

THE POWER TO WIN: IT'S NOT ME BUT CHRIST IN ME

SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

WORSHIP

Sing Sing Sing, House of the Lord, Alive in You, In Christ Alone, King of Kings

WELCOME

What is your superpower (strength)? What is your “Kryptonite” (weakness)?

WORD

ROMANS 8:1-4 (READ UP TO V.17 BEFOREHAND)

Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Condemnation (Gk. katakrima) is a legal decision of guilt with a punishment. Take for example the case of a Filipina OFW, Sarah Balabagan, who in 1994 was convicted of murder, a legal decision. The punishment was death by firing squad. This was her condemnation. We are worst compared to this case apart from Christ. Without Christ, we are condemned of our sin. There is a legal decision against us. We are sentenced to eternal death, an eternal separation from God.

As for Sarah’s case, the Philippine government intervened. The death sentence was overturned! No longer condemned to die, she was able to go home after given a lighter punishment. She was saved! For us who are in Christ, there is now no condemnation (**Romans 8:1**). God intervened. He sent Jesus Christ to take our place on the cross.

1. FIGHT SIN WITH THE POWER OF GOD’S GRACE (Romans 8:1-4)

Understanding that there is no condemnation for us who are in Christ (**v.1**), we have to fight sin by the grace of God. God’s grace gives us freedom from the legal condemnation of sin. We may feel or hear voices of condemnation, but we have to remind ourselves ‘I am not condemned’. Jesus already paid the price.

The law of the Spirit and the law of sin and death are two laws in effect over our lives (**v.2**); but the law of the Spirit is greater than the law of sin and death. God’s grace gives us freedom from the actual power of sin. It is great enough to forgive us, and though we’re not set free from the consequences of sinning against God, there is no more condemnation. He sent Jesus who took the penalty of sin by taking the body of a human being (**v.3**). We were saved so that God can continue to work in us (**v.4**). Once we are saved, we have the power to become more like Christ. The requirement of the law is to love God and love others (**Romans 13**). We can’t do that on our own strength but God gives us the power.

2. FIGHT SIN BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (Romans 8:5-13)

In **John 14:16-18**, Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit to His disciples as “another helper” and the “Spirit of truth”. This is God’s promise —He will give us His Holy Spirit who gives power and victory over sin. There are two kinds of people in the world: those who are according to the flesh and those who are according to the Spirit (**v.5**). **Romans 8:6-9** describes the person who does not have the Holy Spirit (according to the flesh) which is opposite to the person who has the Holy Spirit (according to the Spirit):

ACCORDING TO THE FLESH	ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT
Mind set on the Flesh	Mind set on the Spirit
Death	Life & Peace
Hostile toward God	Loves God
Does not subject itself to the law of God	Submits to and Obeys God’s law
Is not able to do so	Free to Obey

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Cannot please God	Pleases God
Does not belong to God	Belongs to God

Galatians 5:16 says to “walk by the Spirit” to fight sin by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit and we should allow Him to control us. When we walk with God—being attentive to His voice and being in Scripture, He will mold us and use us in ways we never imagined. One of the greatest joys of the Christian life is being able to allow God to transform and shape us through the power of the Holy Spirit who is at work in us.

Sickness, sorrow, and the physical body wearing away is a reality (**vv. 10-11**), but we can hold on to the promise that our body will become a glorified one someday; until then we are going to struggle with sin. This battle is real, but we have the power to have victory in Christ because of the Holy Spirit. But we have to put to death the deeds of the body (**vv.12-13**). These deeds of the flesh (**Galatians 5:19-21**) are obvious characteristics of a person who are not in Christ. All of us have deeds in the flesh that we need to put to death.

In summary, these are the works of the Holy Spirit in us:

- He controls us
- He seals us
- He seals resurrects us
- His indwelling obliges us to live His way
- His power enables us to put to death our sin

3. FIGHT SIN WITH THE POWER OF OUR NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST (Romans 8:14-17)

All who are being controlled by the Holy Spirit are sons and daughters of God (**v.14**). God is the ultimate Father (**v.15**). We are children of God (**v.16**). The Christian life is not easy. There is an element of suffering when we put to death the deeds of the flesh (**v.17**); but God has given us His Spirit. We are His children and His heirs. Our perfect heavenly Father desires for us to become all that He wants us to be and this identity of being a child of God makes us want to please Him too.

Adoption during the Roman time was beautiful because if you're adopted:

1. Old debts and legal obligations were paid
2. Got a new name and was instantly heir of all the father had
3. New father became instantly liable for all his actions
4. New child also had new obligations to honor and please his father

Our identity as God's children shows us who we are. Our behavior should reflect who we are and who we represent. It also gives us the assurance that our Heavenly Father is there to bring about the transformation in our lives when we no longer feel we can go forward.

God has given us the power to win. The normal Christian life is a victorious life. We have God's grace. We have God's power. We have the identity as God's children!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

When was the last time you felt condemnation? How will you deal with it differently after what you learned today?

2. Setting It Right.

What sin in your life do you need to put to death by the power of the Holy Spirit?

3. Living It Out.

How will your new identity in Christ help you have victory in our battle against sin?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people who are not in Christ for they are eternally condemned. Be Spirit-filled and practice a non-judgmental and non-condemning attitude towards all people. Treat them with grace through your words and actions. Share to somebody who feels weak and defeated in life, the Source of power and victory that is in you—Jesus Christ!

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

II. Country and the World

- War in Ukraine to end; peace and order restored; lives be rebuilt, and people come to Christ in their suffering.
- Upright and moral governance of public servants and a God-centered Philippines.
- Repentance and salvation for government leaders, citizens.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

ROMANS 8:1

Therefore, there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.