

ROMANS: TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

(Romans 8:24-27)

*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.

The body guard: Protects you with his own life, skill, power: carries you if need be =his job is dedicated to ur life!

MAIN POINT: -The ongoing, mediatorial, intercessory work of the Son in heaven and the Spirit on our behalf within us secures our eternal reward of heaven & the Father as our prize.

-The *source* of all suffering, pain, and discouragement in this life comes from **loss** (freedom, rights, relationships, health, even life=death). ***Lead you to Suffer well and die well for God's glory**

The Christian life is one of **loss** on this earth:

Vs. 16: "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer with Him** so that we may also be glorified with Him." =Suffering in this life is *experiencing loss*:

-The loss of **Innocence**: Born into sin nature (original sin); Bent toward sin (inherent sin); choose it

-The loss of **Idolatry**: You are not your own god (easily deceived to make you believe u r in charge)

-The loss of **Identity**: You lose your self-sufficiency - that you *are* what you "do"

As a Believer, to follow Christ: Lose your "safety net"/flesh/comfort = "**deny yourself**"; lose your rights to health, worldly happiness, even life = "**take up your cross**"; lose your self-will, goals, ambitions "**follow me.**" = If you belong to Jesus, then you go where He goes; do what He does....

-Luke 9:23-25 "And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save his life will **lose** it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, this is the one who will save it. ²⁵ For what good does it do a person if he gains the whole world, but loses or forfeits his soul/himself?"

The Christian life is one of replacing loss on this earth with spiritual gain (eternal gain); **mind shift**

Vs. 18: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be* compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us." =mind shift/eter. perspective: "**transfor renewing ur mind**"

=As a believer, all the hurt, heartache, pain, suffering, & loss you experience (*daily*) is part of God's good design and loving plan for you to be deconstructed of your old fleshly/carnal life & to be constructed into the **image of the Son**. (**Bootcamp of life: breakdown/build up**) **new** & **HOW** does God achieve this within us AS we go through these painful trials? =Through the **work** and the **Gift** of His Holy Spirit within us: **Vs. 26:** Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness . . . How does the Spirit help us in our weakness?

Vs. 9-11: "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. ¹⁰ If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet **the spirit is alive because of righteousness**. 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." =**Life-giving Spirit**. *The Spirit brings to life what has been dead:* (mind, emotions, will)=darkened/**LIFE=hope**

Vs. 13-14: for if you are living in accordance to 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. ¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons *and daughters* of God. =**Sin-killing Spirit** (mortification of sin/flesh)

Vs. 15-16: For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons *and daughters* by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God," =**Redemption-giving Spirit**;

Reconciliation-giving Spirit; Adoption-loving Spirit (You have been rescued, redeemed, reconciled, & adopted b/c of the perfect work of Christ on the Cross & APPLIED to you by His Spirit: The Spirit has made the benefits of the cross & eternal life REAL to you; made them yours).

-The work of the Spirit is **personal**; God is made personal to you b/c Spirit of God lives WITHIN U!

-The Spirit is God's Greatest **gift** to you & b/c He lives IN you (Emmanuel: God WITH us!!)

1. The Spirit **Seals** us in salvation (we have been marked by God; stamped as *His* property)

-Ps. 49:16 "Behold, I have inscribed you (engraved you) on the palm of my hands" = **tattoo perm.**

-**Book stamp (to the Library of Matthew Harding) ...if borrowed/lost the owner's name is clear**

-Eph. 1:13-14 "In Christ, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of the promise who is a first installment (deposit) of our inheritance, in regard to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."

Our hope & salvation rest in the reality of what Jesus has done for us, **Not** what we do to keep in the faith -to be faithful enough, righteous enough, to believe hard enough, to do enough works

-*"Eternal"* life (by its very name) means that it is NOT fickle, or easily lost. It is eternal life. Once given, it is *forever* bc it is based/founded on Jesus' work & His Word (promise) = **True & eternal!**

-2Cor. 1:21-22 "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, ²² who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge/deposit/first installment =of all that is to come in glory (heaven as our home/God as our prize/eternal life WITH Him/Presence)

-1Pet. 1:3-5 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to *obtain* an inheritance *which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you*, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a [ultimate] salvation ready to be revealed in *the last time*."

-When we suffer, exp. loss, discouraged – our HOPE is in Jesus Who is immovable & our eter salv.

-Jn 10:27-28 "My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give them eternal life, and **they will never perish**; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."

=Whoever truly belongs to God belongs to God forever! = Father/Son/Spirit hold us for eternity

Luke 15 Prodigal Son: Jesus declares a SON is ALWAYS a SON (relationship)/ fellowship=broken

The Spirit **SEALS** us with Salvation...

2. The Spirit **Supports** us daily with wisdom (Truth), encouragement, & power to obey/overcome

-Phil. 1:19 "for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance [suffering] through your prayers and **the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,**"

-Jn 14:16 "I will ask the Father, He will give you another Helper/comforter/advocate, so that He may be with you *forever*; forever MEANS forever. As you get eternal salvation, you also are gifted eternal help and support. Daily spiritual wisdom, enlightenment, encouragement, inspiration, sp. power to recognize sp. attacks/temptation & power to overcome/victorious over sin/lies/tempt

*The Spirit helps us remain holy/to cont. to desire holiness -*when* we struggle w/our weak body given to sin/failure/frailty/brokenness/easily tempted (unredeemed bodies of flesh) daily battle

-2Tim. 1:14 "Protect, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you." The Spirit supports us by helping us love, know, & share God's Word (*treasure*)

Samwise Gamgee to Frodo (burden of ring/sin: He walked w/him; fed em; encouraged/carried)

The Spirit seals us, supports us, and ...

3. The Spirit **Supplies** for us inter-trinitarian prayer-?? (=in-depth intercession between Spirit and Father on *OUR* behalf) – to help us spiritually survive (loss), & grow in Christ-likeness, and grow in Hope & JOY.

Vs. 26: Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; The work of the Spirit is to connect our heart & our lives to the Father since we can't. -When we are overwhelmed; don't know what to do; what to pray; what decision to make/**stuck** The Spirit lives to make intercession for us to Father: **Intercede: Lat. "To go between" =Mediate** *China/India preaching: **NEED interpretator** (Spirit more than interprets: instructs us in what to do/not do/trust in/wait for =bc Spirit knows the Father's WILL for us & reveals it to us/WORD

Vs. 27: and He [God] who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*.

-The Spirit's work in intercession is not only personal, it is direct: direct to the Father *for* us.

-The ongoing, mediatorial, intercessory work of the Son in heaven and the Spirit on our behalf *within us* secures our eternal reward of heaven and the Father as our prize.

=Listen to what Scripture promises us about the Spirit:

-Jn 14:17 "the Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be **in** you."

=Listen to what Scripture promises us about the Son:

-Heb. 7:25 "Therefore He [Jesus] is also able to save forever/completely those who come to God through Him, since He [Jesus] always lives to make intercession for them."

Church, does that give you hope today? Though life as a Christian on this earth is one of Loss, of temporary suffering, pain, trials, testing, & temptation = God is using all of this life (good/bad) to conform you, transform you, eternally change you INTO the image of Jesus. To be HOLY & ready to joyfully worship the Lord & be thankful for every moment of everyday (no matter what happens).

APPLICATION:

-What is the basis of your hope of salvation? How do you know that you know you are saved?

-What is the basis of your assurance of salvation? How do you know you can't lose salvation?

-What is the basis of your daily JOY when you suffer and experience loss?

-What do you do IF you have been getting this all wrong your whole life? Wrongly believing???

-What does Christ promise you IF you are truly His???? The GIFT of His Spirit who lives to make intercession for you and empower you to survive in this world with Joy until He returns!