Diamondbacks? Cowboys/Eagles? Team Flesh vs. TEAM SPIRIT?**  
-Paul is teaching practical advice; spiritual reality. What you set before you is what you become: “**We become what we behold**” = focused on pleasing the Lord/Spirit’s help vs, pleasing self/flesh?

-**TMS RACEcare experience. Wherever you are looking/eyes pointing is where you are turning**  
-**Airplane:** Wherever nose is pointed is where it is going – **what are you focused on? Before you?**  
Flesh vs. Spirit (We wonder why we are often spiritually tired; easily irritable; quickly discouraged; short-tempered; critical; hard hearted; spiritually bored; effortlessly distracted...b/c we NEGLECT our spiritual life and FEED the flesh/self/carnality.

**VS 8:** and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. =(Kingdom reality. God’s standard)  
-The **Lost** cannot please God b/c they are spiritually dead/depraved/seeking self as God. Reject G  
-The **Carnal** cannot please God b/c they are spiritually dry/unfruitful/self on throne/grieve Sp.

**VS 9:** However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, **if indeed** the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. <sup>10</sup> **If** Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

\*this is **Positional Sanctification:** **Our position** (no longer dead, but alive b/c Spirit) means we are now **declared sanctified** (we are & have been made holy through Jesus’ blood applied by Sp.)

-When we are saved, we are immediately in UNION with Jesus – United to Christ’s death (atonement/blood) and His resurrection (LIFE: Now & future Glorification) *through* the Holy Sp.

-Titus 3:5 “God saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with God’s mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit”

\***Position** = In Christ = no longer ALONE/Have His Holy Spirit within us.

-John 14:16 Jesus to His disciples: “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper [advocate/comforter], so that He may be with you” (live/dwell/tabernacle/abide)w/us **Resident**

-Those who are saved **have** the Holy Spirit within them. **How does this help us?**

1. The Spirit shows us what **sin** is. Our hearts are dark, w/o understanding; we need a guide/help

-John 16:8 “And He, when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment”

2. The Spirit leads us to Christ for forgiveness 1John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

3. The Spirit leads us to Christlikeness; He helps us grow daily into spiritual maturity; He makes us holy (sanctifies us) – helps conform us more day by day into Jesus’ image/Christlikeness

-1 Peter 1:2 “in the sanctification of the Spirit” -What Spirit Has done =Positional Sanctification

-What the Spirit is doing *NOW* (in this moment), daily, day by day, moment by moment =

\***Power of Sanctification** = Able to live daily & walk out our Christian lives in Sp. power to deny the flesh, embrace God’s Truth, and have victory over sin/lies/enemy = JOY, Worship, Gratitude

**VS 11:** But 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. – This is incredible spiritual power. This is Life-changing, eternity-altering power; this is the most incredibly powerful dynamic spiritual authority in the universe – that has the power to change death to life (what else on earth can do that?) – and that power LIVES inside of you in the Third Person of the Trinity – God Himself who dwells within us through His Holy Spirit. This is resurrection power when you are tempted, discouraged, overwhelmed, depressed, sinned against, lied about, wounded, and transgressed. The power that raised Jesus from the grave victorious over all sin and death – that spiritual power resides in you -IF you will tap into it! -Power of 2023 Ferrari SF90 1000horsepower. Useless unless turned on! Tap into power.

When Iphone dies (Level 1 emergency in your house?) = Where’s the plug? Who stole my cube?

-We all need to be plugged into the divine source, the divine gift, the supernatural grace in the Presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Therein lies our power, our victory, our JOY, & the source of our worship.

## APPLICATION

-The Holy Spirit is God’s great gift to you to remind you that you are NOT alone. God with us (Emmanuel) – God WITHIN Us! **What are you doing with this gift in your life?** -Still have any unused gifts from last Christmas? Stuff put away, forgotten, tag still on it? ...Worse, re-gift it?

Paul has made an impassioned argument to us, that Now b/c of Christ’s mediating work on the cross, we who are NOW IN CHRIST have been gifted the Spirit. That means God lives within us **personally** and **permanently**. So, NOW living in a manner contrary to Him = miserable condition

**-Flesh vs. Spirit?** How are you responding to the Spirit's leadership in your life?

-Eph. 4:30 "**Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**"

- How are you robbing yourself, sabotaging yourself of true & lasting hope, rest, joy, peace b/c you refuse the leading of the Spirit? Power of the Spirit? To help you, comfort you, to empower you to defeat sin in your life? To defeat lies in your heart? To defeat destructive idol lifestyle?

Pastor John MacArthur states: "The person who gives no evidence of the presence, power, and fruit of God's Spirit in his life has no legitimate claim to Christ as Savior and Lord. The person who demonstrates no desire for the things of God and has no inclination to avoid sin or a passion to please God is not indwelt by the Spirit and thus does not belong to Christ."

-1Thes. 5:16-19 "**Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit**"

-How do we NOT grieve/quench the Spirit within us. We Acknowledge Him. Pray to Him. We worship Him. We thank the Father for Him. We rely on Him. **We Ask for daily filling of Him!**  
(Eph. 5:18)

-Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what He wants for your life.

-Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate your mind to God's Word

-Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a desire to read God's Word and apply it to your life

-Ask the Holy Spirit to help you meditate on God's Word and memorize it

-Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any hidden sin/unconfessed sin – to be right with the Lord

-Ask the Holy Spirit to help you enlarge your capacity to know Him, to love and worship Jesus

-Ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow into Jesus' likeness everyday (mercifully chipping away at the sin and selfishness of your life until He fashions a beautiful new creation as an image bearer of the King)

-AND THANK the Holy Spirit as God's greatest gift to you – He gave you life & preserves your life!