

"And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither, and hear the words of the Lord your God. And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you (your enemies)...Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passed over before you into Jordan....It shall come to pass as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap...And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan" (Joshua 3:9-17).

# **CROSSING THE JORDAN**

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**April 2011**

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**Published by:**

**Christ, Our Life Ministries, inc.**

**PO Box 43268**

**Louisville, Ky. 40253**

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## Chapter 1

### **The Cross**

Most Christians are either living in the regrets of the past, or longing for a future event that will relieve them of all their misery. There is so much said about the blessed event of the second coming of Christ, I love thinking about it as well, however, I'm not living longing for Him to come in order to escape my unpleasant circumstances. I'm having too much fun finding Jesus' abundant Life right in the midst of my unpleasant circumstances, to want to escape them. "Abundant Life" to me is Jesus as me by faith discovering a thrilling adventure and the joy and privilege of being a "living sacrifice" for others.

Most Christians think that "abundant life" means that when all is going well in our lives in some outer successful way, then we will have "abundant life." On the contrary, "abundant life," means in whatever state we find ourselves in, His life is inside of us providing abundantly for us. Until we find joy and peace, instead of self-pity and escapism in where we are right now, we will never know "the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings" (Phil. 3:10).

The point is that most of us don't know how we can experience present tense satisfaction and completeness. We are always looking forward to another time when things will be better, or regretting the past with all of our pitiful "IF ONLY" thoughts.

The question is, have we Christians even heard the, "Rest of the Gospel?" My good friend, Dan Stone wrote a book called, *The Rest of the Gospel*.<sup>1</sup> Dan's excellent book clearly reveals the truths concerning Paul's Romans epistle which proclaims that we are delivered daily by the indwelling resurrected life of Christ within us (Romans 5:10), and how by faith, we can know this abundant life of Christ right now.

The answer lies in the full meaning of the Cross of Christ. What is the meaning of the Cross? The infinite depths and unfathomable riches of the Cross will forever be discovered and rediscovered though-out all eternity. However, we will do our bit to bring to light some of its riches.

The Bible in Colossians 1:20-22 declares that there are two aspects of the Cross. It says, "Having made peace through the *blood* of His Cross, by Him, reconcile all things unto Himself." Then in verse 22, "In the *body* of His flesh through death to present *you* holy and unblameable and unproveable in His sight." Also, the book of Romans unfolds to us its revelation of the blood and the body. The first 5 chapters presents to us salvation by faith and the forgiveness of our sins by the *blood* of Christ (Romans 3:25; 5:9). While, Romans 6-8 presents the provision of His *bodily* death and resurrection (Romans 7:4) available to us today.

The blood of Christ satisfied God's justice, while the body death of Christ satisfies us with the power of His resurrected life daily saving us from sin's dominion. "Much more [certainly], now that we are reconciled, that

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<sup>1</sup> Get THE REST OF THE GOSPEL by: Dan Stone at [www.theliberatingsecret.org](http://www.theliberatingsecret.org) bookstore, or Christ, Our Life Ministries, Inc. ; PO Box 43268; Lou., Ky. 40253.

we shall be saved (daily delivered from sins' dominion) through His (resurrection) life" (Romans 5:10-Amp.).

Let us now consider both the *blood*, as well as the *body* of Christ. We will look at the blood side first. Our God meets us in our fallen and blinded condition and offers us the provision of His precious blood for the forgiveness of our *sins*. Sins in the unbeliever are the action or outer manifestation of a sinful satanic nature. Yet, we are so blinded and outer minded, at this point, that all we can recognize is our outer sins, and have no clue to the inner condition producing these sins. We don't know and cannot see that it is really a spirit manifesting itself through us producing the very sins we are seeing (Eph. 2:2-3). All we know is that, "I have sinned; I am guilty of sin; I need forgiveness; I need a Savior," and rightly so, we ARE guilty sinners, and we ARE in need of a Savior. I see the wisdom of God in not revealing the secrets of sins hidden producer too soon. If sinners knew that it was Satan producing sin through them, then they might try to justify themselves and try to sidestep true heart repentance which would make repentance just another blame game, instead of a genuine heartfelt need for Christ.

The New Covenant is based on the death of the "testator;" "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is only in effect after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth." (Hebrews 9:16-17) Therefore, "without the shedding of the *blood*" (*the death* of Jesus Christ), there is no remission for sins (Hebrews 9:22).

The Bible proclaims that “we have redemption through his *blood*, the have the forgiveness of sins” (Eph. 1:7); we have peace with God, “through the *blood* of his Cross” (Col. 1:20); we are elect through sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ” (I Peter 1:2); we are redeemed by “the precious blood of Christ” (I Peter 1:19); we are cleansed daily by, “the blood Jesus Christ” (I John 1:7); and we are “washed from our sins in His own blood” (Rev. 1:5).

Now, we sing a new song unto our God “for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy *blood* out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God, kings and priest; and we shall reign on the earth” (Rev. 9-10).

So, there is saving power and deliverance in the *blood* of Christ for the forgiveness of our *sins*. Many Christian songs are written with the blood of Jesus in mind, one that comes to my mind, and is one of my personal favorites: “*There is Power in the Blood.*” Yet, has there ever been a song written named, “There is Power in the **Body Death?**” Or, has much at all been taught on the “*Body Death?*” I believe the reason that not much has been written is because the meaning of the *bodily death of Christ* is hardly known nor understood by the Christian world.

## The Body Death of Christ

Just consider the communion table for a moment...There is wine representing Christ's blood, and then there is bread representing Christ's body. We are taught truth concerning the blood (wine), but hardly ever do you hear teaching on the body (bread) of Christ.

The importance of the bodily death of Christ is that the body death delivers us from the nature and power of sin that is, Satan, the one producing sins through us. We were all born with a self-centered satanic nature, Christ's bodily death delivers us from indwelling sin which is Satan. The blood of Christ covers the *product* of sin, which are sins; while the body death replaces the *producer* of sin.

The Bible declares you are "*dead to sin.*" Dead to sin? When and how did we die to sin? First of all, we need to understand what the word, "SIN" means from the Bible's perspective. E. W. Bullinger, a Greek scholar and theologian, says that "Sin is not merely *however*, the quality of an action, but a principle manifesting itself in the activity of the subject, The 'man of sin,' 2 Thes. 2:3 being the personal embodiment of sin."<sup>2</sup>

Also, The foot note of The New Testament (Recovery Version) says this:

"Up to chapter 5:11, sins (plural) have been dealt with, from 5:12 sin (singular) is dealt with. It seems that sin is mentioned in Romans 5 through 8 in a personified way. It is like a person who can enter 5:12, reign 5:21, lord it over people 6:14,

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<sup>2</sup> A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament E.W. Bullinger Page 703

deceive and kill people 7:11, and dwell in people and cause them to do things against their will 7:17,20. It is quite alive 7:9 and exceedingly active; hence it must be the evil nature of Satan, the evil one, who having injected himself into man through Adam's fall has now become the very sinful nature dwelling, acting, and working in fallen man. This indwelling personified sinful nature is the root of all the outward sinful acts."

The word "Sin" singular in Romans 6-8 and II Corinthians 5:21 is rendered a noun and is therefore a person.

In Genesis 4:6-7, the Lord addresses Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." Here again sin is personified. The NIV study Bible says: "The Hebrew word for crouching is the same as an ancient Babylonian word referring to an evil demon crouching at the door of a building to threaten the people inside. Sin may thus be pictured here as just such a demon, waiting to pounce on Cain—it desires to have him." The Genesis 4:7 word "*Sin* crouching at the door," is therefore synonymous with the word "*sin*" in Romans 6-8—it is a personified noun, and different from the word, "sins" which is the action of the person.

Let us address the question, what and how did we die to sin? We must first understand what it means to be "in Christ." Who is "in Christ?" Every born again Christian is officially in union with Christ and He in union with us (John 14:20).

The Bible says that all born again people were in union with Christ as God the Father reconciled the world unto himself (II Corinthians 5:19). All born again believers were "in Christ" at His crucifixion, we were "in Christ" when he was buried, we were "in Christ" when He came out of the grave, and we are "in Christ" as He was enthroned Lord of Heaven; Lord of earth; Lord of the Cross; Lord of the grave; Lord of Hell; Lord of resurrection, and Lord over His ascended position far above all principalities and powers, and finally we are "in Christ" as He is crowned Lord of all.

Do we really get it, how can we grasp such a high and lofty and awesome inheritance? The answer is simple; just receive it as a little child, and don't try to understand it. Spirit understanding gradually comes after our obedience of faith, but understanding never comes before faith. Simply receive it, and declare it as yours.

Since we were in Christ at his crucifixion, then what happened at the Cross? II Corinthians 5:21 says, "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." God the Father made Christ Jesus, sin, in our stead, in order that we might be made the righteousness of God. Christ did the work of the Cross in history, in order that we might simply receive and appropriate the benefits of that finished work, and by the miracle of the Holy Spirit, know that we know, that we know.

How could the Son of God be made sin, and why? And what does it mean, "He was made sin?" The sacrificial Lamb of God was made what we humans became through Adam's Fall. We, through the fall, are all sin-soaked, satanic-indwelt humanity (Eph. 2:2-3). Jesus was made Satan-indwelt humanity at the Cross, in order that we might be made Christ-indwelt humanity. It was an exchange of natures.

Think about this: Why the body of Christ? A body was a vessel, or the dwelling place for a spirit, and a medium by which the spirit manifests itself. Through the Fall, all of mankind became saturated with the Satan's spirit, that is; in our spirit, in our soul and in our bodies. God poured Satan's spirit into Jesus' body, for "He was made sin, root and fruit."

Is this offensive to you? We don't like to think of Jesus like that. But love deems it necessary, because a deliverer has to be like the ones he is to deliver. Animal sacrifices couldn't take away sin, nor deliver the person in bondage. It took a sinless human to deliver the human race, and only the perfect man, Jesus, the son of God, who is God Himself, could be the one.

We need to understand what death means from the biblical standpoint. Death does not mean annihilate, it means separation. When your spirit separates from your body, you are dead. Your spirit goes one place and your body another. When Jesus died, his Spirit/soul went to HADES while his body was still in the tomb. The day Jesus died all of humanity

was potentially<sup>3</sup> separated from their hellish bondages as well as sins deadly consequences (Rom. 6:2). The satanic spirit left Jesus' body and He died. Jesus had beforehand prophesied in John 12:31, "*Now* is the judgment of this world, *now* shall the prince of this world be cast out." Cast out of what, or who? When the sin soaked spirit of Satan departed from Jesus—sin and death were defeated and Satan's reign and dominion in mankind was conquered. Yet, Christ's death was not enough to completely restore us as "New Creatures." There had to be more.

Why am I using the word, "HADES" instead of Hell? Bible students know well that Hades is the Old Testament's place of waiting for both the righteous as well as the unrighteous. According to the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), Hades, being the same word as the Hebrew word "SHEOL," is the place provided for the dead both redeemed and unredeemed before Christ's resurrection and ascension. According to the parable there was "a great gulf fixed" dividing the abode of the saved and the lost. One side is where the believers rested in peace and found comfort in Abraham's bosom, while on the other side, the unsaved live in the hellish torment.

The day that Christ died, Jesus went to this place called "Hades," to do two things: First to show all principalities and powers that His death had triumphed and spoiled their claim on mankind, and to openly mock Satan for his attempt to destroy the Son of God, demonstrating that the

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<sup>3</sup> It is an actual act of reconciliation on behalf of all sinners, however it is as if it isn't an actuality until a sinner repents and receives Christ. Then the potential reconciliation becomes actuality to the sinner and transforms him into a Saint.

very attempt was Christ's trump card to destroy Satan's power of death over mankind (Col. 2:15 & Heb. 2:14).

Secondly, Jesus went to "Hades" to raise Abraham with all his believing "seed" to heaven prepared for them. Ephesians 4:8-10 says, "When He ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things." Our champion and King Christ Jesus, Himself opened the Heavenly Gates ushering the Old Testament believers into the very presence of God.

But wait a minute, let us go back to the tomb before the resurrection: according to the scriptures, you and I as well as all redeemed mankind, both past, present, and future are still in Jesus' body in the tomb—it/we were dead, and buried. Through Jesus' death we are now released from Satan's "spirit of error," but unless Jesus is raised from the dead, we will remain dead with Him, in the tomb. The glory of our Salvation is in the strength of Christ' resurrection. By the power of God's (Shekinah) Glory the Spirit released Jesus from Hades (Acts 2:27) and the Holy Spirit raised His dead body from the tomb, and we with Him. Jesus couldn't get himself out of hell, but praise the Lord, "Christ was raised up from the dead by the Glory of the Father" (Romans 6:4) and all the "world" with him (II Cor. 5:19).

This one Divine sacrifice has birthed into being a new species of Spirit beings—

*“As sons of God, begotten by Him, incorporating into their fundamental being and nature the very “genes” of God, they rank above all other created beings and are elevated to the most sublime height possible short of becoming members of the Trinity itself. Although, Christ is the unique and only begotten Eternal Son, yet He does not retain His glory for Himself alone for He has declared, “The glory which thou gavest me, I have given them” (John 17:22). Therefore, the redeemed will share His glory, His rulership, and His dominion as truly responsible princes of the Realm.”<sup>4</sup>*

Let me clear up any misunderstand here. The whole human race has the possibility to be sons of God, by virtue of the provision provided. But only those who *“receive Him* to them gave him power to become the son of God, even to them that believe on His name” (John 1:12). I am saying this lest any would think that I am advocating, “Ultimate and Universal Reconciliation.” No, I am not. The only ones that truly are reconciled are those who have *“received Him,”* they alone are the sons of God. Whoever does not receive Him refuses the provision provided and suffers the damning consequences.

Let me sum this up by quoting something by Martin Luther that profoundly says what I am trying to say:

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<sup>4</sup> Destined for the Throne; by Paul Billheimer

“The incomparable benefit of faith is that it unites the soul with Christ as a bride is united with her bridegroom. By this mystery, as the Apostle teaches, Christ and the soul become one flesh. And if they are one flesh and there is between them a true marriage--indeed the most perfect of all marriages, since human marriages are but poor examples of this one true marriage--it follows that everything they have they hold in common, the good as well as the evil. Accordingly, the believing soul can boast and glory in whatever Christ has as though it were its own, and whatever the soul has Christ claims as his own. Let us compare these and we shall see inestimable benefits. Christ is full of grace, life, and salvation. The soul is full of sins, death, and damnation. Now let faith come between them and sins, death, and damnation will be Christ's, while grace, life, and salvation will be the soul's; for if Christ is a bridegroom, he must take upon himself the things which are his bride's and bestow upon her the things that are his. If he gives her his body and very self, how shall he not give her all that he is? And if he takes the body of the bride, how shall he take all that is hers?<sup>5</sup>”

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<sup>5</sup> from “Christian Liberty” by Martin Luther

## **THERE ARE TWO DELIVERANCES AVAILABLE AT THE CROSS!**

The last chapter explored the actual events of Christ's Cross, and now we will look at the efficacies of the Cross of Christ: The blood delivers us from sins, and the crucified body delivers us from the nature/producer of sin.

What are the benefits of trusting in the *blood* of Christ? *Forgiveness of sins:* " We have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins;" *Reconciliation:* "Peace through the blood of His Cross, by Him to reconcile all things;" *Justification:* "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; Whom God had set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood;" *Peace with God:* "Being justified by faith we have peace with God;" *Being born again:* "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible by the word of God;" *Redemption:* "Forasmuch as you know that you were not *redeemed* with corruptible things as silver and gold from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ as of a lamb without blemish and without spot;"(I Peter 1:19). *Full assurance:* "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day".

What is gained for us through Christ's *body death*? *We are dead to the "old nature"* (NAS says, "old Self"). "We know that our old unregenerate self was nailed to the Cross with Him in order that (our) body (which is the instrument) of sin, might be made ineffective and inactive for evil, that we might no longer be the slaves of sin. For when a man dies, he is freed (loosed, delivered) from (the power of) sin" (Romans 6:6 Amp.). Once for all we are dead to Satan's reign in our spirit, soul and bodies. The marriage with Satan has been broken through the death on the Cross, and now we are married to Christ (Romans 7:4). We used to be Mrs. Satan, and now we are Mrs. Christ.

*We are "dead to sin!"* "How can we who died to sin live in it any longer? Are you ignorant of the fact that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death" (Romans 6:2-3 Amp.)? Through Christ's death we are dead to Satan's self-centered nature therefore dead to sin.

*We are "dead to the law!"* "Likewise, my brethren, you have undergone death as to the Law through the (crucified) body of Christ, so that now you may belong to another, to Him Who was raised from the dead in order that we may bear fruit" (Romans 7:4 Amp.). The Law has power over a person as long as he thinks he is alive with a life of his own and he ought to function by his own self-sufficiency. If we falsely think this way, we are still married to Satan's lies. However, if we see that a dead person has no ability to keep the law, because he is dead, then we are ready to know that we are joined to Christ's Spirit who is our new husband and He will produce Spiritual fruit through us.

What is gained for us through Christ's resurrected body? *We are alive to righteousness!* "Having been set free from sin, we are slaves to righteousness" (Romans 6:18). A slave cannot do his own thing; he is enslaved to his master. A person called me on the phone saying, "I can't go on trying to be a good Christian. It doesn't work, so I've decided to become a sinner again." Then she went on to say, "So, I tried to be a sinner, but I couldn't. Why is that?" I said back to her, "You couldn't become a sinner because you are married to Mr. Righteousness, and He keeps you from it."

*We have a divine nature!* "He has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them you may escape from the moral decay and corruption that is in the world because of covetousness and become partakers of the divine nature" (II Peter 1:4 Amp.). We do not have our own nature, but we have inherited the nature of Christ, which is divine.

*We have a new identity!* "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Galatians 2:20). I used to identify myself as just me, but now I don't live, Christ lives as me. I am Christ as me.

*We are complete or made whole!* "For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form (giving complete expression to the divine nature). And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit and reach full Spiritual stature"

(Colossians 2:9-10 Amp.). We know our completeness in Christ when we know our nothingness in ourselves--a perfect nothing containing and expressing the perfect all.

*We are cleansed from a sin-consciousness!* "Christ has offered Himself as an unblemished sacrifice to God, purify our conscious from dead works and lifeless observances to serve the (ever) living God"(Hebrews 9:14). "The worshipers had once for all been cleansed, and would no longer have any guilt or consciousness of sin" (Hebrews 9:14); Hebrews 10:2 Amp. Since we are dead to the law, then we no longer have a sin-consciousness. "The power of sin is the law" (I Corinthians 15:56). Sin has dominion over an alive man full of his own works, because he is functioning independently from the Spirit. But sin has no power when we know that we are joined to Christ. As a result, our consciousness is cleansed from obsessing over our failures and sins.

## Chapter 3

### **“DEAD TO THE LAW!”**

(Romans 7:4)

By the body death, we are dead to the law, not dead to self. The outer law is bound to a person who believes the illusion of independence (I-Alone). When there is no independent-self, there is nothing from which the outer law can demand obedience.

### **“You (as an independent-self) are dead”**

A DEAD person cannot keep the law. The law may shout at us, but a DEAD person cannot respond to it. A DEAD person cannot perform at all. He has no plans for the future, no regrets for the past, nothing to do in the present. He cannot do good deeds, or be moral. He has no ability to fix himself, nor even the need to. A DEAD person doesn't need improvement. A DEAD person doesn't have the strength to fight the devil. A DEAD person doesn't need to re-commit himself to God, because-HE IS DEAD.

### **“YOU ARE DEAD, AND CHRIST IS OUR LIFE.”** (Col. 3:3-4)

Self-improvement is the biggest lie in Christianity. God doesn't want an improved self, He wants a dead self. But regrettably, we are taught to do more, pray more, give more, be a better parent, a better spouse, a better church-goer, and give more tithes. “DO, do, do and you will be right on

with God." My good friend, Louis Tucker went to a religious leader for spiritual help because he was miserable as a do-gooder-Christian. He was told by that leader that he needed to tithe more of his money, and that would make him okay again spiritually. He had been to 28 different churches in his community and was told similar advice. I don't know anything about those particular churches, and I don't want to judge them for their ignorance, but this mentality is most often the "religious spirit" that permeates our church community. I'm not saying that it is wrong to read you (Bible, go to church, or give money to ministries, but doing it as a Spiritual remedy for being right with God only puts us into worse bondage.

A "religious spirit" is the hardest to break, because it is Satan disguised as "an angel of light"--looking so good, and acting so good, but hiding all of its sins under the cloak of goodness. Jesus was the hardest on this 'pharisaical religious spirit' in Matthew 23. Read the whole chapter if you want to see what God thinks of this devilish kind of mentality.

Knowing that you are "dead to sin" is not enough, we must know that we are "dead to the law" as well. These twin truths must always be linked together as one truth, completing a total revelation. We are not just freed from sin by being dead to it, we are also totally freed from trying to respond to or humanly keep the outer law at all.

Let us look at what the Bible says about being "DEAD TO THE LAW." Romans 7:1, says, "*The law will have dominion over a man as long as he*

*lives.*” “The *LAW,*” and “*HE LIVES*” are connected and bound together as two illicit lovers that continually punish each other with their lovemaking. “*I live, and I CAN keep the law*” mentality spins you around and around like a gerbil on a wheel while never satisfying--it only punishes you for not keeping it better. This mentality keeps our old husband, Satan, alive and well and in control. Your, “*I CAN,*” is actually still Satan having his lying hold on you.

The next verse (2) goes on to say:

*“the woman (human) which hath a husband (Satan’s lie of independent-self) is bound by the law to her husband (Satanic delusion) as long as he (this lie) lives; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Wherefore, my brethren you also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that you should be married to another even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.”*

Why does the passage at the beginning of Romans 7 talk about the old husband dying? In a marriage or union there is no separation, there is only oneness. What the husband does, the wife does: “the two shall become one flesh.” Satan lived and expressed *his* lust of the flesh, *his* lust of the eye, and *his* pride of life through us, as if it were us. When the marriage died in Christ’s crucifixion, Satan’s dominion in us died as well.

The wife, or the human being was so mixed with the old husband's mindset that we carried the satanic consciousness with us from our previous fallen marriage right into our new marriage with Christ. So in a sense, we still have Satan's thinking or consciousness. That is why Romans 8 says that, "The mind set on the flesh is death." That mind-set of separation and independence has to die in us before we can know, experience, and express our union with Christ. It is important what we think, because we walk after what we think: "As a man thinks, so is he" (Proverb 23:7). That is why my flesh thinking has to be replaced with "the mind of Christ." I'm not talking about just changing my thinking-somewhat like starting to think positively. No, we have to have a total mind replacement. **The mind of Christ is another mind; it is the new mind of the new creation.**

I went through a period where I was bombarded by demonic thought patterns; I thought that I was going crazy. I replaced each thought with the truth, but it just keep coming. Finally I said to the Lord, "I'm losing my mind." He said to me, "Good, I *want* you to lose *your* mind!" Then He went on to say, "You have to lose your mind, in order to know that you have *My* mind." I got the point. There is the "mind of the flesh" which is death" (Romans 8:6-7), and there is "the mind of the Spirit," which is peace and life. I learned that replacing each thought led to more crazy thinking, so the lesson I learned was not to replace individual thoughts, but instead replace my whole mind. The mind of Christ doesn't have those crazy thought patterns. I have another mind-the mind of Christ-and it is peace, life and sanity. For a long time I've known that I

had the mind of Christ, but it was a vague knowing. The “mind of Christ” is clear, simple and childlike. While the “mind of the flesh” tries to figure everything out, and tries to master through understanding, it is confused, complicated, arrogant, and heady Now, through this experience, I really know that I have the mind of Christ. .

You see, I thought that I had my own thinking. That is the lie. We are not independent selves with our own thinking and our own willing and our own lives. Satan was disguising himself as my thinking and my understanding. It was Satan that was thinking through me; it was his understanding through me. He was my confusion. The flesh is only a vessel, and not an independent mind. Whenever we are tempted, he speaks to us *in first person*, as if it were us. Satan tries to live and have life through our humanity. Victory comes when we know that through the body death of Christ we have a new being living in us, and that new being is Christ.

Here is a quote by Norman Grubb:

*We have been under the Satanic delusion of being independent-selves who can and must respond to law. And while we think this, we are actually still slaves to Satan, who compels us either to try to fulfill or to resist God's laws. Therefore obeying his own law of sin and death. So the more we think we should obey God's laws, the more Satan is aroused to make us break it." "Reckoning yourself dead to sin and alive to God" is meaningless to us while that root deception is still controlling us into thinking that we are more*

*than a people operated by a deity spirit. The human is a simple vessel filled with either liquid; we are branches bearing another spirit's fruit; we are temples indwelt by a deity spirit; we are wives bearing our husbands children; and we are bodies controlled by a spirit head; and slaves managed and operated by one master or another. Believing that we are more than these simple vessels/containers makes us human beings, God.<sup>6</sup>*

We are free when we know like Paul that we are "dead to the law by the body death of Christ." The law isn't dead, but we are dead to it. The law, says Paul, is "holy, just and good," but the problem is that I can't perform it by flesh efforts. When I know that I am dead, then the law can shout at me day and night, but I can't respond because I am dead. Now, I am free. I love the verse in Romans 6:11, "He that is dead is freed from sin." The only way to be set free from sin is to be dead.

What can a dead man do? NOTHING. That is the point. Only then can we truly identify with Jesus when He said, "Of my (human) self, I can do nothing," and "Without me you can do nothing."

The Church of God needs a revelation on what it means to be dead. Jesus would have never been resurrected, unless He was totally and utterly dead, and neither will we. That is why Romans 6 is so centered in on our identifying ourselves "Dead with Christ."

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<sup>6</sup> Romans 6 to 8 Paul's Key to The Liberated Life, by Norman P. Grubb

## **How Does Satan Get its Power Over Us?**

Satan gets his hold on us through the law!  
**“The strength of sin is the law.” (I Cor. 15:56)**

As long as we see ourselves as an independent-self, separated from God, then the law shouts at us, and we try to respond. We rise up as though we are not crucified with Christ, and try to fulfill the law by self-effort. The more we try, the more bound up we are. Satan has tricked us into believing a lie, and then sin has its grip on us again. Around and around we go, caught in the trap of trying and failing, as sin reigns in our humanity.

The way out is to stand by faith seeing ourselves crucified with Christ. There is no independent me to respond to the law, for I am “dead to the law.” The law doesn’t die, *I die*. “I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.” Christ fulfills all the “I should’s,” and “I ought’s” of the law, and sets me free from the law of sin and death.

**“The law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus  
has made me free  
from the law of sin and death”**

Let us look at the essence of the law. The law says, that “You the creature should act like and be like the Creator;” “be ye perfect as your heavenly father is perfect.” *You* be perfect, and *you strive to do it*. Is

that wrong? Is God wrong to demand perfection? No, he is God, and the law is a perfect picture of his holiness. He must demand holiness and perfection. The problem is not that the Father demands it; the problem is that we don't know how it is accomplished.

John Wesley, the Father of the Methodist Church, personally searched for perfection and holiness for many years before he found his release in the Spirit. He preached on holiness and labored to find it for himself. After years of searching and sad introspection, the Holy Spirit finally illuminated him with the truth. Here is a quote from *Christian Perfection* by Olive Wyon:

For years Wesley had been seeking for a deeper spiritual life; and as we know, he was already resolved to be fully dedicated to God. And still he was hungry and unsatisfied. On the twenty-fourth of May, suddenly and very quietly, everything as it were, fell into place. What seems to have happened on the memorable day was this: the holiness he had been trying to achieve by his own efforts he now saw could only be received by faith. In this flash of illumination he saw that 'God can do more with sin than forgive it: He can destroy it..... That effort to make oneself holy is useless. ....By faith God will work a perfect cure.' The days of sad introspection were over. Henceforth all Wesley's attention was turned away from self: upward to God in thanksgiving and trust, outward to man in loving service.

God does want us to seek for holiness, and perfection for it is our inheritance in Christ, but we will never find it by legalistic self-effort.

So if God is right and His demands on us are right, then *how* do we perform it? This is the same problem that Paul wrestled with in Romans Seven, "for to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good I find not." His answer comes when he sees that the human self can not perform holiness, for the human self by itself is totally powerless. The human has no power or life of his own to perform the Christian life. Then is God asking the impossible? Or is there something more for us to understand?

As long as there is a performing self, there will be the law to shout at us. The law is our schoolmaster training us to see the futile failure and sheer fatigue that comes from trying to do anything apart from Christ.

The question is not what, why, or where; the question is HOW? How then do I fully surrender, how do I totally obey; how do I become more holy and righteous? The answer is that the Christian does not need deliverance from his unwilling, noncompliant self; he needs deliverance from a alive self. That is our real problem, and our hidden addiction. We are addicted to independent-self living. My good friend, Bill Bower says, "We need deliverance from living." Colossians says, "*For ye are dead...when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory*" (Col. 3:3-4). Most, immediately think this verse is talking about the future second coming of Christ. Look at this verse as a present tense coming of Christ as us in the now. Christ appears as us

as we declare that there is no independent me to live at all, but only Christ living as me. Christ is the "ME" that lives.

When we grab hold of this truth by inner revelation, then all else fades in the background as Christ rises to the foreground as the new me. Then in my experience he does come again the second time and I do experience glory as he is in me in time and I am in him in glory.

This revelation causes us to know that "we are dead to the law." The problem has never been the law; the problem is that we imagined ourselves to have an independent-self powerful enough to keep it. The law doesn't die; we die to trying to keep it. A dead person can't keep the law; a dead person can't live at all. However, a dead person is available to be raised from the dead with "the same spirit that raised Christ, Jesus from the dead, which shall quicken your mortal flesh" (Romans 8:11), and cause you to experience "the power of His resurrection" (Phil. 3:10).

## **Romans Seven**

### **(What Is Wrong With Me?)**

Romans 7:7-25 has been one of the most debated over segments in the Bible. Some say, Paul was not saved when he wrote it, while others agree that he was a Christian, but they say the struggles and wrestling he had with himself was his permanent condition through-out his life. Others make the point that we humans have two natures and we, like Paul, will always war with an evil human nature. None of these opinions ever satisfied me. The question then is why did Paul move from generalities concerning his union position being “dead to the law,” (7:1-6) to his own strivings about his present tense personal “I” (7:7-25)? And do and can we Christians have two natures at the same time? <sup>7</sup> The Bible doesn’t support any of these explanations. So what is our answer?

I believe that Paul did a big thing by moving from his own realized union, backtracking from being “dead to the law,” to alien himself and identify, as an intercessor, with every born again believer by using the present tense I, I, I. I do that myself. When the need arises, I can be “all things to all people,” and I can identify myself with anyone. I find myself speaking as if I am right where they are, even though it is not presently true. I consider that God’s love.

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<sup>7</sup> See Chart # 23

Paul says in I Corinthians 9:19-22 that, *“For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; to the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”* I believe that is just what Paul did in Romans 7:7-25—he expounded on his past experience as if it was his present condition in order to identify with us all.

The sin that so beset Paul in the Roman passage was coveting, the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment. “Thou shall not covet.” Coveting is a inner sin, one that most could hide, but Paul, being true to God, couldn’t bear to. Unger’s Bible Dictionary defines coveting as, “an inordinate desire for what one has not, which has its basis in discontentment with what one has. It has an element of lawlessness and is sinful because it is contrary to the command, “Be content with such things as ye have,” (Hebrews 13:5) because it leads to ‘trust in uncertain riches,’ to ‘love of the world,’ to forgetfulness of God, and is idolatry (Colossians 3:5) setting up wealth instead of God. It ranks as one of the worst sins (Mark 7:22; Romans 1:29).”

**Let us take a historical and maybe psychological look into Paul’s background to understand why coveting became his personal sin-issue.**

Paul was of pure Jewish decent, he was of the tribe of Benjamin, he was a son of a Pharisee, thus making him a Pharisee. Philippians 3:4-6 says that he was a Hebrew of all the Hebrews, "as touching the law a Pharisee, and as touching the righteousness of the law, blameless." Through his patriarchal birthing, he was a Roman citizen. His Roman citizenship superseded all other citizenships before the law and "in the general opinion of society it placed him amid the aristocracy of any provisional town." Remember how fearful the jailors were when they found out that Paul was a Roman citizen in Acts 22:29? They feared because they had mistreated him.

His rank in life afforded him great riches and personal glory, yet when Paul became a Christian, he gave up his riches and glory and took on Christian poverty and disgrace. Could it be that Paul remembered his past life and started to long after it? Could it be that the devil reminded him daily of his past status in life, as well as the luxury's and comforts he used to have before he became a Christian? Could he wonder why being a Christian meant to suffer, to be rejected, disgraced, and humiliated? Being the brilliant Jewish scholar that he was, why was he exiled to the desert in Arabia barely having enough to eat? Wouldn't it be logical that while there in, sun baked, Arabia, he began to long after all that he had lost, but then on the other hand be convicted for desiring it, because he had willing given it all up for Jesus? Can't we see why he started to beat himself up for coveting after what he had willing given up for Christ? Yet

he was powerless to stop the mental spin in his head. That made he double guilty, sinful as well as too weak to do anything about it.

Paul was a moral man, as a Pharisee, he had kept the law perfectly, but now as I Christian he couldn't conquer his own sin. Interesting, he had power as a sinner to keep the law perfectly (Philippians 3:6), but as a Christian he was powerless (Romans 7:11). Keeping the law perfectly in his own strength was keeping it by the power of the devil, yet God wouldn't give **him** the power not to sin as a Christian. I believe that we are starting to get the picture of the dilemma that Paul was in.

Let me say here that this is the only chapter in the Bible that is a lie! Does that shock you? It should, I hope that I have your attention. **Paul's experience is true, but what he is believing about himself is a lie.** Let us investigate.

He begins to muse about himself and analyze his dilemma.

*"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin but by the law; for I had not known lust, except the law had said, "Thou shall not covet. But sin taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead."*

Paul is awakened by the law to see sinful patterns in himself. And now awakened, he was concerned over the particular sin of coveting. His

concern drives Him to his first question: "How can I get deliverance over this insidious sin of coveting? It besets me every time. Could it be that if the law didn't shout at me telling me not to covet, then I wouldn't have this sin problem?" "I feel so powerless to keep this commandment, "Thou shalt not covet,"--so what if the commandment was done away with altogether? Then maybe I would be free from this guilt. Could that be the answer?"

"That can't be the answer, for it was through the law that I saw how heinous sin was in the first place. God uses it to be the spot-light that exposes sin. He spotlighted sin in me, which drove me to find Christ, in the first place. I can't eliminate God's spot-light, God intends for broken law in us to be seen as sin. Somehow, sin must get its power from the law because the law arouses in me all manner of evil desires. However, without the law those evil desires die away. So, I'm still wondering if the law is my problem."

*"For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin taking occasion by the commandment deceived me and by it slew me."*

Paul experienced New Covenant grace, not law, when he first became a Christian. However, when He was tempted to covet, the commandment,

“Thou shall not covet,” shouted at him and exposed the sin of coveting in him, which in turn killed him because he couldn’t conquer it. How is it that the law, being an instrument of life, caused him to die and why does it deceive him and slay him? Good question. He was frustrated and defeated—challenged by the law, yet laughed at by sin, making it plan that it had him under control. Look further.

*“Wherefore the law is holy and the commandment holy, and just and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. Sin working death in me by that which is good: that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.”*

Paul finds his answer by the process of elimination. “The law can’t be my problem, it is, holy, just and good. Then how can God’s outer law be death to me when I try to keep it? The holy spiritual law is working death in me--good is producing death so that sin might appear what it is, exceedingly sinful.

Ok, I see it, the law is defiantly not the problem, then the blame must be on **me**, I am too fleshly to keep it because my flesh seems to be a slave to sin. If the problem is the human me, then I am guilty, yet I am totally frustrated, in despair, and confused.”

The first question is answered, "the law is not my problem," but Paul's self-assessment was not true, but it sure seems to be. Actually, most of our lives we have a mentality of, "What is wrong with me." The human me, that is. That is why I call this presentation, "What is Man?" basically because this question is the most misunderstood in Christianity, as well as in the world.

He goes on to the second compelling question, "Is my human self the problem?"

*"For that which I do, I allow not: for what I would that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good."*

Paul is declaring that he is committing sin even when, in his will, he wills against it. He willed over and over again not to sin, but he ends up sinner anyway. This says to us that Paul could not will himself out of his sins.

As he analyzed it further, he saw that his will was in agreement with God's law and not at all contrary to it. That told him that the human spirit, our choice-maker/self, couldn't be the problem either. This is an amazing discovery. The devil had accused Paul's human self of being Paul's biggest problem, but now Paul didn't have to believe that lie anymore. His human self wasn't the evil culprit, he wasn't against God,

nor God's laws, so then **he** wasn't the evil one doing the evil. "OK, then what or who was the real problem?"

*"Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is in my flesh,) dwells no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."*

This is a vital revelation. Something wholly other than Paul was doing the sinning, yet the other, is accusing him of being the evil culprit. That is an amazing discovery—"no more I that do it." The human Paul wasn't producing his own sins, the truth is that the human vessel is totally incapable of producing sins. Big, news! Only a deity nature can produce sin or righteousness, the human being doesn't have its own nature, so therefore it has no power to product sin.

This passage is the negative counterpart to Galatians 2:20. Galatians says, "I live, yet **not I**, but Christ lives in me." Romans 7 says, "**No more I** that do it, but sin that dwells in me." There it is, the human cannot produce it's own righteousness, (Galatians 2:20) nor can it produce it's own sins (Romans 7:17), the human is a simple vessel.

Then who is it producing the sins, and what or who is sin? **The sin that dwelled in him was masquerading as self-effort.** Sins are the fruit/product of the producer of sin, and everyone knows that the fruit

doesn't have power in its self to bring forth itself. Jesus said in John 15 that without me, the vine, you cannot produce your own fruit.

Therefore sins must be the product of a person called Sin or Satan. I John 3:8 says that, "He that commits sin is of the devil; for **the devil sins** from the beginning. If the human can produce it's own sins, then there is a possibility that it can produce it's own righteousness. That is blasphemy; because the human would then take Christ's place as Savior, and Lord. We would be our own God and fall right into Satan's devious plan for man to become like God, that is, the creature to become the Creator, and for fallen flesh to try to become Divine Spirit, which would make man a son of Satan, instead of a son of God.

Now how is it that sin/Satan dwells in Paul, the Christian? How can Satan produce sins through Paul who is indwelt by Christ? The human is tripartite, spirit, soul and body. Christ is one with us in Spirit, but Satan can get an advantage in us through the flesh (soul and body) if we believe his lies of human performance. Verse 23 says there is, "*another law in my members brings me into bondage to the law of **sin in my members.***" A law, or principal, or person in my members (soul/body) brings me into bondage. So, Satan is not in Paul's spirit, but dwells in my flesh as an adulteress spirit ruling my flesh as long as I give power to him by believing in my own abilities to perform. That is why Paul cries out, "*How to perform, I find not.*" Performance based righteousness doesn't work. This scripture is the proof. The human doesn't do its own sinning (7:17) nor its own goodness (7:18).

Another vital point here is that the human doesn't have its own will power. That is interesting, because everybody thinks that the human has will power, but no, this verse proves that we don't. "The will is present with me, but how to perform I find not." It certainly is true that Paul is saying that the human has a will, that is not even the point, the point is the human doesn't have the power to fulfil its own will not to sin. We humans have the faculty to choose, but we don't have the power behind our choice. What we can do, which Paul didn't understand at this point, is to will or choose, the one with the power to fulfill the union--Spirit/spirit-- choice. So I say there is no such thing as **WILL POWER**. Human will, yes, but the human will is powerless without the Spirit's strength to fulfill it. Therefore Paul couldn't even will or choose his way out of Roman 7.

*"For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwells in me. I find a law that, when I would do good, evil is present with me."*

Paul reiterates again, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells in me. The Spirit often repeats Himself when He is making an important point as He does here. Next Paul says that he finds a principle at work whenever he tries to do good. When he does try to do good, evil is present with him. Boy, that ought to catch our attention. We must conclude that

doing good by our own self effort, which is actually an expression of Satan, is evil. It is the creature trying to be like the Creator, and it is Satan's age-old deception, "I will be like the most high God." Satan wasn't trying to be evil, he didn't know what evil was. This event spoken of in Isaiah 14:14 was the first time a creature ever tried to be like God. Trying to be like God is **replacing** God. This Satanic act was the first evil in all the universe, yet it was hidden under the guise of goodness. It is the same pharisaical religious spirit which works in us today. So Paul in Romans 7, like Satan, is doing the same evil by trying to be good. Remember, I am not saying the doing good is evil, but **trying** to do good by self-effort is where the real evil lies hidden, posing itself as Christian goodness. **Self-effort is an expression of Satan. "Sin that dwells in me," is Satan masquerading as my own self-effort, my own ability, my own sufficiency, and an independent life of my own.**

The "Sin that dwells in us" is a false reality. We Christians are operating from a false satanic reality. Remember, "as a man thinketh, so is he." If we believe that self-effort is a reality and the human is responsible for keeping himself from evil, or being the strength of his own righteousness, then that is what is real to us. What we believe is very creative, false believing produces a false reality, while right believing produces true reality. My good friend, Kathryn Magnotto said, "Everything fulfills the word spoken over it, whether negatively or positively."

Do we have it clear, how does Satan get his advantage over us? He deceives us into thinking that the human vessel should be like God by trying to be good. We strive to do it, but because that very act of self-striving is sin, then Satan traps and steals our bodies temporarily and misuses us by producing his sinful fruits through us.

“For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members, O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”

What a dilemma! How is Paul going to get out of this satanic trap? His soul and body is a bloody battlefield of confusion, tension, and agony. This is wretchedness and even suicidal. This scenario is starting to sound like “The Kingdom of the Middle Ground” chart.<sup>8</sup> It is necessary for Paul to go through this agonizing season in his life, discovering this all-important life changing truth in Roman 7. Paul is **not an independent-self** able to produce sin or righteousness, and when he tries he ends up sinning more, and more. Satan is the culprit and sinner, not Paul. And this false ‘able’ self is **not** who Paul is.

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<sup>8</sup> Chart number 15

*"I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin condemned sin in the flesh. That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."*

This is the lightening flash point of the Cross in operation transforming negative desperation to positive revelation. This is the birth of "the faith of the son of God," eliminating Paul's self-striving-self. The only way out of the trap of Romans 7 is to **leap out by faith**. Paul's leaps from "O wretched man that I am," to a positive affirmation and thanksgiving to Christ for what He has already done at the Cross to transform him from mere fallen flesh consciousness to a united divine consciousness.

Paul continues to recognize how faith works. He sees that he as a Spirit person serving God with the new mind by affirming and receiving the truth. He will not act from flesh to try to change his actions even though those behavior pattern might continue to manifest for some time. One

thing is for sure, Paul will not try to change himself. He is not going to take condemnation because he is serving God by faith, and trusting the Spirit to transform his behavior. So, he is not in sin, because, "Whatsoever is not of faith, is sin." By faith, he is not going to try to conquer his temptations and sins any more, that is the job of the Holy Spirit who, at the Cross, has already set him free from the striving-self, "I am crucified with Christ." "Mortify, therefore the deeds of the flesh, **by the Spirit.**" The word, "mortify" sounds like hard work, yet it simply means, consider yourself already dead to the deeds of the flesh, and trust the Holy Spirit to make manifest the transformation.

A new principal manifest itself, "the law of Spirit and life." Whenever we move to a new dimension, a new principal comes into operation. This new law or principle of believing has set Paul free from striving and trying. It is just like the law of gravity being overcome by the law of aviation which lifts the airplane to another level of operation.

Christ's substitutionary bodily death on the Cross-has set Paul's soul and body free from Satan's dominion of self-sufficiency and self-activity. With the life of Christ as our life then Christ himself fulfills the outer law by being the inner law in us. James calls it, "The perfect law of liberty"--the perfect principal/person of liberation, Jesus Christ himself.

Did Paul ever realize a life free from covet-ness behavior? I believe that Acts 20:33 proves that he did. Paul was leaving Ephesus after a prosperous three years of teaching the "all council of God." As he was

leaving the city, he delivers his farewell speech--one filled with love and concern. Then he mentions this, "I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. Yea, you yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me." Why would Paul even say such a thing unless he himself use to have the problem of coveting, but now found it expedient to work his own way.

Did he still have the temptation? Yes, I think so, but the keeping power of the Spirit keep him from moving over into the besetting sins of his past, as he stood by faith knowing that he was **not** an lustful, coveting person, and as he depended on his real identity as Christ. Opposites are very important in life, they are our teacher. Paul had to learn "who he wasn't," before he could discover "who he really was."

Recently, my husband Scott was musing over his life, prier he knowing that Christ **was his life**. He said that "I was drawing from a well that was empty most of the time, so all I could do is survive my problems, and do my best." The well that Scott was drawing from was; his own way, his own ability, his own ideas, his own understand about his life, and his own reasonable conclusions for trying to make life work. Now, Scott is not unusual, but on the contrary, Scott's way of living is common to all of us. Yet, Paul describes that way of trying to strive to make ends meet, being more responsible for our families welfare, and doing the best we can as "Wretchedness." Why? It seems good, yet it is man taking God's place as God. The soulish well that Scott was taking about was empty, but the well that Jesus was talking about in John 4 was an Spiritual well

that springs up inside of us as eternal life. Scott now knows who his life is, and experiences fullness, and all sufficiently for all things for his eternal well never runs dry.

Now to the question that we started with at the beginning of this chapter; Is this Romans 7 scenario, Paul warring with two natures, that is, one being his new nature, and other one being his old human nature really true? It seems so at first glance, but is it? That brings us to the next point.

**THE HUMAN HAS NO NATURE OF ITS OWN  
THE LIE OF TWO NATURES**

**(Where does the BAD come from?)**

Satan has deceived me and made me think I have an evil human nature. So then, I should try to improve my humanity.

**THIS IS A LIE!**

If the good I do is not me but Christ in me, then the evil I do is not me either. It is Satan expressing his evil nature through me, disguised as me.

**IT'S NOT I, BUT CHRIST (GAL. 2:20)**

**AND IT'S NOT I, BUT SIN (ROM. 7:17)**

The human me is not good or evil in and of itself—it is a neutral container and doesn't need self-improvement.

I have heard it taught for years that we Christians still have the old nature, and we have to fight to maintain our equilibrium in Christ daily. However, we can never hope to get rid of this monstrous old nature in

this lifetime. They say there is a white dog in us and at the same time, there is a black dog in us. It depends on which one *we* feed the most, as to which one wins the battle. Some years ago, I actually owned a white poodle and a black Doberman pincher. In my case, the small white poodle won because she was the oldest and, believe it or not, could boss the Doberman around. That is fun for me to think about, but this kind of erroneous teaching is very serious, and keeps us Christians in bondage- always striving to maintain the power of the White dog.

Some years back, several friends and I went to Memphis, Tennessee to visit a huge church there. We three housewives were sitting in the office of a well known and respected minister in that area. As I shared these union truths, the minister stopped me. "Are you saying that you believe that Christians today can really experience union with Christ and live without condemnation? Do you think that we, Christians can really get out of Romans 7 and experience the freedom of Romans 8?" I said, "Yes, I do." He went on to say, "Don't you know that ninety – eight percent of all teachers, preacher, and theologians don't believe that we will ever be free from the "Old Nature" until we are in Heaven?" "Yes, I do know that false consensus, but it is not what the Bible says, and is therefore not true." The minister was amazed at the audacity of us women. So was I!

I went on, "Why would God put Romans 8 in the Bible if it were only a carrot on a stick, dangling there to tease us with an impossible freedom, when in reality, we can only have that kind of freedom in the eternal

future? That makes God cruel.” The minister was stopped, but not convinced. Some day this truth will be common among God’s people, but for now, there is still lots of strife when these insights are presented.

The liberating truth revealed in Romans 7 is that the human is not the culprit, but Satan is the culprit, disguised as “self-effort and self-keeping.” Paul is believing the lie; he is living in a delusion. I always say that Romans 7 is a lie—it is truth about Paul’s experience, but a lie concerning what Paul is believing. The fact is that “The Old Man was crucified with Christ, in order that the body of sin might be done away with” (Romans 6:6). If you don’t believe that fact, but instead give reality to your tug-of-war experience, then you would think that it is not done away with. The tug-of-war experience is happening because we are being deceived by Satan to believe that ‘our own human power’ is failing to conquer sin and we ought not to fail, but try even harder. That makes me falsely think that my humanity is in itself the evil culprit because it should be holy and good, but it can’t. So around and around I go, spinning on the wheel of failure, frustration and defeat. The whole premise of that kind of thinking is based on a big lie, or I should say, “THE BIG LIE.”

The human is a derivative being, therefore deriving our nature from the one who indwells us, because *the human has no nature of its own*. What does the word *NATURE* mean? The Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament, written by E. W. Bullinger, says, Nature is the “generative and productive power, i.e. the essence.” Only a

deity Spirit can have generative and productive powers. The human vessel was created to derive its nature or power source from the one who indwells it, either - Satan or Christ - and not from itself. It is impossible for the human by itself to have and be its own generative power.

So does the Christian still have an evil human nature able to produce evil? I think that we have successfully answered that question. The human cannot contain but one deity nature at a time. We humans have only one spirit to join with one deity Spirit, making the marriage of "two becoming one being." The evil human nature supposed in Roman 7 is actually Satan disguised as a good and performing me. Where did this lie come from?

## Where Does the Lie of Independent Self Come From?

### **Satan, KING-COUNTERFEIT**

(Isaiah 14:14)

Satan said: "***I will*** be like the most High God." He wanted a separate will and life of his own.

"I will ***be like*** the most High God—striving to become by self-effort."

Satan was not trying to be evil; he was trying to be good, but, he was trying to do it separate from God. He was trying to become another god, replacing the Most High. Therefore, he brought into being original sin, which is self-sufficient self, operating as if he is an independent-self. These same lies were put into Adam at the Fall and passed on to us as our deadly inheritance.

Satan, that Cosmic criminal and rebel from the heavenlies, wanted to replace God Almighty, by being like Him, or counterfeiting Him. He with his cohorts, a third of the angelic host, deserted God's goodness, glory and grace in order to rule his own other kingdom, supposing himself to be a separate force higher and more powerful than even God, Himself.

Lucifer, Satan's name before his fall, was created to be the "son of the morning," the anointed cherub that covereth," "Thou sealest up the sun, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty" (Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:14-18).

He was created by God with the capacity to utilize and express all of the power of God's eternal glory. And he did so until iniquity was found in him, for he said in his heart, "*I will be like the Most High God*" or "I will not be dependent on any; instead I **will** be a independent-god, just like the Most High God." In doing so, his heart choice brought into being his fall which named him the Satan, the Devil, and counterfeit god.

Webster's dictionary defines the word *counterfeit* as: "a fraudulent copy whose purpose is to deceive. This counterfeit also takes on or presents a false or deceptive appearance." Interesting isn't it? Revelation 12:9 gives us in just one verse many of the Biblical names for Satan: "And the great Dragon was cast out, that old Serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

The creature Satan, like all of creation, was created to contain and express the life of God. But here the creature makes a deadly spirit choice: "*I WILL.*" Imagine the pride of the creature saying, "I have a will and a life separate from God, and *I will have it.*" This is the first and original sin. Not only did Satan imagine himself separate with his own will, but he then said, "*I WILL BE LIKE.*" If I say to myself that I am going to be like Billy Graham, for instance, I would have to not only try, but strive hard to do it. My best efforts to imitate him would only make me a counterfeit with a deceptive appearance. But at heart, if I am imitating him, I am really trying to take his place as a great evangelist - which of course I could never do.

Satan poses himself to be like God when in fact he is a liar, deceiver, and a counterfeit. It is interesting to me, though, that Satan wasn't trying to be evil; he was and is trying to be good like God, but in doing so, he became a devil. Satan had no evil frame of reference. His fatal choice actually was evil's origin, so there is no way that Satan was trying to be evil. Even though he knew that he was rebelling against God, in doing so, he was only trying to be good like God.

Trying to be good by self-effort reminds me of Paul in Romans 7:21 "When I would do good, evil is present with me." It is the same mentality inherited at the fall and not yet sanctified in Paul until his Romans 8 experience.

Someone once confronted me concerning my statement, "Satan wasn't trying to be evil; he was trying to be good." They said, "Satan wasn't trying to be good." I certainly don't mean that Satan had a right motive, like we Christians do, whenever we are trying to please God by striving to be like Jesus. Paul, in Romans 7, was trying to please God but couldn't, although he still *was* trying to be like the Most High. Satan, on the other hand was in total rebellion, and was trying to take God's place which of course we Christians are not trying to do. So, Satan's motives were totally different from any well - meaning Christian who is trying to be good.

Since God was the only person and role model for Satan to imitate, it is easy to see that Satan wanted God's power, His Glory, His majesty, His omni-presence, etc. But just the fact that Satan does try to imitate God's

goodness, tells us something. As we have seen, self-generated righteousness is a satanic expression; so in a sense even today Satan is trying to be good like God through the ungodly, as well as trying to be good illegitimately through us, Christians.

Satan's fall came because he was enamored with his own beauty, wisdom and form - his outer manifestation. He deceived himself into believing that his created form *was* God. Satan exchanged the truth for a lie and worshipped his created form instead of the Creator (Romans 1:25). I believe any of us can be enamored by what is being manifested by us and begin to take the glory.

Jesus' seventy disciples were bragging about the great Spirit manifestations they were experiencing while ministering deliverance to people, saying, "Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name." And Jesus said unto them, "*I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.* Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding *in this rejoice not*, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:17-20). It was for this very reason, power-hungry, Satan fell from heaven, so beware ministers of God.

Satan imagined that he was an independent god with independent powers of his own. He used all his God-given capacities to exalt his throne over the stars of God and imitate the Most High. He reversed the self-giving power of God into a powerful, dark, self-for-self kingdom,

falsely believing himself to be an independent power. But what he didn't know was that God is the only independent God. Only God is independent; only God is self-generating, only God is self-empowered, and only God is the self-sufficient one. Satan can only counterfeit God's powers and sufficiency, and imagine them to be his own.

As a result of Satan's fall, he fell from his exalted position with a third of the angelic realm. Deceived as he is, he fails to see that God uses him to be His servant-fool, necessary opposite, and convenient agent. Nothing can be separated from the one almighty God in the universe. Isaiah 45:6 says, "That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me, I am the LORD, and there is *none else.*" *There is only one independent person in the universe, and one universal power (John 19:10-11).*

At Adam's Fall, the devil cleverly imparted to him his self-sufficient, self-active consciousness. This made man believe in himself, which produced in us a false identity. This consciousness is so much in us that it dwells in our sub-consciousness level. So man spontaneously operates from that false consciousness.

Satan's refusal to contain God is forever fixed in him by his spirit choice. He thinks that he is right and God is wrong. He makes the lie the truth and the truth the lie. I believe that at the end when he is cast into the "bottomless pit," he will scream, "I was right; I don't deserve this!" He fixedly believes that he deserves glory, and not hell. No wonder he deceives us; he believes it himself.

Basically, Satan wanted to take God's place. Adam did not want to replace God; he wanted God, and his way too. Choosing his own way was Satan's original sin, and not redeemable because it was a spirit choice; however, Adam's deceived choice *did* leave room for the Redeemer to save him, and restore his lost glorification. While Satan's spirit choice was final and not redeemable, man's deceived choice is.

Therefore that same rebellious "Independent I" that first perverted Lucifer at his fall (Isa. 14:14), was the same rebellious "I" that infected Adam in the garden of Eden (Gen. 3:10). And it was the same illusionary "I" that Paul struggled with by trying not to covet in Romans 7:15. And it is the same, "*Not My will, but Thine,*" that Jesus relinquished in the garden. This same rebellious independent "I" thankfully is what was crucified with Christ at the Cross (Gal. 2:20).

Satan embraced the possibility of operating independently from God and actualized it as a reality. So when some say that Satan's kingdom is only an illusion, demeaning the sacrifice of the Cross, I say it was a real reality - otherwise Jesus wouldn't have had to die - but it is a *false* reality, posing as the real. Satan did open up a self - for - self realm which God Himself refused, and by the Cross, Jesus completely relinquished while on earth. His constant comments concerning Himself were always, "Of my human self I can do nothing." "I come not to do my own will, but the will of the one who sent me." "The works you see are not mine." "My doctrine is not mine." "The words that I speak to you are not mine" (John 6:38; John 7:16; John 12:49-50; John 14:10).

What Satan did, Jesus refused to do and because He refused, He never committed sin, making Him worthy to be called our Lord and Savior.

## **Have You Eaten Jesus For Dinner Today?**

You might ask, "Have you gone crazy, Sylvia?" Wait and see. But you might ask, "Is eating Jesus the same as what the Bible calls faith." Jesus, Himself thinks so. He says in John 6:53, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, except you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. For my flesh is meet indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, dwells in me, and I in Him." When I first read this scripture, I thought to myself, is Jesus calling us to be cannibals? Yet, ironically, as I matured in the Spirit, I believe that He is doing just that. Not as savage men would do to consume a poor victims flesh for food in order to nourish their own fleshly bodies, but on the contrary, Jesus is calling us to nourish the glorious "New Man" in us by Spiritually eating his heavenly flesh and blood daily. Wow, that is deep.

Some would say that taking communion daily at Mass would be the same as eating Jesus daily. I believe that the religious spirit in man always mistakes outer acts and symbols for Spirit realities and consequently they put their faith in Priest, wafers and drink instead of knowing and feeding on the Spiritual/gloried Christ within.

There are so many scriptures in the New Testament that challenge our faith. So then isn't faith the main catalysis to knowing, living, and walking

in the Christian live? Did you ever consider that Jesus Himself lived, and walked by faith in His Father His whole life? In His “eat my flesh” discourse in John 6, He testifies that He Himself, lived by eating His Father, “As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me”(John 6:57). Isn’t that what Jesus meant when he said to His disciples, “I have food that you know not of.”

Don’t you think that Jesus was a little radical in this John 6 discourse? Well, so did many of his disciples, for many of them ceased to walk with him after that. Even the twelve were rattled, yet they hung in there even after he said to them, “Will you also go away?”(John 6:67). I loved Peter’s boldness when he said back to Jesus, To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” Isn’t it interesting that Jesus was always thinning out the crowd. Unlike ministries today who are tip toeing around people’s feeling to hopefully keep their ministries flourishing.

Jesus demands unquestionable obedience from His followers. The only thing that held them was their own inner witness through the Spirit’s confirmation, and their word of faith. Even John the Baptist had his doubts about Jesus’ authenticity. Let us not condemn these great men of God, don’t you know that real faith is built on plenty of fearful doubt. Someone once said that we faith people walk on “60,000 fathom’s of insure water.” Faith is designed to be that way, or it wouldn’t be faith.

Here are some scriptures that teach us how to operate by faith.

Jesus **FUNCTIONED** by the **Holy Spirit**:

- John 5:19 & 30 –Of His own human self He can **DO** nothing;
- Isa. 11:2—He didn't have His own **WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING, COUNSEL, POWER, AND KNOWLEDGE**
- John 5:31-33—Not own **WITNESS**
- John 5:43—Did not come in His own **NAME**
- John 6:38—Come not to do His own **WILL**
- John 6:57—He lived by the Father, not His own **LIFE**
- John 7:16—Didn't have his own **TEACHING OR DOCTRINE**
- John 7:28—His **JUDGMENT** was not His
- John 8:28-29—He didn't have his own **LEARNING**
- John 8:50—He didn't seek His own **GLORY**
- John 8:54—He didn't **HONOR** Himself
- John 14:10-12—He didn't speak His own **WORDS** nor did He do His own **WORKS**
- **Jesus was ONE WITH THE FATHER** by being Joined into a **SINGLE UNITY** by the **Holy Spirit**
- John 10:30—"I and my Father are one"
- John 12:45—"He that sees me, see Him that sent me"
- John 14:9—"If you have seen me, you have seen the Father"
- John 14:11—"I am in the Father and the Father is in me"
- John 14:20—"I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you"
- John 17:21-23 "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee;"..."I in them, thou in me, that they may be perfected in oneness."

- Jesus got the **VICTORY** before He went to the Cross by the **Holy Spirit**—Heb. 9:14
- He was **RAISED** from the Dead by the **Holy Spirit**—Rom. 8:11
- He **ASCENDED** up to glory and seated at the right hand of the Father by the **Holy Spirit**—Eph. 1:20-23

The common problem among most Christians who don't know the difference between soul and Spirit is that they don't enter His rest and therefore experience defeat and condemnation. Heb. 4:11-12 says that to enter into His rest, there is a laboring process. That sounds like an oxymoron, but it really means a labor of faith, and not of works, although, I Thes. 1:3 calls it a "work of faith." Have you read my testimony in Treasures of Darkness. It is on the Liberating Secret web site, chapter 10-- "A Severe Mercy." Also read chapter 9...In these chapters I explain the process of faith. The Bible also calls it the law of faith in Rom. 3:27. Not law --(performance) , but the principle of how faith works (i.e.) The law of gravity works like this... the law of aviation works like that... etc. But how does faith work? You take a leap of faith and declare the ridicules, "I am crucified with Christ, I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." Then the counterattack takes place, the appearances looks the opposite, and feels the opposite. It seems like a lie most of the time. This is training you not to live by your 5 senses, but instead live by the Spirit, so say it again. Do nothing to try to make it happen...The appearances' look worse, by this time you don't care, you must say it. So

you say it again because God says it about you otherwise you call God a liar, and it is the spirit truth about you anyway. We are so use to looking at ourselves negatively and critically, that It seems really ridiculous, but don't give up, you are laboring to enter in. Regardless of how it looks, and how it feels, it is the truth, and the truth will set you free. Now, what you take by faith, takes you and becomes your new consciousness. When you take food, it takes you and becomes your energy etc. When a persons takes drugs, sooner or later it takes him and he becomes a addict. He thought that he could control it, but no the law of faith even works on the flesh level too.

The only way to get out of Romans 7 is to leap out (say you are already out). Paul's problem in Romans 7 was that he thought that, he the vessel, had the power to deliver himself. How could Paul be his own savior? Finally he realized that he had to be delivered from trying to be his own deliverer, and realize that Christ had already delivered him through the cross. Romans 4 17-21 tells us how Abraham went through his process of faith—

1. The **CALL** to faith: "So, shall your seed be",
2. **CIUNTERATTACK**: "His body was now dead" and so was Sara's womb—
3. **BLIND FAITH ANYWAY**—"Against hope believed in hope"
4. **GAINED FAITH** (faith has its own substance)—"Staggered not at the promises of God through unbelief."

5. **PRAISE GOD** before he saw it—“but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.”

6. Abraham possessed it inwardly before it was manifested outwardly—“Being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was about also to perform.”

This is why God calls Abraham “the father of our faith” simply he called the things that be not, as though they already are. And this is basically because they really are already the reality, Abraham just had to believe it against all appearances. Discerning soul from Spirit is paramount to this process. In Spirit you are already there, but your soul (flesh) which is subject to outer appearances, feelings, and thoughts of unbelief is what seems to rule you. Satan attacks our souls with thoughts of unbelief, feelings of fear and despair. Are you going to listen to him, or are you going to declare the truth of what God says about you? Let these negative feelings spring you into faith, by declaring the opposite.

All negative soul reactions are really God’s way of calling you to faith. I called them “**God’s calling card.**” When you are off of self gazing, out of nowhere the Spirit manifest His rest in you. But you say it is done, before you see, feel or think it. Say it! “I are whole, complete, lacking nothing!”

Simply say that you are already are in rest, and don’t believe your feelings, because Christ is your rest!!

On my website, I have a article called, “How do you Identify yourself?” That may be helpful to you too.

## **Oneness with Christ**

Fire in Iron unite as one; they are one, yet they maintain their distinctiveness. **One, but two, yet one!**

Someone said, "The invisible God is He, the visible god are we." Does that statement sound kind of New Age-y? There is a New Age oneness, and there is true oneness with Christ. True oneness with God was prophesied in John 17:20-23 by Jesus. *"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them: that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one."* The devil always counterfeits the truth. Actually New Age is not new at all. It is the same old age lie propagated by the devil and now counterfeited by his believers. Satan always wanted to be the only true God, but instead he became a devil. Whenever the creation tries to become the Creator, he always ends up being a devil.

The invisible God needs visible forms to express Himself through. The divine Spirit joins Himself with my human spirit and the two become one flesh. Again, does that make me God. God Forbid. But curiously when the creation humbly surrenders his vessel-hood to be indwelt by the Creator, he becomes a living expression of God.

You end up “being” who you contain. Think of it. Jesus said that “*you* are the light of the world.” He called us humans “the light.” We all know that we are not the light, we contain Him, who is the light, yet Jesus says that *we* are the light. The container becomes what it contains without robbing the Creator His deserved glory. No, we don’t become the Second person of the trinity. Yet the expression becomes one with who it expresses.

Jacob Boehme, a great German mystic uses the illustration of the iron and the fire. The iron in itself is just that, dark and hard. Yet lit on fire, glows with transparent like illumination. The iron is not the fire and the fire is not the iron, yet the two in union interpenetrates each other and becomes a new moldable piece of metal. Confusing the function of the two is what Satan did, and is now what the New Agers are doing. Jesus cleared it up for us Christians when he said, “without me you can do nothing.” Yet united to the Holy Spirit’s fire, “You can do all things through Christ who empowers you.” Just like a hand in a glove empowers the glove to move and live as it were, yet without the hand the glove cannot do anything of itself.

New Age teaching has no cross. They basically say that man is inherently good therefore he doesn’t need a savior. They like to include Jesus as a good teacher, while disclaiming His divinity as the second person of the trinity. This thinking is the spirit of antichrist, I John 4:1-3. Although,

I'm not too worried about it because the New Age people can try to leave the Cross out of their lives and their teaching, but the Cross won't leave them out. God is faithful to all mankind--his chastening hand will cause us all to have our dreaded crosses, in hope that we will come to the Cross of Christ for the cleansing blood and the forgiveness of God, as well as receiving the divine nature of Christ.

There is a great difference in saying that the creation is God, and saying with Jesus, "I can of myself do nothing." The man Jesus never claimed to have power nor wisdom in and of himself. Yet in union with his Father he had all power, might, wisdom as well as authority, and lived and operated with all things under his feet. His life exemplified "the new humanity" which is the "Cross Life," that is, bringing life out of sacrificial death and thereby manifesting the glorious other-love of God.

"There is an underground river flowing in us. It is that the real I is not this human I at all! It is He, of whom my I is an outer form. There is a unity - fixed, eternal, inwardly realized - in which He, the Positive, is the Real One living; and I, the negative, am also real, but really the expression of Him. Now the curious effect is that it is very much I living a human life in all the hurly-burly of human living, yet that is no longer my primary consciousness. Here I am with my ups and downs, my ins and outs; I deal with them as they arise, yet they don't upset me or occupy my thinking or produce the usual self-condemning as they used to. I have moved over, from having a self-consciousness in the center to a God-consciousness in and through my daily living self. I have begun to live positively, overflowing the fact of my negative human self. This is the

new spontaneous living. Not one iota new in my environment. I am precisely who I was and where I have been all these years. But I am inwardly new in my consciousness, and, as we have been continually saying, we live by our inner consciousness because we are spirits, inner people." Norman P. Grubb

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