

PUT OFF – PUT ON

Pt. 3

Law of Death vs. Law of Life

By
Henry Stanley

We have been dealing with the theme that we have been following: “Putting Off the Old and Putting On the New”. We must see this is the Reality of The Death of the Lord Jesus and Him coming forth in Resurrection, and how that we as His People come forth in Newness of Life: in Resurrection of Life. I want us to go to **Romans 7**. In **Romans 5** we see there are two men: Adam and Christ, and that chapter shows the difference in them. And as we come over into the **6th** chapter of **Romans** we see there the Apostle Paul has been making Truth known to the Church: the Believers. And we are seeing that when we read the Scriptures God is dealing with the people who have put their trust in the Lord: who has believed in Him. Many times people do not read the Scriptures that way: but the Scriptures are written to you and I that are in Christ. That’s what The Word is: it is an instruction to teach us, to guide us, to lead us into the Reality that we have in Christ Jesus.

And **Roman 6** shows us how that we were dead to sin by The Death of Christ, through The Death of Christ. And he says we know that everyone that has been baptized into Christ has been baptized into His Death. **Romans 6:3**, *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?...5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.”*

Then he says that we were servants of sin and how all of that came about in us, but then Paul sums this up in this chapter saying that now our members are yielded for the Righteousness of God. Now **Verse 22**, *“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* And we have said that **verse 23** is a fulfillment in Christ: both Christ paying the price for our sin – dying unto sin. And yet in the Resurrection a people coming forth and He becomes that Gift of Eternal Life: bringing a people forth in Himself, and it’s through Christ.

And we’ve looked at the thought of being released from The Law: which so many of the Lord’s people truly need to be made free from The Law. Because I don’t know if you realize or not, but especially being in the ministry as long as I have been, I see so many Believers that have never truly seem to have experienced that liberty, of that freedom. And I remember the time when I didn’t have that. I’d preach, but I still didn’t have that liberty, that freedom. Inside there was always so much going on. And I never could find a place in God that I ever felt like I could please God. It didn’t matter how much I prayed: it didn’t matter how much I read The Word of God: it didn’t matter how much I preached or shared. There never seemed to be a rest. There never seem to be absolutely His Rest to enter into. And then the Lord just began to take that: He caused it to become so real in my life that because of The Law, I was always bound.

I thought Justification came by the works of The Law. And so we will be looking at **Romans 7**, and I want you to know that Paul was speaking pertaining to The Law. Notice in **Romans 7:1**, *“Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?”*

Notice – Brethren. So Paul was speaking to Brethren. He wasn't out there speaking to sinners. It's not that sinners don't need to be saved or Born Again: not that they don't need to repent. I don't mean that at all. It is clear that except someone repent: turn their heart to the Lord - they are lost. They are a sinner, and they must be Born Again of the Spirit of God. But Paul is addressing here "Brethren", and he's speaking to them that know The Law. I want us to bear in mind that what this whole chapter deals with is being released or being free from Law, and actually coming into The Life and the Justification which is in Christ. In **Romans 4** it says that He died for our offenses, but He was raised for our Justification. (**verse 25**). And the word 'Justification' means that in His Resurrection, in His Life He brings forth a people in Newness of Life. And He brings them into an understanding wherein now because Christ has been raised from the dead and that He dies no more, He brings the people as though we had never sinned. Because Paul is looking at it from the viewpoint of The Cross.

He's looking at it from the viewpoint of The Death of the Lord Jesus, and being free. And now coming forth in Resurrection. He was raised for our Justification. He was raised to loosen us from under the guilt of an old man. And that is true of the old man – the Adamic man: that He died as that Adamic man. But now in His Resurrection He comes forth. And Paul is going to show us that we are released from The Law to that Life that is in Christ. And so Paul uses an illustration here in **Romans 7:1**, "*Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?*" We must see this statement. As long as the man liveth, he is bound by The Law. As long as he sees his life as the Adamic man, as that man of sin and death, The Law is there. The Law was applied because of transgressions. But the Scriptures tell us there is a *Justification*

that comes not from The Law, but it comes from The Life of Christ Himself.

Romans 7:2, *“For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband liveth, 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.”* And some Believers only see this in the natural. But what Paul was bringing out was that we had been married to The Law: that was our union, our relationship. Not only ours, but it was his also. And he was bound by that Law until Christ came. And **Galatians 3** absolutely shows that all was under The Law **UNTIL** Faith came. The Law was the schoolmaster. And The Law was in existence and in view until Faith came, which was Christ. (**Galatians 3: 23 – 25**) So what Paul is saying in verse 4 is very important. **Romans 7:4**, *“Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ...”* In other words, you could say by the sacrifice of His body. **Hebrews 10** says *“A body thou hast prepared me.”* See, that body was prepared for death. **Verse 4**, *“...that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.”*

So we see here that we become dead to The Law by the body of Christ, and that we should be married to another. In other words, now we are no longer married to The Law. Our union, our relationship is no longer bound by The Law. But now we find that we are married to One that is raised from the dead! And what is happening is the fruit of God now through Christ that is coming forth in US. **Verse 5**, *“For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring*

forth fruit unto death.” Now there was the fruit that came unto death. **Verse 6**, *“But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.”* We were held as dead people. See, if you don’t go back and read **Romans 5**, you will not understand a lot of the things that Paul is saying here, to be honest with you. Paul says in **Romans 5** there was a time without The Law that he was alive. But when The Law of Commandments came, sin revived and he died!

In other words, The Law was what made everything exceedingly sinful. Sin was in the world: ever since the disobedience of Adam. And sin came into the world through his disobedience, and death came by sin. And it is real plain: this death that was by sin. Some preach that because we sin we naturally die. But that is not ‘The Death’ that God is dealing with because all man in the flesh will die eventually. And so we’re not talking about a natural death and being put into the ground. We are talking about a death that had passed upon all men through Adam: through disobedience unto God. And that because of that, now we find that Paul has experienced this Reality. Now he is telling the Believers of how they are to bring forth fruit now unto God. That first is worked in us by Christ. So we’ve been delivered from The Law because The Law showed us that we were dead in sin and trespasses. And we were held to that death. There was nothing that could release us UNTIL Jesus comes and He dies upon The Cross, and in His Death there was a release from that death that we were held to under The Law.

Again, **Romans 7:6**, *“But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.”* Not serving in the oldness of the letter. And you can go to **2 Corinthians 3**,

and there Paul tells us the letter kills, but the Spirit gives Life. He shows The Law was a ministration of death and it had a glory. But all of that was going to be abolished. There was an abolishment of all of that, and there was going to come a ministration now of the Spirit: of the Life of God, but **Romans 7:7**, “*What shall we say then? Is the law sin?*” See, we should never think that The Law was sin. Why? Because it was given by God and it was given from God to govern a people, and to show truthfully what they really were. It didn’t show them their righteousness. It only showed them how unrighteous they were. That’s what The Law did. See, sin was in the world but it wasn’t counted as sin. But when you see The Law came, then Paul understood. ‘Look, I am a dead man. The Law made me to see that I am dead, and therefore the only freedom or only release from this death was that Christ comes.’ And in His Death, in His Crucifixion on The Cross He was going to bring a people, and they were going to be free from that bondage.

Now **verse 7**, “*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 shalt not covet. 8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. 9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. 10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.*” The Law is what made him to see that he was a sinner: he was unrighteous, he was ungodly. See The Law is spiritual. So what Paul is saying here is the commandment was given and ordained to Life, he said I found it to be death unto me. It didn’t bring Life: it only exposed and showed what I was. Now The Law is God’s standard. So it’s not The Law’s fault if man can’t keep it. **Verse 10**, “*And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I*

found to be unto death. **11** For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. **12** Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. **13** Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.” And then in **verse 14** we see something here. **14**, “For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.” And what he begins to deal with now is the nature that was in the Adamic man: the nature that was in mankind. Now here Paul is caught in between. **15**, “For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.” See what Paul is dealing with is the nature that is within himself. “That which I should do I don’t, and that which I hate, I do” – because it’s the nature that is in him.

It’s not that The Law is sin, but it’s the nature that was in man and, **Verse 16**, “If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. **17** Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.” It is the nature that dwells with Adam, because it is man himself in the natural – that’s what he is! His nature is a nature of sin. We’ve said when we were children no one ever told us to lie. They didn’t have to teach us to do things that we’ve done. They still don’t have to teach us these things, but it’s the nature in man which Paul now is dealing with in contrast of what The Law does. So he begins to show us that it’s no more I that does it, but it’s sin the dwells in me. **18**, “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”

I was reading some theologians on this, and some say that this is before Paul’s conversion. No, I don’t believe that. I believe Paul was dealing with how there is flesh that is contrary to the Spirit.

We see that in **Galatians 5:16**, *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”* We’ll not walk in the nature of man, but we’ll walk in The Life of God. So some said this is before his conversion, but I believe Paul is really showing how The Law made sin what it was, but then he understood that in himself: that in his flesh there was no good thing. No good thing in the flesh. That’s why The Word tells us we can’t glory in the flesh: we can’t glory in our works. We have to glory in that which Christ has done!

Romans 7:18, *“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. 20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.”* That is the nature. I looked up some other translations and they show there is the nature of this man. And Paul understood that in himself as far as himself, there was no righteousness in him. The only righteousness that we can see and understand that is the Righteousness of God is the Righteousness of Jesus Christ! That’s the only Righteousness we have. We are not made righteous because we are some human being on earth: we are made righteous by Christ coming within. Now **verse 21**, *“I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. 22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man.”* And this here takes on a little different turn. **Verse 23**, *“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. 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”* And notice how Paul says that: *“Who is going to deliver me from the body of this death?”*

See Paul is showing both sides of it. **Verse 25**, *“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.”* So here is Paul saying here is how he’s delivered. He now comes to realize that it is through Jesus Christ our Lord that now he comes and is going to serve The Law of God. Now we’re going to go into **Chapter 8** and we’re going to see what Paul says. There are many views of the latter part of **Chapter 7**, but I just want to say this. The Law was always there to show the unrighteousness in man. And it was always there to bring judgment upon that which was not righteous. The Law being spiritual, Paul said I am carnal, I’m carnal myself. And if you want to say there’s a battle – here is the battle between The Law and the nature that is in man: a contrast. And it goes back and forth. But Paul comes with the understanding that there’s another law. There is a law in his members that is working against The Law of God, but then there is another Law that comes in the inward man. And he realized that this is altogether not a law of death, but a Law of Life! We’re going to see this in the 8th Chapter here. Paul sees and knows, and he’s delivering to The Body of Christ that here’s the way out! Here’s the way out. We are a wretched man: we are the body of death. But now it comes that with the mind he says I’m going to serve The Law of God. And yet with the flesh, the law of sin because you see that’s all the flesh can ever produce. The flesh can only produce the nature that is in it.

Now **Romans 8:1**, *“There is therefore now no condemnation...”* And you know there’s always that struggle: we see this in Believers. I’ve seen it in my own life where there is always that struggle that goes on. And some say it’s a war there and it very well could be a war. They say what The Word says and yet they seem not to be able to find how to walk in that: how to walk to take ahold of it and walk out from under condemnation. So here

you go: you're always switching back and forth: the nature of man, the flesh of man; being rebellious against God and so forth and so on. But now Paul comes here and he shows that through the body of death he sees and understands that he's had a body of death because The Law has shown him to be that. But now he comes in **Verse 1**, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."* And I want to point something out here in the Scripture. See, where is there no condemnation? To those who don't walk after the flesh: they walk after the Spirit. **Verse 2**, *"For the law of the spirit of life..."* Now Paul brings another Law and he establishes that this is a Law of The Spirit of Life, and this Law of The Spirit of Life is **Christ Jesus Himself!** **Verse 2**, *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."*

Now we find here that Paul sees his deliverance. *"Who shall deliver me from this body of death? I thank God through Jesus Christ."* Here's how God brings deliverance from The Law. Now notice **Verse 3**, *"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."* This is how this sin nature now is taken care of. It's because now we see The Law was weak through the flesh. But now we see that there is another Law that comes in and it brings us to a place where we see the sin of condemnation, the sin that was in the flesh: that "warfare" if you want to use that word, that has been going on. Now we see Paul is showing that God sends His Son. We know that Jesus died as the Adamic man, and we have to know that before we can get into the other part of His Life in Resurrection. And the release from this flesh, the release from this death, the release from The Law now Paul is showing God sends His Son.

And we need to make this point. Jesus Christ was without sin! He did not have a nature of sin, but The Word says He was made sin for us. In other words, in **Philippians 2** it says He took on the likeness of man. He actually became man in order that when He went to The Cross, He would take death and sin that man was in, and He released them from that sin and that death that they were in. This is what Paul is saying here. God sends His own Son now. There are so many Scriptures we could go to showing the condition of man. You can go to **Romans 3** and you'll find how Paul there shows whether they were Jews, whether they were Gentiles: as far as the flesh was concerned, they all fell short of the glory of God. They all lacked The Life of God.

Let's go to **Psalms 14**. It shows what man was. Let's read this so we see that when Paul talks about God sending His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, we understand that when Jesus actually came He represented all mankind in the flesh. My Bible says about this psalm, "The sinfulness of man": the condition that man is in. **Verse 1**, *"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. 2 The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. 3 They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the Lord. 5 There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous. 6 Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the Lord is his refuge. 7 Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the Lord bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad."* When God brings them out of captivity. I won't go into that, but only show the condition of man.

Now again **Romans 8:3**, *“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’s how sin was dealt with. That’s how it was condemned. See though The Law was a Law of God: it was spiritual, yet we could find that The Law always brought condemnation. It never was freeing man and bringing him to the righteousness of God. **Verse 4**, *“That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us ...”* Notice this. See The Law in its righteousness is because it came from God. Now here’s the whole transaction that takes place. **Verse 4**, *“That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”* How is The Law of Righteousness fulfilled? It is fulfilled in The Person of The Lord Jesus Himself! That’s the Righteousness of The Law – fulfilled in Christ. We often say Jesus did away with The Law. In reality it’s not so much that He’s done away with The Law, but The Law was pointing to Him, and the fulfillment was in Him. It’s no longer that you just go about trying to keep the ordinances of The Law. Some of those ordinances were you don’t eat meat: some were they had feasts on the new moon and they had the Sabbath. And they went around condemning (especially those of the circumcision, who we call Jews); they went around condemning others because they ate certain meats and some did not eat certain meats; and one kept certain days and the other didn’t. So all of that there of The Law - all of that is fulfilled in Christ!

That’s what Paul is showing: that the Righteousness of The Law was fulfilled in us who are no longer trying to perform the Righteousness of God by our own acts; by our own flesh, by our own doing. But now we come and see that what God was doing was He was condemning all of that. How did He condemn it? He

took it to The Cross! He took it to The Cross. That's where He was condemning sin. And the only release that man could ever have from sin was through Christ because The Law always showed that they were sinners. **Verse 4**, *"That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."* See altogether there's another walk: there is The Spirit of Life that is in Christ. **Verse 5**, *"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."* This just absolutely shows that those that continued to walk after the flesh and have the mind of the flesh... that's what they are going to do! But then those that are after The Spirit, they are going to do the things of The Spirit: their guidings, their leadings, their direction is going to be by The Spirit. **Verse 5**, *"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."* **6** *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."* Notice that. See, the carnal mind is really "developed": it is someone in the flesh trying to be spiritual. That's really what the carnal mind is: trying to be spiritual.

And the reason I say that is in **1 Corinthians 3** it speaks of those that are saying they were of Paul and Apollos. Paul said, **verse 1**, *"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ..."* **4** *For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?"* And what he was showing there was there were those who I'm not saying they weren't "in Christ"; but they were walking not really by The Spirit. They were walking by the dictates of their own flesh: of their own hearts. And therefore carnality comes in. So the carnal mind can only produce death. It can never produce Life. In **1 Corinthians 2** Paul tells us of that: **Verse 14**, *"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because*

they are spiritually discerned.” So what we have to understand is that we must “come out”. How do we come out? Folks, we come out not just by us really, really trying to work hard for God or to do something for God. But we come out by FAITH in acting upon that which God has done through Christ! See, many times people think they achieve things for God by what they do. Yes, I believe in obedience to The Spirit, but the whole thing is that we have to understand there has to be a people who now come and their lives are no longer being governed by the flesh. It’s really no longer being governed by The Law. But now it’s by The Spirit: The Spirit of Christ that comes in.

So we find that there are some that mind the things of the flesh: others mind the things of The Spirit. **Romans 8:6**, *“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”* There’s the whole answer to it. With the carnal mind we live in that understanding. The theme we’ve been dealing with is “Putting Off the Old and Putting On the New.” We’ve dealt with it with the old man, and now we’re dealing with it in The Law: that both of those aspects – the old man and The Law has to be dealt with in our understanding. In Christ and in His Death, and particularly in His Resurrection now we come forth as a New People, a New Creation in Christ. And therefore these are the things in which we are to think of. This is the direction in which our hearts and minds are settled on: the things of The Spirit, the things that minister Life and Peace in us. Where the carnal mind ministers death, The Spirit of Christ ministers Life and Peace. And we must understand the fact of our being in Christ. **Verse 9**, *“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”* Once we are Born Again by The Spirit we are in The Spirit, not the flesh. We now are in The Spirit – in Christ. That is a statement of fact: not a choice we can make – to follow the

flesh or The Spirit. If we ‘try to follow The Spirit’ I am still trying to follow after a Law.

We can tie that back to **Romans 7:25**, *“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.”* Then **8:1**, *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”* See, the condemnation is always going to be there if we think the Righteousness of God comes by The Law or by the works of our flesh. We are actually a people – New. After The Resurrection of Christ God has brought us totally into Newness of Life – A New Life. He has brought us from The Law: from that flesh, and brought us into The Spirit. I’m going to read a translation here: “The truth is that no condemnation now hangs over the head of those who are in Christ Jesus.” Boy, if we would really experience that – that’s glorious! Not walking in any condemnation. I’m telling you whether you or I have truly, fully come into that – that is truly where Life is! And you know the fulness of that has to come in understanding of what Christ has done and where Christ has brought us – into Himself.

So the Phillips translation says, “Here the truth is that no condemnation now hangs over the head of those who are in Christ Jesus. For the new spiritual principle of life in Christ Jesus lets me out of the old, of a circle of sin and death which is what the law made exceedingly sinful. The law never succeeds in producing righteousness. The failure was always the weakness of human nature – always.” And it is still today. Even though we are in Christ: if we think that we can live for God we miserably fail because that is not what God is doing. God is living The Life of that Son in us. That’s why I keep saying folks, I hope everyone else does, but I actually see that when God brought us in ... and

I'm not saying there is not a learning or a growing. I believe there's a learning, and I believe there's a growing in these things. I believe that it is a Finished Work and it's complete and it's fulfilled in Christ. Yes, I believe that for us to comprehend or to lay ahold of all that has been finished and fulfilled, there is a progressiveness as The Spirit reveals or makes it real to us in Christ.

In other words, why would we ever change? We would never change. We know that we got all of God that there is. It's kind of like a preacher once said over in the Old Testament: ask the fish and the frog and it will tell you! Well you know the frog is developed out of the tadpole. And when you see the tadpole you would have no idea that that thing would grow legs and do what it does, and it becomes a frog. So the potential that God is: Christ in you – is in you when you are Born Again. That's no question, but then it's the working of The Spirit that brings this very Reality into our hearts. And God has made that so real in me that I cannot live under condemnation no more because of seeing the very principle that Jesus has lifted us up out of it all! Now we see that our state of being in Christ is that we are New Creatures: we ARE New Creatures.

But Paul told us something in **Philippians 3:12**, *“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.”* He is telling us that there is always a pressing forth - a going forward. Now the carnal mind can only see what the eye sees, what the fingers touch, what the emotions tell us. That's the carnal mind. The carnal mind cannot believe that we've passed

from death unto Life because the carnal mind will tell you according to the flesh – what you can see. The carnal mind can only see what its natural eyes can see. But when we are Spiritual then we go into another realm. And it's what Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 4:18**, *“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*

There is indeed a growth, but we have to understand that we believe what God says, and not what our emotions say. In other words, my emotions might say look to the right woman or man. That's not it at all! God says in Christ there is no male or female: we've passed from all of this. So I'm not looking at the things that I can see, but I'm looking at the things that I can't see because that's where my Life and Peace is. If I went by the things that I see with my natural eyes, I'm always in turmoil: things are always stirred up. There's no Peace there. But if I look at the things that are not seen: if I hear what God says and not what man is trying to say, then there is where you get The Life, where you get The Peace, you get The Joy, you get The Love. Because otherwise there's everything just stirred up! We live in a fallen world.

I think that's what God is showing there in **Romans 8: 9**, *“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”* See, he comes from the fact, idea or truth – now establishing a people that is in The Spirit. The Scripture says, as a man believes it in his heart, so is he. This needs to be established in our hearts, in our minds that we are children of God. It is a Finished Work: it is complete, and that very principle of Reality brings forth fruit. I've heard the first verse there many times. It's 'now I've got to walk by the Spirit. If I don't walk by the

Spirit, I'm walking by the flesh.' But now I'm back in the flesh and now I'm condemned. The point here is that we are in The Spirit! It is established! Now that we are in The Spirit, we are to walk in The Spirit: there is also that principle. But there's also the principle that whoever you believe you are in your heart... if you believe you are a child of God, that you're Born Again, part of Christ's Body. That very principle will work in your life to bring that to Reality: The Reality will be manifested.

And there is a lot of controversy over that Scripture because some believe we have a human spirit. But listen to this from the Phillips translation: "You have been adopted into the very family circle of God and you can say with a full heart, Father, my Father! The Spirit Himself (which is Christ, the Holy Spirit) endorses our inward conviction that we really are the children of God." That's maybe the best translation of that verse that I've read. It's that which is within, and it bears witness in US that we ARE the children of God. I really like that because down through the years I've heard a lot of different sayings on that. One translation I've read says, "His Spirit bears witness with the Spirit of Him that is in us." The King James version says, "*His Spirit bears witness with our spirit.*" Well, we know some folks that believe that we have the human spirit and therefore God's Spirit that has come within us now agrees with our human spirit. I have a little problem to believe that we are just operating out of a human spirit once we have been joined to The Lord. Because, "*He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit*" so I have a little problem with the thought of God coming into my human spirit. I really would like it more to say He comes into our conviction: He bears that witness with us that we are the children of God.

And that conviction there is actually that we come, and the true conviction in our heart is that now – what are we? We are the

children of God. We are of The Spirit of God, not of the flesh. And now as it says in Peter, through the Spirit we become obedient. As the Spirit of God that is in us, we yield in obedience to it: whatever dimension we find ourselves in. But Paul is absolutely showing us here that we have come in – into that Spirit, into that Life. And this is where we are. Now we may have some complications going on, but we are still there where God has brought us. And this has been one of my strong thrusts: when a person is truly Born Again by The Spirit of God I believe that's altogether a New Life, a New Walk, a New Thinking. I'm not saying we've totally come into all that thinking being brought in: subject to The Spirit. But we are a New Creature, and that New Creature is to be absolutely dominated by the Spirit!

And regarding what we believe, **1 John 5:10** says, *“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.”* There is an inward witness that His Spirit bears witness with ours. Certainly we all know without any question at all that we have an inner witness within us of Christ: of that Life, of The Spirit of God. Why? Because we know we've been Born of that Spirit: we know we've been united with that Spirit and we're made one with that Spirit. So everything that God is working in us changes: thoughts – whatever. God is working that by His Spirit. I was thinking about Paul when Paul came down to the end of his journey he said, “I've kept the faith. I finished the course.” And yet I don't know if Paul saw it all. I don't know if he ever reached it all. I think he went out 'knowing' that there is an ever ongoing increase, progressiveness of Christ coming. He certainly saw what Christ had done on The Cross. He certainly saw The Resurrection. He certainly realized that Christ had apprehended everything for him. And we see that.

That's the viewpoint we come from. We certainly see that this is from a Finished Work: something that cannot be added to or taken from it as far as what Christ has done. But our faith in Christ – of growing, and laying ahold of that: then that's a progress. And when Paul said in **Philippians 3:13**, "*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.*" That didn't mean that Paul stopped there. No, he just saw that where he had come in Christ – he was there, and yet he was pursuing to lay ahold of all that Christ had laid hold for him. And I think we all go out of this natural world, if our hearts are pursuing God: I think we will all go out of the world without knowing it all. Perhaps even attaining it all. We may think sometimes we've attained it all, but it's ever going. And I think that's what Paul is really showing here. Now he's brought us to a place where there is no condemnation. You are not battling back-and-forth: with the flesh and with The Spirit, with The Law and with The Resurrection Life of Christ. He's showing now that God has delivered us from the body of sin. Thank God through Jesus Christ! So how am I going to get out of this body of sin? Through Jesus Christ! Through what He has done! **Romans 8:10**, "*And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*"

Let us pray: *'Heavenly Father we just thank you for Your Spirit. We thank you for Your Life, Lord. We thank you that we can gather together unto You, and our gathering certainly is unto You, Lord. That You might be known: that You might reveal Your Glory, Your Spiritual Life. We are just so thankful Lord God, that You are God. And You said that which You began in us, You will perform it unto*

the end. And we want to stand in that Lord: that we'll stand fast in Your liberty wherein You've made us free, Lord. We'll stand steadfast, unmovable, ever abounding in Your Work Lord: knowing that our labor in You - that which You have accomplished and done is not in vain. And we just ask You Father today, that You would continue to open the eyes of our understanding. And Lord that we would lay ahold oh God, of this Life Eternal that You are, and knowing that we have passed from death unto Life: knowing that we have passed from an old creation into a New Creation. And now seeing Lord, that we have even passed from The Law because of The Law being fulfilled in Christ Jesus, and You becoming that Life to flow in us. And we just thank You for it Lord! Lord, we praise You and we magnify You for that Work which You have done, and we rejoice in it. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.