

London Justice House of Prayer - Donna Taylor

Fall 2024

Session II - Truth and Error of Grace - Walking in Freedom (Romans 8:5)

I. The Revelation of Grace (Romans 3-8)

- A. In Romans 3-8, Paul teaches the main principles of the grace of God and how to walk in victory over sin, addictions, and depression. It is a “manual” on how the born-again spirit functions. In order to walk in victory over sin, it is essential for our priority in living this life shift from our flesh (physical appetites) to our spirit (what the Word says about our spirit).
- B. Paul contrasts two directions in life we choose between (Romans 8:1,4, 5). The way we do this begins with knowing the truth about who we are in Christ.

**“Do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit...
Do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the
things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit,
the things of the Spirit.” (Romans 8:1-5)**

Paul explains which one we walk in depends on our mindset (what we set our mind on). When we set our mind on the flesh, we enthrone the flesh as the lord of our life. Notice it’s the person that determines whether the flesh or the Spirit will be in control. (This is a truth most people overlook).

They think that sin comes upon them from outside of self, but the reality is, sin comes from within, from the meditation of the mind. James 1:14-15a reveals that people are drawn away by their own lust, which is produced from the soulish realm (mind, will, emotions). In other words, sin is formed in the emotions produced by what the mind is focused on.

**“But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires
and enticed...Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin..”
(James 1:14-15a)**

Once sin is fully formed in the emotions, it gives birth to corresponding actions. You will not do anything with your body that you have not first done in your mind. The body simply follows the direction of the mind. The most effective way to determine if your mind is set upon the Spirit is by focusing your mind on the word of God. All scripture is inspired by Holy Spirit, therefore, being word minded means that we will be Spirit governed. (2 Timothy 3:16)

II. We Are Transformed by the Renewing of our Mind

- A. We are transformed (in our emotions and behavior) by changing our thinking. Sincerity is not enough. A renewed mind consists of **pursuing truth** that enables us to agree with what the Word says about us as a new creation and **resisting darkness** that defiles our mind with impurity.

“...be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2)

Transformed people are the ones who have taken the responsibility to change what they think on a daily basis. Again, taking authority in Jesus’ name over your own thoughts. The fact that the text says “but be transformed by the renewing of the mind” shows we can control our thoughts. We are the ones that have authority over our thought life.

The question becomes, “How do we renew our mind?” By what we focus our mind on. “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.” (Isaiah 26:3) The word of God reveals the world of God, hence His will. When we transform our thinking through the word of God, we align ourselves with the will of God which is good, perfect and acceptable.

- B. We are set free by the knowledge of the truth.

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32)

Knowledge alone won’t change attitudes and behaviors. It must become a heart understanding. The “spirit of our mind” speaks of a permeating change in the whole atmosphere and mood of our inner life as our thought patterns and emotional processes shift to a spirit understanding.

- C. Shattering strongholds is a mandate and not a mere suggestion. Paul teaches the way we overcome behaviors and reactions we have in areas of our life, we must deal with the strongholds in our minds.

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For 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.” (II Corinthians 10:3-5)

This passage is a key in scripture we need to pray daily until we experience the freedom from behaviors and reactions we have to the circumstances in our lives that causes us to sin or be held in bondage. Dutch Sheets breaks this scripture down into a prayer we

can not only pray for ourselves, but we can pray for others. It is a prayer for the lost, but it is also a prayer for believers who are dealing with strongholds in their lives and need to be set free.

This is also a key scripture that reveals to us the need for inner healing and deliverance in our lives where we are struggling with sin and wrong behaviors and no matter how hard we try, we find ourselves in a place of repenting over and over for the same sin and wrong behaviors. The prayer is as follows from Dutch:

“Father, I ask that you release your dunamis power of the weapons of our warfare (Ephesians 6:10-18) to go crush, smash, demolish and destroy every false belief system in the lagismos of my (or someone else) mind, and bring every thought into captivity of Jesus in Jesus’ name.”

When I come to the place of “every false belief system” I add that doesn’t align with Your Word, name any area or stronghold that the Lord shows you, such as, doubt, unbelief, unforgiveness, bitterness, anger, fear, shame, rebellion, control, manipulation, oppression, depression, etc. Speak to each stronghold and command it to be crushed, smashed, demolished and destroyed in Jesus’ name. Ask Holy Spirit to fill each of these areas with the opposite spirit. Ask that they see Jesus and receive Him as Savior, or someone in sin to be set free and their thinking align with God’s thoughts.

Just like in this area of “Hyper-Grace” we can come against that spirit and pray for the truth of God’s grace to penetrate their thoughts. What we have seen in the previous scriptures, our behaviors are a result of our thinking. When we are in bondage and held captive, we must be set free. This is a powerful prayer and will bring transformation of our thinking and we will begin to walk, talk and think more and more like Him.

When we pray in this way, and we are still struggling, that’s when we get with others and receive ministry for inner healing and deliverance. We all have areas where we struggle and the biggest lie of the enemy is that others will think bad of us and the shame the enemy tries to put on us can keep us from being transparent and getting the freedom we so long to have.

III. The Miracle of Becoming a New Creature in Christ

- A. 2 Corinthians 5:17 summarizes the truths in Romans 3-8. Paul declared that our born-again spirit has become a new creation. **All things related to our spirit have become new.**

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away...all things have become new...that we (our spirit) might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Cor. 5:17-21)

We become the righteousness of God when we are born again. God put the free gift of

Jesus' righteousness on us like a garment, and we receive a new nature of righteousness in our born again spirit (v.21). Our spirit is joined to the Holy Spirit and filled with supernatural life. We were created with a spirit so we could relate to God who is spirit. Our spirit is the place where we communicate with God directly and receive revelation from the Spirit.

**“But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”
(I Cor. 6:17)**

The glory of the new creation, is that God created us with three parts - spirit, soul, and body. Man is a spirit, he has a soul, and lives in a body. Our soul speaks of our mind, will and emotions. It is our personality. Our body has five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch) that we receive information from the physical world, just as our spirit receives information from the spiritual world.

- B. The challenge is that we do not feel or discern our spirit. Our spirit man is “spirit” and therefore, it is invisible and indiscernible, even “hidden” from our five senses. We cannot measure our spirit with our five senses. Peter and Paul referred to our true life, or our spirit man in this age, as being “hidden” in Christ. Our born-again spirit is called “the hidden person of the heart.”

“The hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle spirit...” (I Peter 3:4)

**“For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
(Colossians 3:3)**

We only know the truth about our spirit because the Word reveals it to us. This is the same way we know about our future resurrected body. As Abraham believed what God said about him without being able to see it with his eyes, so we believe.

“who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, “So shall your descendants be.” 19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. 22 And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.” (Romans 4:18-22)

This is a valuable lesson to learn from Abraham. We should not allow the facts of our life to determine the potential of our destiny. When we look to the facts of life instead of the truth of God’s promise, we limit what God can do in our life.

Most believers do not know who they are in their spirit and rarely think about their spirit.

Just as we receive training related to our body and soul, we must also receive training related to our spirit.

- C. This is why we must pray that our soul submits to the Holy Spirit so we can walk rightly before the Lord. We must be led by the Holy Spirit and not by our emotions, our thinking, or exert our will. Obedience to the Word of God is the fruit of our faith.

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

When we pray this word, we ask the Lord to separate our soul from our spirit that we would walk through any given situation by the Holy Spirit within us and not be led or influenced by our emotions. We will find that our emotions coming under control of Holy Spirit, we will not be tossed to and fro and feel as though we’re on an emotional roller coaster.

IV. Summary

- A. Spiritual maturity occurs as our walk with the Lord shifts from natural experiences (physical appetites, senses, and emotions) to our spirit.

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.” (Romans 8:5)

- B. **We live according to the flesh** by living in **ignorance and unbelief** about who we are in Christ; our main awareness to life coming from our **natural experiences** (bodily appetites, five senses, emotions, and circumstances) without any reference to the truths of the Word; by approaching God with **condemnation** and with a **sense of defeat and intimidation** when sinful desires rise in us; by filling our mind with **immoral things** that stir up lust; and by speaking things, going places, and yielding to peer pressure that comes from friends walking in sin.
- C. **We live according to the Spirit:** by living by what **the Word** says concerning who we are in our spirit in Christ; by living with **awareness** of our born-again spirit that has been made righteous; by **praying** with the indwelling Spirit, especially **thanking Him** and praying for the release of love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, forbearance, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control that is in our spirit (Galatians 5:22-23); by **confidence** that we know the Lord loves the time we spend with Him; using the **authority** of the name of Jesus to stand against the works of darkness, Domain of darkness, in our life and others; and by being aware of our **commission** or divine assignment that gives us real purpose. Knowing our destiny in God can be fulfilled.

- D. We grow in our awareness of the Spirit the more we speak with Him. It increases as we talk to Him more. A simple prayer is, “**Holy Spirit, let me see what You see and feel what You feel** about....(put many subjects here).” It takes time for this awareness to grow.