

The background features a photograph of ancient stone ruins. A large, circular opening is visible in the upper left portion of the image. A semi-transparent cross shape is overlaid on the right side of the image. The overall color palette is warm, dominated by golden-yellow and brown tones.

ROMANS

Chapter 5. In Jesus, I am no longer chained to *my sin*.

¹Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand ...

¹¹We can rejoice now in our wonderful new relationship with God, because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends with God.

Chapters 6-7. In Jesus, I am no longer chained to *the law*.

6 *¹⁴Sin is no longer your master – you no longer live under the burden of the law. Instead, you now live under the freedom of God's grace.*

7 *⁴My dear brothers and sisters, **here is the point:** You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ, and are now united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can now produce a harvest of good deeds for God!*

Last Week. Unchained to be righteous, but lacking the power to do so.

7²¹ I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.

- *22 I love God's law with all my heart.*
- *23 But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind.*
- *This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.*

Truth: Paul has carefully shown that my human striving *cannot justify* me, and *will not sanctify* me ...

My strength & my abilities are simply inadequate.

The Cry of the Religious ... wanting to be good, but lacking the power to do so.

7²³ But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.

***24 What a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? ...** ²⁵ **...because you see how it is:** In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.*

The Power of the Christian ... The Holy Spirit. (Chapter 8)

7²⁴ What a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? ²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord ...

*8 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ² **And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death ...***

*⁹ **You are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. (And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ).***

Three Essential Truths About The Holy Spirit:

1. The Holy Spirit is God.

- He is fully God in every way – not a Junior Partner.
- He possessed me at the moment of my salvation.
- His sole activity is to make people like Jesus.

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 - He possessed me at the moment of my salvation.
 - His sole activity is to make people like Jesus.

2. **Like the Father and the Son, the Spirit, too, demands that I completely surrender my will to His will.**
 - I do not manage Him ... He possesses me.
 - He does not improve my life ... He gives me a new one, and teaches me how to use it for the glory of God!

Romans 8: No longer chained to *my strength*.

- What happens when I surrender my will to the Holy Spirit?

1. New Management – The Holy Spirit. (v.v. 1-4)

- a. more powerful than *my sin*. (1-2)

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b. more powerful than *the law*. (3)

³ ***The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.***

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- a. more powerful than *my sin*. (1-2)
- b. more powerful than *the law*. (3)
- c. more powerful than *my flesh*. (4)

⁴ He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

We must remember that there is no deliverance in ourselves – God makes deliverance available through Himself.

In effect, God says to sin: “You have no right to this person. I am going to give him power, and I’m going to be the power in him, for I will live in him and will overcome sin in him.”

This is what Paul means when he writes, *“The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has freed me from the law of death.”*

E.P. Epp

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1. New Management – *The Holy Spirit*. (v.v. 1-4)

2. **New Mindset** – *My thinking*. (v.v. 5-8)

- I think about things in new way ... a way that pleases God. (5-6)

⁵ Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

*¹⁶ Let the Holy Spirit direct your lives and you won't do what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷ The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is exactly the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. ¹⁸ **But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses ...***

Paul - Galatians 5

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1. New Management – *The Holy Spirit*. (v.v. 1-4)

2. **New Mindset** – ***My thinking***. (v.v. 5-8)

- I think about things in new way ... a way that pleases God. (5-6)
- my old thinking produced hostility to God, leaving me unable to please Him. (7-8)

⁷For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. ⁸That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

Romans 8: No longer chained to *my strength*.

- What happens when I surrender my will to the Holy Spirit?

1. New Management – *The Holy Spirit*. (v.v. 1-4)

2. New Mindset – *My thinking*. (v.v. 5-8)

3. New Mission – *My doing*. (v.v. 9-13)

- the Spirit eradicates my old sinful habits, replaces them with Jesus' righteous habits, and empowers me to live them.

⁹ *But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you ¹¹ ...and just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.*

¹² *Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.*

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- the Spirit eradicates my old sinful habits, replaces them with Jesus' righteous habits, and empowers me to live them.
- The Spirit's power is what sanctifies me as I submit to Him.

¹² Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. **But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.**

Romans 8: No longer chained to *my strength*.

- **What happens when I surrender my will to the Holy Spirit?**

1. New Management – *The Holy Spirit*. (v.v. 1-4)
2. New Mindset – *My thinking*. (v.v. 5-8)
3. New Mission – *My doing*. (v.v. 9-13)

4. New Mood – *My feeling*. (v.v. 14-17)

- The Spirit reminds me:
 - of my Identity. I am a God's child.

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

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- The Spirit reminds me:
 - of my *Identity*. I am God's child.
 - of my Intimacy with God. I am secure in His "Father-love".

¹⁵ You have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. **Now we call him, "Abba, Father."** ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.

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4. New Mood – *My feeling*. (v.v. 14-17)

- The Spirit reminds me:
 - of my *Identity*. I am God's child.
 - of my *Intimacy* with God. I am secure in His "Father-love".
 - of my *inheritance*. Confident in the future & broken over today.

*¹⁷ And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ **we are heirs of God's glory – sharing in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.***

Three Essential Truths About The Holy Spirit:

1. The Holy Spirit is God.
 - He is fully God in every way – not a Junior Partner.
 - He possessed me at the moment of my salvation.
 - His sole activity is to make people like Jesus.
2. Like the Father and the Son, the Spirit, too, demands that I completely surrender my will to His.
 - I do not manage Him ... He possesses me.
 - He does not improve my life ... He gives me a new one, and teaches me how use it for the glory of God!
3. **In Christ, the Father *justifies* me, and the Spirit *sanctifies* me.**
 - These are not the same ... my *justification* takes a moment, but my *sanctification* takes a lifetime.
 - When I struggle against surrendering to the Spirit ... I will feel overwhelmed & overpowered by sin.

Two indicators that I've surrendered my will to the Holy Spirit:

- 1. *My sin* will really bother me ... and I will feel convicted, but not condemned.**

Because of all that is done for him, the saved person is no longer under the grip, or control, of the evil nature but is under the control of the Holy Spirit. The evil nature – which is also referred to as “flesh” or “the carnal mind” – occasionally may gain control of the person, but he does not *habitually* walk after the flesh. The believer *habitually* walks after the Spirit, even though he may occasionally fall into sin. **The evidence that a person is a child of God is that he has a driving force within him that keeps his interest centered on Christ and spiritual matters. It is not that he is always victorious in the way he lives, but that he desires to do what pleases Christ.** If there is no conviction when sin occurs, it is an evidence that the person does not have the nature of God dwelling within him.

E.P. Epp

Two indicators that I've surrendered my will to the Holy Spirit:

1. *My sin* will really bother me ... and I will feel convicted, but not condemned.
2. ***Other sin*** will break my heart ... and I will feel deeply motivated to do something about it.