

The
Gospel
That
Works

By Frank Gaydos

Chapter One

Have you had an experience in the Lord like I have had? When you first received Christ did you experience the Lords peace, His love, His joy and His power over sin inside of you, only to lose it a few months later; and did you like I enter into a struggle to please God only to feel as if you cannot live up to His expectations of righteousness, which made you feel miserable about yourself?

Do you feel pulled between two worlds at war within you? As if you want to do what is right in the sight of the Lord yet another part of you seems to have power to compel you to do what is wrong anyway.

Did you know that the struggle between good and evil after you have come to Christ is spoken of in the Bible as the flesh warring against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh? *Galatians 5:17* The Apostle Paul describes this battle between good and evil in His own life when He says “I don’t understand myself, the good I want to do, I do not do, no the evil I do not want to do, this I keep on doing. What a miserable man I am.” *Romans 7:14-25*

This inward and painful struggle between good and evil is a common experience among believers; but it doesn’t have to be that way.

There are reasons why, as believers, we are torn between the good we want to do and the evil that we do not want to do; and there is a way to return to our first experience in Christ where we felt His peace, His love, His joy and His power over sin alive in our mind and emotions.

When I first I came to Christ I could feel the lords peace, love, joy and His power over sin alive in my mind and emotions. I was overjoyed with this new life in Christ, so I decided to become a minister and attended an Assembly of God Bible school.

The Bible school I attended was part of the mid seventies charismatic renewal that swept Western Pennsylvania. We were deeply involved in the gifts of the Spirit and I did everything my teachers told me to do to serve and please God. Yet even under these super spiritual condition I lost the sense of Chris in me, I lost the peace, love, and joy of the lord and returned to all of my old sins. I truly knew what the Apostle Paul meant when he said I don’t understand myself the good I want to do I do not do no the evil I do not want to do this I keep on doing. What a miserable man I am.

In those days I was truly miserable and lived that way for the better part of twenty years. During that twenty year period of misery I studied and applied every modern day version of the gospel to my life in an attempt to get back to my original state of peace, love, joy, and power over sin in Christ. But to no avail, none of today's versions of the gospel gave me any relief from my sins and the misery that they were causing. So, I dedicated myself to the pursuit of understanding the gospel in its original form as given to the gentile nations through the apostle Paul.

The more I understood the gospel in its original form the more I returned to my first state of being in Christ where I could feel His peace, love, joy, and power over sin in my mind and emotions. So that is why I call Paul's gospel to the gentile nations the gospel that works because it is the only version of the gospel that has the ability to return believers to their original state of peace, love, joy, and power over sin in Christ.

As an experiment, I began to share Paul's version of the gospel with other believers and the results were all the same. Every believer that I encountered who understood the gospel in its original form returned to the peace, love, joy, and power over sin that they experienced when they first came to Christ.

Then something unexpected began to happen. I and the others who understood the gospel in its original form began to notice that not only was the Holy Spirit at work in our minds and emotions returning us to the peace, love, and joy of the lord but He was also at work in the circumstances of our lives causing all things to work out in phenomenally positive ways.

So without further a-do let's begin our journey to explore the meaning of the gospel in its original form.

Chapter Two

Paul's Life and the Gospel to the Gentiles

Acts 9:1-21 - ¹Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."⁷The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. ¹⁰In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. ¹¹The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹²In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." ¹³"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. ¹⁶I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." ¹⁷Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?"

Paul was on His way to Damascus to persecute Christians when a light from heaven caused him to fall to the ground; there Jesus revealed Himself to Paul. When he got up Paul discovered that he was blind, so the men traveling with him led him by the hand into Damascus; where they went to the house of a man named Judas. Ananias, prompted by a vision went to Paul a few days later to lay hands on him, for the healing of his eyes and to

be filled with the Holy Spirit. When Ananias laid hands on Paul something like scales dropped off of his eyes; he could see again and he was also filled with the Holy Spirit. After that Paul was baptized in water. He then spent several days with the disciples in Damascus and preached in the synagogues that Jesus is the son of God

Galatians 1:11-18 - ¹¹I want you to know, brothers that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. ¹²I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. ¹³For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus. ¹⁸Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days.

After spending several days in Damascus Paul went to Arabia where he received a revelation from Jesus on how he was to teach the gospel. Paul did not get his understanding of the gospel from anyone except Christ himself. After that Paul returned to Damascus and there taught his revelation of the gospel for three years.

Acts 9:22-27 - ²²Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ. ²³After many days had gone by, the Jews conspired to kill him, ²⁴but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. ²⁵But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall. ²⁶When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ²⁷But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

Galatians 1:18-19 - ¹⁸Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother.

During his time in Damascus Paul became more and more influential among the Jews by gathering a following and proving from scripture that Jesus is the Christ. After many days (three years) certain Jews conspired to kill him; but his followers lowered him in a basket by night through an opening in the wall. Paul then traveled to Jerusalem where he met

Barnabas who took him to see Peter and he also met James the Lords brother. Paul got acquainted with Peter at that time and stayed with Him for fifteen days.

Acts 9:28-30 - ²⁸So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him. ³⁰When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

After getting acquainted with Peter, Paul spent time in Jerusalem speaking to the Jews in the name of Jesus. But the Grecian Jews wanted to kill him so the brothers took him to Caesarea and sent him to Tarsus.

Acts 11:25-26 - ²⁵Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Acts 13:2-3 - ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Paul, and when he found him he brought him to Antioch where they ministered the gospel for one full year, then the Holy Spirit through the brethren sent Paul and Barnabas to minister Paul's understanding of the gospel to the Gentile Nations. At this point Paul was in the ministry for about five years; three years in Damascus, about a year going to Jerusalem and then to Tarsus, and a year at Antioch.

Acts 15:1-2 - ¹Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." ²This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

Galatians 2:1-4 - ¹Fourteen years later I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. ²I went in response to a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I did this privately to those who seemed to be leaders; for fear that I was running or had run my race in vain. ³Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek. ⁴This matter arose because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.

Paul and Barnabas together ministered Paul's revelation of the gospel to the Gentiles for fourteen years. During this fourteen year period of time some Jewish brothers from Jerusalem went to the gentile believers who had received Paul's message of the gospel and told them that they had to be circumcised according to the Law of Moses to be saved. Paul feared that he had taught an incorrect gospel message because of what the brothers from Jerusalem were teaching. So he, Barnabas, and Titus went to Jerusalem where Paul presented his revelation of the gospel to Peter, James, and John. Paul had been ministry for twenty years at this point, three years in Damascus. One year going to Jerusalem and Tarsus, one year at Antioch, and fourteen years ministering the gospel after he and Barnabas left Antioch.

Acts 15:5-19 - ⁵Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses." ⁶The apostles and elders met to consider this question. ⁷After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. ⁸ God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. ⁹ He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? ¹¹ No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are." ¹² The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. ¹³ When they finished, James spoke up: "Brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself. ¹⁵ The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: ¹⁶ " 'After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, ¹⁷ that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things' ¹⁸ that have been known for ages. ¹⁹ "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

Galatians 2:8-10 - ⁸For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles. ⁹James, Peter^[c] and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews. ¹⁰All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

The church in Jerusalem had a group of Pharisees that were known as the circumcision group; because they believed that Jesus was the messiah but they also believed that converts to Christ had to be circumcised and obey the Law of Moses to be saved. Peter, James and John disagreed with the circumcision group and they agreed with Paul's revelation and the way he and Barnabas were teaching the message. Peter, James, and John agreed with Paul's message so much that they told Paul and Barnabas to go to the gentile nations with their message while they remained in Jerusalem taking the gospel to the Jews.

Galatians 2:12-16 - ¹²Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. ¹⁴When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?" ¹⁵"We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' ¹⁶know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

Even though Peter did not believe in obedience to the Law of Moses in order to be saved he obviously had close ties to the circumcision group. When he joined the circumcision group and withdrew from eating with the gentiles Paul rebuke him publicly for not acting in alignment with the gospel.

So the gospel to the Jews through Peter, James, and John tolerated the circumcision group with their belief in observing of the laws of Moses. The circumcision group did not stay in Jerusalem as agreed upon. They went out and continued to influence the gentile churches to obey the laws of Moses. The church at Galatia was one of the churches that came under the influence of the circumcision group.

Galatians 3:1-5 - ¹You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. ²I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? ³Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? ⁴Have you suffered so much for nothing—if it really was for nothing? ⁵Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

The gospel to the gentiles through Paul forbids adherence to any of the laws of Moses for critical reasons that we will discuss in session five. In session five you will see clearly from the scriptures that going under any kind of law to become righteous so as to please God will quench the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to establish Christ in your mind and emotions.

The Jews recognize moral law and ceremonial law in the Law of Moses. Moral laws are such things as you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not covet [lust after] your neighbor's wife. Ceremonial laws are such things as circumcision, the Sabbath day, the feasts, festivals, and the animal sacrifices.

Each gospel message, the one to the Jews through Peter, James, and John, and the one to the Gentiles through Paul and Barnabas expected the morality of God's law to be fulfilled in the believer by experiencing the righteousness of Christ in the inner man by the Holy Spirit.

Now, even though Peter, James, John, Paul, and Bananas agreed upon the destination of their gospel messages this did not stop the circumcision group in Jerusalem from going to the gentile churches and teaching them to observe the Law of Moses. These brethren from Jerusalem who taught the gentile churches to observe the Law are known as "Judaizers" because they mixed the Law of Moses [Judaism] with the gospel.

Both John and Paul had something to say about the Judizers.

1 John 2:18-19 - ¹⁸Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. ¹⁹They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

Galatians 1:6-9 - ⁶I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! ⁹As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned

John said, talking about the Judaizers, “They went out from among us because they were not of us” and He called them antichrists. Paul talking about the Judaizers condemned their message and condemned them.

The Judaizers, those who mixed the Law of Moses with the gospel to the gentiles, proved to be a plague to Paul for the rest of his life and ministry. He was constantly fighting their doctrine to keep the gentile churches true to his revelation of the gospel message.

It has now been two thousand years since the Apostle Paul taught his original revelation of the “Gospel to the Gentiles”. Surprisingly enough his message is still around, but not in its original form.

Paul’s gospel to the gentile nations is now mixed with law and hundreds of years of tradition. It is also fragmented; by that I mean that one church has a piece of Paul’s revelation here, another church has a piece of it over there, and yet another church has a piece of it and they are way over there. Entire church denominations have been built upon one or two fragments of Paul’s revelation of the gospel.

So, what we need to do is to pick up all the pieces of Paul’s gospel and unravel it from its cloak of law and tradition. I can tell you this from experience; if you are a gentile believer Paul’s gospel in its original form is the only version of the gospel that will satisfy your soul. It is the only version of the gospel that has the power to take away your sins and to establish the life of Christ in you while at the same time giving you rest from your own will and effort to become righteous.

Summery of Paul’s gospel

Paul was given a revelation from Christ on how he was to teach the gospel. According to Paul the righteousness of God in Christ is love. It is the kind of love that does not want to sin. In other words when you are experiencing Gods love you simply will not want to sin. When you are feeling His love you will not want to kill, you will not want to steal, you will not want to commit adultery and so on. When you are feeling His love you will be patient, you will be kind, and you will be joyful. As a mater of fact when you are feeling the lords love you will naturally fulfill all the moral law of God simply because you want to.

Gods love alive in your mind and emotions is known as the resurrected life, it is known as the life of Christ in you, and it is also know as the fruit of the Spirit; because, Gods love is given to you by the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit in your mind and emotions.

Now, according to Paul the Holy Spirit becomes active in the mind and emotions of the believer through faith in Christ and stays active in the mind and emotions of the believer through faith in His work on the cross.

According to Paul Christ did three works on the cross, He forgave sin, He put sin to death, and He put the law to death. When you believe correctly in the three works of Christ on the cross your faith keeps the presence and power of the Holy Spirit active in your mind and the felt sense of Gods love is the result.

Also according to Paul once you have come to faith in Christ if you go under law in an effort to please or serve God you have departed from the faith and quenched the Spirit which means that sin will dominate your mind and emotions until you returned to the faith and re-activate the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in your mind and emotions.

Chapter Three

Exactly - What is Sin?

Genesis 6:5 KJV - ⁵ The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

Notice in this verse that three things are mentioned--thoughts, imaginations, and the heart. According to this verse evil thoughts come from man's heart and produce images in his mind?

Genesis 8:21 KJV - ²¹ And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

According to Genesis 6:5 and 8:21 evil thoughts come from man's heart and produce images in his mind from the time he is a child?

Jeremiah 7:23-24 KJV - ²³ But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. ²⁴ But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

According to this verse Israel did not listen to the will of God being expressed through His commandments Israel listen to the counsel of their own thoughts coming from evil in their hearts?

Matthew 15:16-20 KJV - ¹⁶ And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? ¹⁷ Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? ¹⁸ But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. ¹⁹ For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: ²⁰ These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

In these verses Jesus gives us “His” understanding of sin. Is it true that Jesus saw sin as evil thoughts coming from the heart? These verses make it clear that murder, adultery, fornication, theft, blasphemes, and all other thoughts of sin come into man’s mind from evil in his heart?

If evil thoughts and desires come from the heart then what does the Bible mean by the heart?

Genesis 17:17 KJV - ¹⁷Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

In this scripture the phrase “in his heart” refer to Abraham talking silently just within his own mind?

Genesis 27:41 KJV - ⁴¹And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.

In this scripture the phrase “in his heart” refers to Esau talking silently just within his own mind?

Genesis 24:42-45 KJV - ⁴²And I came this day unto the well, and said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, if now thou do prosper my way which I go: ⁴³Behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass, that when the virgin cometh forth to draw water, and I say to her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water of thy pitcher to drink; ⁴⁴And she say to me, Both drink thou, and I will also draw for thy camels: let the same be the woman whom the LORD hath appointed out for my master's son. ⁴⁵And before I had done speaking in mine heart, behold, Rebekah came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down unto the well, and drew water: and I said unto her, Let me drink, I pray thee.

In this scripture the phrase “in my heart” refers to a silent inward conversation that Abrahams servant was having with God about a bride for Isaac? Putting all of these scriptures together the word heart in scripture clearly can refer to the inward and silent conversation that goes on inside privacy of our own mind?

Ephesians 2:1-3 KJV - ¹And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ²Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to

the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: ³Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

The prince and power of the air is Satan. In these verses Satan is described as a spirit at work in man causing disobedience to God through an inner conversation that is called the lusts of the flesh.

Galatians 5:19-21 KJV - ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

This scripture tells us that the lusts of the flesh also known as the works of the flesh are thoughts, images and desires of adultery, fornication, hatred, murder, envying, and such like.

John 8:34 - Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

Romans 6:6 - For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.

The word slavery linked up with the word sin directly implies that there is a master behind the scenes who has the authority and power to compel us to sin even though we may not want to.

Ephesians 6:12 KJV - For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Colossians 2:15 - ¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. ^[d]

In these scriptures Paul calls the spiritual world of sin principalities, powers, and authorities.

Romans 6:6 KJV - Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Romans 6:6 NIV - For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

Ephesians 4:22 KJV - That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Ephesians 4:22 NIV - You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

Colossians 3:9 KJV - Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

Colossians 3:9 NIV - Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

In the King James Version of the Bible sin which is put of or crucified with Christ is called the Old Man. In the New International Version of the Bible sin which is put of or crucified with Christ is called the Old Self.

So, putting all of these scriptures together according to the Bible sin is actually evil spirits that are referred to as principalities, powers, and authorities. Evil spirits are referred to as principalities, powers, and authorities, because they have the ability to give us ungodly thoughts, images, and desires which form an identity in us that we think of as our self. These ungodly thoughts, images and desires literally counsel us through an inward conversation to do what is evil in the sight of God and if we agree with them they gain the power to compel us to sin even if we don't want to.

We hear the thoughts, see the images, and feel the desires of sin as an inner conversation in the first and second person; in other words we hear the conversation of sin in our minds as I and you. The, "I and you" conversations going on in our head is what we are used to thinking of as our self and is what the Bible calls the old man.

When we believe thoughts, images, and desires of sin they become authoritative in the sense that they gain the power to emotionally compel us to sin even if we don't really want to sin. The compulsion to sin even if we don't want to sin is known in the Bible as slavery to sin.

Examples of the inward conversation of sin for group discussion.

Final Thoughts

1. Sinful thoughts and desires are painful to the soul and they are toxic to the body.
2. Thoughts and desires that God labels as sin produce such pain in the soul that we have to numb the pain by escaping into such things as smoking, drinking, drugs, over eating and so on.
3. Thoughts and desires that God labels as sin are also toxic to the body. Our bodies manufacture chemicals in response to our thoughts and feelings. Sinful thoughts and desires cause the body to manufacture harmful toxic chemicals in the body; Godly thoughts and desires cause the body to manufacture soothing and healing chemicals for the body. You can read more on this subject from Dr. Caroline Leaf in her book called toxic thoughts.

Chapter Four

New Covenant Righteousness

Galatians 2:20 - ²⁰I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

John 14: 27 - ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 15:9-12 - ⁹"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you obey my commands; you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Nehemiah 8:10c – for the joy of the lord is your strength.

Galatians 5:22-23b - ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control.

Romans 13:9-10 - ⁹The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law

New Covenant righteousness is Christ in you; as Paul puts it, "it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me". Christ in you is the peace, love, and joy of the Lord established in your mind and emotions by the Holy Spirit.

God's love in you by the Spirit fulfills all the moral aspects of the law in the sense that love does not want to commit adultery, love does not want to steal, love does not want to covet, and whatever other aspects of moral virtue there are in the law of God, love fulfills them all.

So, God's love alive in your mind and emotions by the Spirit produces joy, and joy is strength for living. So, the felt sense of God's love, established in your mind and emotions by the Spirit, is joyful, strong, and naturally fulfills all the moral law of God.

God's love alive in your mind and emotions by the Spirit is described by other phrases in the Bible such as Christ in you, the resurrected life, and the fruit of the Spirit. So, when I use the phrases Christ in you, the resurrected life, or the fruit of the Spirit I mean God's love alive in your mind and emotions given to you by the Holy Spirit.

Gods love established in your mind and emotions by the Spirit is New Covenant righteousness period. Nothing else can be added. If you add anything to love as some form of righteousness you will go under law and you will quench the Spirit and sin will be your master. So, nothing else except Gods love is New Covenant righteousness.

Now the faith that it takes to sustain Gods love in your mind and emotions by the Spirit after you have come to Christ is not just belief in Jesus as the son of God, it is also belief in the work of Christ on the cross.

Belief in Christ activates God's love in your mind and emotions through the Spirit and belief in the work of Christ on the cross permanently establishes God's love in your mind and emotions by the Spirit.

Paul identifies three works of Christ on the cross. On the cross Jesus forgave sin, He put sin to death and He put the law to death. When all three aspects of the cross are believed correctly the resurrected life, the felt sense of Gods love by the Spirit, is the result.

Chapter Five

New Covenant Forgiveness

Romans 1:18 - ¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

Matthew 9:1-7 - ¹Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. ²Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." ³At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" ⁴Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? ⁵Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ⁶But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." ⁷And the man got up and went home.

Pauls statement "the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against godlessness and wickedness" was the typical Jewish sentiment of the day. According to Jewish understanding under the Law of Moses Gods wrath was always being poured out.

In order to avoid God's wrath an Israelite had to sacrifice and obey all the other Laws. If, as an Israelite you did not sacrifice and keep all the other Laws you would come under the wrath of God which would show up in your life as sickness, disease, untimely death, misfortunes of many kinds, or financial hardship.

Under the Old Covenant not only is Gods wrath always being poured out but He also remembers sin, He holds sin against people sometimes to the third and fourth generations.

So, when the paralytic was let down in front of Jesus the Pharisees present saw the paralytic as someone who had come under the wrath of God for some sin God was holding against him or his family and the wrath of God was showing up in his life as paralyses.

When Jesus said "your sins are forgiven" to the paralytic the Pharisees thought only God can forgive sin which means, in the Pharisees mind, only God can forgive this man as a sovereign act apart from sacrifices and if God forgave him he would be healed. So, that is why Jesus said to the Pharisee "which is harder to forgive sin or to say rise up and walk". When the paralytic was healed the Pharisees knew beyond a doubt that this was the son

of God who could forgive sin in a way that releases people from the effects of God's wrath.

In the New Covenant as far as the wrath of God for sin is concerned Jesus through the sacrifice of His broken body and shed blood on the cross took the wrath of God, the punishment of our sins, upon Himself and entirely removed God's anger for sin, giving us peace with God.

Isaiah 53:5 - ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Simply put, because of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus on the cross God is no longer angry at you because of sin. The wrath of God toward sin was completely consumed on the cross for all those who believe.

In the book of Romans chapter four Paul talks about justification through faith; he picks Psalm Thirty-two verses one and two to describe the type of forgiveness that we have through Christ which causes us to be justified in the sight of God.

Romans 4:7-8 from Psalm 32:1-2 - ⁷"Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. ⁸Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."

In the book of Hebrews chapter eight Paul quotes Jeremiah who prophesies about the kind of forgiveness that believers will have in the New Covenant.

Hebrews 8:8-10 & 12 from Jeremiah 31:31-34 - ⁸But God found fault with the people and said: "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. ⁹It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. ¹⁰This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ¹²For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

Notice in these scriptures that the New Covenant is "not" like the Old Covenant. In the Old Covenant God remembers sin, He keeps account of sin and that is why yearly sacrifices had to be made. In the New Covenant because of the broken body and shed

blood of Jesus, God is merciful to our unrighteousness; He remembers our sins and lawless deeds no more. He does not count our sins against us.

Colossians 2:13 - ¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.

In the book of Colossians Paul tells us that Jesus forgave “**all**” of our sins. Every Pharisee and teacher of the law under the Old Covenant knew that animal sacrifices covered only past sins. Under the New Covenant “**all**” of our sins are forgiven. The word “**all**” when it is connected to forgiveness in the scriptures can only mean that “**all**” of our sins are forgiven as in past, present, and future.

Through the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus on the cross you have been forgiven of “**all**” your sins, which means, forgiveness is now a forgone conclusion in God’s mind. Because of the cross in God’s mind you are already forgiven even if you sin; because of the cross God is merciful to our unrighteousness; He remembers our sins and lawless deeds no more. He does not count our sins against us.

Jesus on the cross and Stephen the first martyr are perfect examples of New Covenant forgiveness. On the cross Jesus forgave His persecutors as they were sinning against Him. Stephen, the first recorded New Covenant martyr, also forgave his persecutors as they were sinning against him.

Once Again for Emphasis:

God, through the sacrifice of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus has forgiven you of “**all**” your sins past, present, and future. In God’s mind, because of the cross, forgiveness is now a forgone conclusion; He does not count your sins against you, He is merciful toward your unrighteousness, and your sins and lawless deeds He remembers no more.

Now, at this point, the idea will arise that this way of belief in forgiveness is a license to sin. On the contrary, believing that “**all**” of your sins are forgiven and passing that kind of forgiveness on to others will activate the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in your mind and emotions and you will immediately sin less not more.

After you received Christ instead of being taught that “**all**” of your sins have been forgiven you were probably taught that you had to keep asking God for forgiveness; as if he is holding your sins against you until you ask for more forgiveness.

Asking for forgiveness is not part of the Old Covenant nor is it part of the New Covenant. In the Old Covenant there is no such thing as asking God for forgiveness; there was confession of sin, a sacrifice was made, and then the covering of past sins and peace with God was obtained.

In the New Covenant God's pattern for forgiveness is exactly the same as it was in the Old Covenant but with permanent results. The Holy Spirit through the preaching of the gospel causes us to become aware of ourselves as sinners and in need of a savior. He then leads us to the cross, where we confess that we are sinners and at that moment we are forgiven of **"all"** our sins and we obtain peace with God.

1 John 1:9 is the scripture most often used to supposedly prove that we need to continue to ask God for forgiveness once we have been to the cross. But, have you ever noticed what 1 John 1:9 really says? "If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness".

Notice, that there is no such thing as "asking God for forgiveness" in **1 John 1:9**; rather there is, confession of sin, then forgiveness, and the cleansing of **"all"** unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 states that you are cleansed from **"all"** unrighteousness once you have obtained forgiveness so there is no expectation of an ongoing confession of sin to obtain more forgiveness. 1 John 1:9 is talking about a one time confession of sin which obtains permanent forgiveness and the cleansing of **"all"** unrighteousness.

If you believe that you have to continue to ask God for forgiveness once you have received Christ then what you really believe is that God is holding your sins against you until you ask for more forgiveness. This belief causes you to see God as if He is constantly judging you for your sins and the result is real feelings of condemnation which bind you to sin all the more.

A Real Breakthrough

I was talking to a pastor about forgiveness; call him Pastor Noble because at the end of our conversation I found him to be of noble and honest character. Now, Pastor Noble preached the gospel for over thirty years and always taught believers to ask God for forgiveness when they sinned. During our conversation Pastor Noble was having a hard time grasping the idea that all of our sins were forgiven the moment that we received Christ and that there is no need to ask God for more forgiveness.

At one point in our conversation I told Pastor Noble that I could prove to him that he did not actually believe in asking for forgiveness even though he taught it that way. Pastor

Noble looked at me with real curiosity waiting for me to prove to him that he didn't believe in asking for forgiveness. So I asked him this simple question. When people sin against you do you require them to ask you for forgiveness or do you simply forgive them?

Pastor Noble's jaw dropped, he lowered his head, and stared at the floor for a few moments. He then slowly looked to the right then to the left contemplating the question. With an utterly shocked look on his face Pastor Noble looked at me and said "I have never once in thirty two years of ministry required a person to ask me for forgiveness. I just forgive them". My next question was why do you just forgive them? Pastor Noble said "I forgive them this way because I have been forgiven in this way". Still in shock pastor noble said "how could I have missed this all these years"

In my lifetime I have heard hundreds of stories about Christians simply forgiving those who have sinned against them. Some of these stories are forgiveness for terrible crimes and not once did any of these believers require the offender to ask them for forgiveness, because we instinctively forgive, the way we have been forgiven.

Forgiveness is not something we have to constantly ask for as believers; forgiveness is something we believe in and apply in everyday life. Jesus said "take up your cross daily", meaning, forgive daily.

Matthew 16: 24 - ²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Correct belief in and application of New Covenant forgiveness will keep the presence and power of the Holy Spirit active in your mind and emotions and in the circumstances of your life. There are four areas that you can apply the grace of God which will have profoundly positive results. Those areas are forgiveness for yourself, forgiveness of past injustices, forgiveness in present moment everyday life, and forgiveness in casual conversation.

For clarity, keep in mind that I use the word grace and forgiveness interchangeably; when I use the word grace I mean forgiveness as outlined in this session. I also use the phrase the fruit of the Spirit interchangeably with the peace, love, and joy of the Lord; when I use the phrase the fruit of the Spirit I mean the peace, love, and joy of the Lord.

Forgiveness for Yourself

The first person to forgive is you; the first person to place under the grace of God is yourself. Some believers think that if they resent themselves for their sins they are somehow in agreement with God. Resenting yourself because of sin is simply giving

more power to sin and it quenches the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in your mind and emotions.

Resenting yourself for sin is the first step that puts you on the sin-a-go-round. You know the routine, sin, resent yourself, repent, and then try to do better; sin, resent yourself, repent, and then try to do better; go round and go round some more until you are so frustrated with yourself that you just want to give up; or worse yet you just decide to live with feelings of condemnation and do the best you can hoping for a life of peace, love, and joy in heaven.

If you have a hard time forgiving yourself you are just going to have to realize that self resentment for sin is not agreement with God. Any kind of un-forgiveness even self resentment will stop the Holy Spirit from establishing the peace, love, and joy of the Lord in you and giving you power over sin.

So, put yourself squarely under the grace of God; believe that God because of the cross has forgiven you of all your sins past, present and future; that He is merciful to your unrighteousness, and He remembers your sins no more. This belief will cause you to feel loved and accepted by God and it is also the first step to activating the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in your mind and emotions.

Forgiveness; of past injustices as they surface in your mind

Because of the body and blood of Jesus forgiveness is now a forgone conclusion in God's mind; He is merciful to your unrighteousness, and your lawless deeds He remembers no more. So in the same way because of the cross let forgiveness for others be a forgone conclusion in your mind; be merciful to others for their unrighteousness, and do not hold their sins against them; even when memories of past injustices surface in your mind.

Have you ever noticed that there is a constant conversation going on in the privacy of your own mind? We call that conversation thinking. Thinking produces images and feelings just as if you are watching a movie in your mind yet participating in it at the same time. Among the things we think about everyday are thoughts of past injustices.

Occasionally, throughout the course of the day, our minds will flare up with thoughts, images, and feelings of some injustice done to us in the past. We will see ourselves, in our minds imagination in that scene of the past, and we usually correct the injustice by thinking in terms of what we should have said, or what we should have done in that situation. But, have you ever noticed that this way of thinking never actually corrects the feelings of injustice. The thoughts of past injustices and their feelings still come back and replay themselves in our minds over and over again.

Past injustices can have profound present moment effects in your life. Certain parts of your personality may have been formed from your reaction, in the past, to some form of injustice. Some of the feelings that you live with on a daily basis may have roots that go back to your reaction to some injustice that was perpetrated on you a long time ago.

So, your reaction in the past to injustice may be having real present moment negative effects in your personality and in the feelings that you live with on a daily basis. Thinking in terms of what you should have said, or what you should have done when those memories surface is thinking in terms of resentment and revenge. When past memories surface and you permit yourself to think about them in terms of resentment and revenge you only strengthen the negative effects that they have in your life. Thinking in terms of forgiveness when memories of past injustice surface will have profoundly positive effects in your life.

If you think in terms of forgiveness when memories of past injustices surface you will release the Holy Spirit into your mind and emotions and He will heal those memories, and take away all the negative present moment effects.

Forgiveness and the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday circumstances

Forgiveness because of Christ is now a forgone conclusion in Gods mind. So, in the same way let forgiveness be a forgone conclusion in your mind. In the privacy of you own mind forgive as you are being sinned against and you will see the power of the Holy Spirit in the circumstances of your life. Present moment forgiveness, that is forgiveness as someone is sinning against you, is known as overlooking sin and it is sometimes referred to as not taking offence. The more you practice present moment forgiveness the more gracious your mind will become and the more power of the Spirit you will experience in your own mind and emotions and in all the circumstances of your life.

Example

Jay was ten years old when he told his mother that he wanted to kill himself. Everyday in school four boys were relentlessly teasing him. They would wait for Jay to get off the bus and on his way into the school building they would blast him with derogatory remarks about his weight. Jay's parents tried to get school officials to stop the teasing but they were just passive about the matter.

Jay's parents attended one of our "Life in Christ" seminars and asked if I would be willing to talk to Jay. I drew two circles on a blackboard for Jay; one large circle and one small circle. I told him that the small circle represented the pain that the boys' teasing was causing him. I pointed to the other circle and told him that the large circle represented the pain that he was causing himself by hating the boys for teasing him.

I showed Jay how to activate the power of the Holy Spirit in his mind and emotions through correct belief in forgiveness through the body and blood of Jesus. I also told Jay that the Holy Spirit would influence the circumstance as long as he maintained a forgiving attitude in his own mind.

The next day after he got off the bus the boys began teasing him as usual, only this time Jay resisted the thoughts and feelings of hatred with the correct belief in mind about forgiveness through the body and blood of Jesus.

By the time Jay reached the entrance to the school building he was feeling great. Instead of feeling pain and depression he felt peace, joy, and strength. This same scene repeated itself for the next three days and on the fourth day the boys were no longer waiting for Jay to get off the bus.

Within two weeks time three of the four boys became friends with Jay and the fourth boy came along as Jay's friend a week later. These boys have all remained friends to this day.

Through correct belief in forgiveness and with the power of the Holy Spirit Jay's enemies became his friends.

Now you try it. The proof that this type of belief in forgiveness works will be in your own experience. The next time you have trouble with any thoughts or feelings that are un-forgiving just resist them with correct belief in mind about forgiveness through the body and blood of Jesus.

Then simply enjoy the peace and watch for the Holy Spirit to influence the circumstances of your life. Do not try to manipulate circumstances the way that you want it to go, instead watch to see the way that the Holy Spirit works things out for you.

Grace in Casual Conversation

If you want the power of forgiveness to really work for you another area to apply grace is in casual conversation. My wife and I have a friend who is always gracious in her conversation when it comes to others; she always gives others the benefit of the doubt and excuses the injustices of this world in her conversation even when those injustices affect her or her family. It is as if she does not want the junk of judgmental thinking floating around in the atmosphere through casual conversation.

Forgiveness and wrong perceptions in life

Tyler's story – Chera's story to be added

Chapter Six Dead to Sin

John 1:29 - ²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

How did Jesus take away sin?

2 Corinthians 5:21 – ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Romans 8:1-4 - ¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

Jesus took away the sins of the world by becoming a sin offering.

So, what is a sin offering?

Before we can understand what a sin offering is we have to understand condemnation. In Genesis 3:10-20 God condemns Adam and Eve to live in sin. In Romans 5:19 sin is passed on to Adam and Eves children, all of us, so we also have to live in sin.

When Paul says, "Jesus became a sin offering and condemned sin in sinful man", He means that Jesus took our sins into His body on the cross and put them to death.

And this is where Romans 6:1-14 comes in.

Romans 6:1-14 - ¹What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵If

we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin (sin in the body) might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

You have already died to sin.

In Romans chapter six Paul uses baptism to symbolize the benefits that we received by the Spirit when we came to Christ.

According to Paul, baptism represents receiving the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection by the Spirit. Water in Baptism represents the Holy Spirit; going under water in baptism means that the Spirit of God has caused us to die to sin because Jesus put sin to death on the cross; coming up out of the water in baptism means the Spirit of God has raised the life of Christ up in us.

Galatians 5:24 - And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Galatians 5: 24 - ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

If you have received Christ you have already died to sin and the life of Christ, that is His peace, love, and joy have already been raised up inside of you by the Holy Spirit.

However, there is a good chance that after you came to Christ you believed and incorrect gospel message, which quenched the power of the Holy Spirit to take away your sins and quenched the power of the Spirit to maintain the life of Christ in you. There are two things in the New Covenant that will quench the presence and power of the Spirit in your

mind and emotions. Those two things are un-forgiveness, and going under any kind of law in an attempt to please or serve God.

So, in order to re-activate the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to take away thoughts, images, and desires of sin and to establish the life of Christ in your mind and emotions you are going to have to come back to the faith and count yourself dead to sin even if you sin. So, count yourself dead to sin by faith, even if you sin, and soon you won't be sinning.

I will explain more about that kind of faith in the next chapter. Faith in the New Covenant is actually what you believe about yourself in regard to the death and resurrection of Christ.

Chapter Seven

Dead to the Law

Jesus put the law to death through the cross

Galatians 3:10 - ¹⁰All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

Romans 7:1-25 - ¹Do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to men who know the law—that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives? ²For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. ³So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.

⁴So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. ⁵For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. ⁶But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

⁷What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." ⁸But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. ⁹Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. ¹⁰I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death.

¹¹For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. ¹²So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good. ¹³Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

²¹So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²²For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. ²⁴What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

1 Corinthians 15:56 - The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

Galatians 5:4 - You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

Ephesians 2:14-18 - ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

If you put yourself under any kind of law in an attempt to serve God once you have come to Christ you will quench the power of the Holy Spirit in your mind and emotions; you will fall from grace. Grace the way Paul uses the word means the power of the Holy Spirit through faith to take away your sins and raise the life of Christ up in you.

Colossians 2:13-15 - ¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, ^[b] God made you ^[c] alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. ^[d]

According to Paul the written code which is the Law of Moses with its regulations was against us, it stood opposed to us, so God took it away and nailed it to the cross. Notice that the removal of the law in this scripture is the result of forgiveness of all sin and is also results in the disarming the powers and authorities of sin.

Let me explain how that works; in the Old Covenant God is a judge and His basis of Judgment is the Law. Since no one can live up to all of the righteousness of the Law, the Law stands as a wall between God and man. So, God in Christ through the cross forgave all sin and canceled the written code that stood between God and man which means that in Christ God has no basis of judgment for believers.

So, in Christ Gods forgiveness is permanent because in Christ God no longer has a Law by which He judges, which actually has the effect of disarming the powers and authorities. The powers and authorities that Paul is talking about are the various spirits of sin and their power and authority to enslave us to sin.

Now, let me show you how this works through a real life experience.

I knew a man, call him Joe, who was a believer for over twenty five years, he is married has children and was also secretly addicted to pornography. Now, Joe attended church regularly, is an elder in his church, and quietly sought help for his addiction on several occasions but with no lasting success. After several conversations with Joe about Paul's gospel I realized that he got the message and I was sure that after a few months he would be able to, by the Spirit, overcome his addiction, and he did.

In Paul's language the spirit of lust is called a principality, which had the power to compel Joes mind and emotions with thoughts, images and desires of lust. The reason why the spirit of lust had the ability enslave Joe (compel him to sin even though he did not want to) was because his belief in Christ was incomplete. So, I told him the rest of the story.

I explain to Joe that on the cross Jesus forgave sin, He put sin to dearth, and He put the Law to death. I showed him how through the cross Jesus put the law to death so that ever since he came to Christ God does not have a law by which he is judging Joe for his sins.

I then told Joe to believe in the cross with boldness. I told him to believe that he was forgiven even if he sinned, I told him to believe that he was dead to sin even if he sinned, and I told him to believe that he was dead to the law which means that God in Christ has no law by which to judge him for his sins. I told Joe if he believes these things his belief

will increasingly disarm the power of the spirit of lust in his mind and emotions and he will feel love for God and people by the Spirit.

Now, Joe made an interesting comment at this point he said “Frank you want me to believe that I am dead to sin despite reality”. I said “yes that’s right I want you to believe despite the present reality so that your belief can activate the Holy Spirit to create a new reality for you. In Christ I told Joe “we don’t believe because we see, we see because we believe”.

Joe got the message and began to believe that he was forgiven of sin even if he sinned; he believed that he was dead to sin, even if he sinned, and he believed that God was no longer judging him for sin because Jesus put the law to death on the cross. Joe also passed forgiveness on to others in the privacy of his own mind and he also stopped judging others in his own mind based upon God’s law and other laws of righteousness that he made up in his own mind.

Now, the end of the story is this; Joe immediately felt that God loved him and he immediately began to sin less, and less, until in about eight months, Joe simply sinned no more with pornography. In Paul’s language Joe’s completed belief in Christ disarmed the spirit of lust, (the principalities, powers, and authorities of sin) and freed the power of the Spirit in his mind and emotions so that he could feel God’s love which in turn caused him to not want to sin anymore.

Authority or Servitude - A look at New Covenant leadership

Mathew 20:20-28 - ²⁰Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. ²¹"What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." ²²"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. ²³Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." ²⁴When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:41-43 - ⁴¹When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. ⁴²Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

Luke 22:24-26 - ²⁴Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. ²⁶But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.

Mathew 23:8-10 - ⁸But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. ⁹And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. ¹⁰Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.

In Middle Eastern culture as well as in old European culture fathers were seen not only as dads but they were also as seen as authorities to be obeyed. Rabbies, pastors, teachers and the like were seen the same way, as authorities to be obeyed. In the kingdom of God there are no such authorities.

Jesus told the disciple that in His kingdom there is no such thing as authorities who rule over believers. Since believers have the Holy Spirit, they by nature, fulfill the moral law of God, so there is no need for authority. As a matter of fact Jesus went further and told the disciples that the greatest in the kingdom of God meaning those who seem to be leaders are to be like servants.

There is grave danger in changing our view of life in Christ from grace to authoritarianism. If you put yourself under authority thinking that you are serving God you will depart from grace. Those who think they are authorities in Christ always have their own version of law for you to obey. Any attempt on your part to serve God through obedience to any kind of law, no matter how holy it seems, will cause you to fall from grace, meaning you will quench the Spirit, and have no power over sin or any power to live in the peace, love, and joy of the lord.

Mathew 24:5 - ⁵For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

There is only one type of person in the Bible who comes in the name of Jesus saying that He is the Christ and still has the ability to deceive. That type of person is a legalist in the name of Jesus. The circumcision group was a group of Pharisees who believed that Jesus was the messiah. They also believed and taught that you had to obey the Law of Moses to be saved. So, the circumcision group was the first group of legalists coming in the name of Jesus saying that he is the Christ yet deceiving many by teaching them to go back under law.

Mathew 6:19-34 -¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²²"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. ²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life^[b]?²⁸"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

The kingdom of God is the life of Christ established in you by the Holy Spirit; His righteousness is love, which naturally fulfills all the morality of the law. According to this scripture our focus (an eye full of light) needs to be on His life in us and through us on a daily basis. The effect of Gods love in us on the world around us will be absolutely phenomenal.

