

THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS

Romans 8:1-4

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has 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 did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

There has been a lot of confusion in the church, with those that call themselves Christians, as to what is being saved or how is a person saved and how is one guaranteed eternal life in Christ Jesus. It is especially confusing to those who are perishing. "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (**1 Corinthians 1:18**) And there's two things that we must know and be certain of. 1. WE can't change anyone, only God can do that. Jesus says in John 3:5, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." 2. Some people WILL NOT change and DO NOT want to change. Jesus said of them, "everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed." (**John 3:20**) While God says that He desires for none to "perish but that all should come to repentance," yet nevertheless we are all given a free-will to choose, life or death, heaven or hell, blessings or curses. Some who are listening today may have been confused as to what it is to be saved and to how exactly one is saved. The Apostle Paul knew of the confusion even in his time and it was his duty to explain to the Romans what it means to be saved (and unsaved). Paul addressed them in his letter, "To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Notice he says "to those who are called to be saints". In **Romans 8:28-30** Paul had explained that calling saying, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified." Those who have been called by God, to those who love God, to those are being called to be changed into the image of Christ. That is who Paul is speaking to. That is who He is speaking to now.

The first bit of reassurance that we have is that here we are today, brought together to be in fellowship with the Father, His Son Jesus, and with the Holy Spirit. "For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one." All three testify that Jesus "is the Christ, the Son of the Living God." (Matthew 16:16) And, "this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." (**1 John 5:9-12**) We are being called by God, to love Him and to be conformed into the image of Christ, to be like Jesus. That is, unless one is perhaps brought here to hinder the workings and calling of God. Let it be known that "greater is He that is in us than He that is in this world", "nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ our Lord" (**Romans 8:37**), "we are more than conquerors" through Him who loves us (Romans 8:37), if God is for us who can be against us?, (**Romans 8:31**), and that no weapon formed against us will prosper (**Isaiah 54:17**) and that "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled." (**2 Corinthians 10:4-6**) What am I getting at? **Revelation 12:11** says, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death." Jesus, there's mighty power in the name of Jesus. "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death." Yes we are called unto Jesus, who is "the author and Finsher of our faith". We are to look unto Him. Jesus! How is one saved? Jesus! There's great deliverance and power, and healing, and salvation in Him! Jesus! That is how we are saved! Jesus! That is how we are delivered and set free, to where we are free indeed! Jesus! "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Jesus, that is His name in our English tongue. Yehshua or Yishua as pronounced in Aramaic or Hebrew is still Jesus to us. Jesus made it quite clear in His messages that He is the Way, He is the Truth, and that He is the Life and that no one comes to the Father except through Him. He also stated, "I AM the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." His name is Jesus, Jesus, glory to His name!

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus." So how are you "in Christ Jesus"? Paul says, "who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." In verse 14 of Romans 8 Paul explains, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." (or children of God). Just as we are all, male and females called "Mankind" or "man" in the general sense, we are all, male and female, called sons of God. Why is that. I don't know other than to say that our roles on this earth as males or females will become sons of God or children of God. There is no mention in God's Word about His resurrected saints procreating in His coming kingdom. Jesus did say that we will not be given in marriage to one another in His eternal kingdom. But what great plans He does have for us though. We will be joint-heirs with Jesus (**Romans 8:17**), we will reign with Jesus, with Christ (**2 Timothy 2:12**)

2 Timothy 2:11-13, "This is a faithful saying: for if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself." We are called unto to Jesus.

"If we died with Him, we shall also live with Him." Paul wrestled with the understanding of what it means to truly be saved. He realized that there was working in him the sinful nature that condemned him to death, as he said in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death." If that were the end of it we would all be in a horrible, hopeless situation. For Paul explained in Romans 3:23, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Yes, that includes me, and all of you. We have all sinned against God and His perfect and holy ways. But Paul then gives the good news that "the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Yes, Jesus is the Way unto eternal life, yes, Jesus is the absolute and objective Truth that comes from God the Father, and that He is the Way, the way to eternal life and the way to our Heavenly Father.

But what about the part where Paul says, "If we died with Him, we shall also live with Him." Paul said in **Romans 8:14-17**, " For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together." The Holy Spirit that God gives us testifies with our spirit that we are His children, that we are saved, that we will have that eternal life in Christ Jesus. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God."

How does one receive the Holy Spirit? The Apostle Peter explained to the Jews that he was preaching to, "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him." First of all it is on believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:16-17)

"And we know that all things work together for good **to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be **conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." When we believe on Jesus to be our Righteousness, for Him to be our Savior, to reconcile us unto God, into a right relationship with God, to where we then obey God letting Him work in us His Righteousness, to make us into the image of Christ. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:30-32, "But of Him [God] you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord." God reveals to us that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God." In obedience to God's calling to being His child through our Savior Jesus Christ, He begins to work in us His Righteousness, through the Holy Spirit that He puts in us, His children, to where He works in us "both to will and to do according to His good purpose." (**Philippians 2:13**). How do we know that we are saved. "You ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart." Jesus is our answer. Do you want to be saved today. Look to Jesus, call on Jesus, believe on Jesus. Jesus save me from my sins! He died on the cross for our sins! Thank You Jesus! Do you want to be set free from the bondage of sin? Jesus is Who you need. He truly wants to give us life abundant, to the fullest, a life full of His blessings so that we may be a blessing to others. His Spirit works in us the fruit of the Spirit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Do you want to live in victory in Christ Jesus. Are you ready to surrender your desires of the flesh, your own selfish desires, are you willing to say as the Apostle Paul said in Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." That is not just the calling of the super saints such as the Apostle Paul. That is the calling of all "who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also

justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified." The world and all who are perishing will scoff at the calling of Jesus Christ. **Romans 10:9-13** says this, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Jesus is our Savior, Jesus is our Deliverer from the bondage of sin, Jesus is our Righteousness that works in us making us like Him. Jesus can and will set you free to where you are free indeed! Jesus! Glory to His name! Just as with the story of when Jesus was walking on the water and Peter asked to come out with Him, Jesus said to come. While Peter was looking unto Jesus he stayed on top of the water, but when he began to fear because of the waves around him he began to sink. Then when He cried out to Jesus to save him, Jesus reached down and pulled him up out of the water. We are called by God to continue and always "look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." (**Hebrews 12:2**) If you have to call on the name of Jesus 1000 times a day, call on Him! Jesus, help me! Jesus, I need You! Jesus what do I do? Jesus, there's power in His name. He is to be our Lord and Savior! He will not leave or forsake us. He will only deny us if we deny Him. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." And be assured of this brothers and sisters, if you have Jesus, if He has placed in His Spirit in you "as a deposit guaranteeing what is to come", that we can be confident that "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." Thank You Jesus. Amen.