



THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

PART II

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The Power of the Gospel - Part 2

LESSON 7: STRUGGLING WITH SIN

ROMANS 7:14-25

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: ROMANS 7:1-25

LET'S DISCUSS: WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT WE STRUGGLE WITH IN LIFE AS HUMAN BEINGS?

Struggle: to proceed with difficulty or with great effort

ROMANS 7:13-15

NKJV: "Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do."

NLT: "But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my death? Of course not! Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death. So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God's good commands for its own evil purposes. So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate."

Discussion Question #1

- How important is it to understand where the struggle with sin is coming from?

ROMANS 7:16-20

NKJV: "If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me."

Discussion Question #2

- Do you see sharing the gospel as a privilege, a burden, a charge, challenging or a blessing?

ROMANS 7:21-25

NKJV: “I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.”

NLT: “I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God’s law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God’s law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.”

Discussion Question #3

- Does the scripture below bring any light to the passages that we have studied tonight?

GALATIANS 5:16-18

NKJV: “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

APPLY THE TEXT

Paul’s experience as a believer parallels that of many Christians today. They struggle to do right but seem to fail again and again. The only hope is to stop struggling and seek another route to righteousness, that is Jesus Christ.

MEMORY VERSE

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4:7

LESSON 8: FREE FROM INDWELLING SIN

ROMANS 8:1-11

CONDEMNATION: TO DECLARE TO BE REPREHENSIBLE, WRONG, OR EVIL USUALLY AFTER WEIGHING EVIDENCE AND WITHOUT RESERVATION, TO PRONOUNCE GUILTY.

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND FREEDOM UNTIL YOU HAVE BEEN BOUND AND THEN SET FREE?

ROMANS 8:1-5

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For 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.

Discussion Question #1

- Considering what Christ has done for us, how would you explain salvation to a dear unsaved friend or relative?

ROMANS 8:6-8

NKJV:“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

NLT:“So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God’s laws, and it never will. That’s why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.”

Discussion Question #2

- How do we allow the Spirit to control our minds?

ROMANS 8:9-11

NKJV: “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

NLT: “But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.”

Discussion Question #3

- How do you know that the Holy Spirit lives and dwells in your heart?

APPLY THE TEXT

Freedom is something to be cherished and enjoyed, for our freedom came with a great price, the precious blood of Jesus Christ. So let us walk in that freedom in such a way that the world will want to look into this great freedom and come to Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”

Galatians 5:1 NKJV

LESSON 9: FROM SUFFERING TO GLORY

ROMANS 8:18-28 - BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 8:12-17

SUFFERING: TO SUBMIT TO OR BE FORCED TO ENDURE, TO PUT UP WITH ESPECIALLY AS INEVITABLE OR UNAVOIDABLE, TO ENDURE DEATH, PAIN, OR DISTRESS

GLORY: WORSHIPFUL PRAISE, HONOR, AND THANKSGIVING

ROMANS 8:18

NKJV: “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

NLT: “Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.”

Discussion Question #1

- From a personal point of view, how does this scripture speak to you concerning the now and the future?

ROMANS 8:19-22

NKJV: “For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.”

NLT: “For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.”

Discussion Question #2

- What are the effects of the curse in the world that we see in effect today?

ROMANS 8:23-25

NKJV: “Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were

saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”

NLT: “And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don’t need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don’t yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)”

Discussion Question #3

- Considering verses 23-25, how would you explain your hope in Christ to a non-believer?

ROMANS 8:26-28

NKJV: ²⁶ “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

NLT: ²⁶ And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. ²⁷ And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will. ²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Discussion Question #4

- Have you ever been in a place where you just didn’t what to or how to pray and yet you were trusting in God?

APPLY THE TEXT

We understand that suffering is not easy or comfortable but if we hold on to God’s unchanging hand amid our suffering we will see the glory of God.

MEMORY VERSE

“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

Romans 5:3-4 NKJV

LESSON 10: GOD'S EVERLASTING LOVE

ROMANS 8:29-37

AGAPE LOVE: IS SELFLESS, SACRIFICIAL, UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. IT IS THE HIGHEST OF THE FOUR TYPES OF LOVE IN THE BIBLE. THIS GREEK WORD, AGÁPĒ (PRONOUNCED UH-GAH-PAY), AND VARIATIONS OF IT ARE FREQUENTLY FOUND THROUGHOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT BUT RARELY IN NON-CHRISTIAN GREEK LITERATURE.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” John 3:16-17 NKJV

ROMANS 8:29-30

NKJV: “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”

NLT: “For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.”

Discussion Question #1

- How do you reconcile God's omniscience with man's free will (volition)?

ROMANS 8:31-36

NKJV: “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.””

NLT: “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is

he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

Discussion Question #2

- How does Isaiah 54:17 coincide with verses 8:31-36?

"No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me," Says the LORD."

ROMANS 8:37-39

NKJV: ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

NLT: ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Discussion Question #3

- How important is it to you knowing that nothing can separate you from the Love of God?

APPLY THE TEXT

Difficulties are not necessarily obstacles for God's children, but His appointed way for us to grow and glow in the love of Jesus! Nothing in the universe is outside of His control; therefore nothing (including ourselves) can separate us from His love.

MEMORY VERSE

"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

I Corinthians 13:13 NKJV

LESSON 11: RIGHTEOUSNESS PRACTICED

ROMANS 12:1-8

WHAT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS?

RIGHTEOUSNESS IS AN ATTRIBUTE THAT BELONGS TO GOD, THE LAWGIVER, AND IS MANIFESTED IN HIS LAWS. NO MAN CAN BE JUSTIFIED BY HIS WORKS APART FROM GOD'S ORDINANCE. THEREFORE, RIGHTEOUSNESS IS A WONDERFUL GIFT FROM GOD TO HUMANITY THROUGH HIS LOVE: IT IS THE GOD-GIVEN QUALITY IMPUTED TO MAN UPON BELIEVING IN THE SON OF GOD.

ROMANS 12:1-2

NKJV: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

NLT: "And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

Discussion Questions #1

- How important is it for us to understand today that Paul is admonishing fellow believers to present their bodies as a living sacrifice?

ROMANS 12:3-8

NKJV: "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."

NLT: "Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and

we all belong to each other. In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.”

Discussion Questions: #2-4

- What is it that can lead a believer to think more of themselves than they ought to?
- Every member of the body of Christ is important, how do you see yourself?
- How can you use your gifts to glorify God and edify your local church?

APPLY THE TEXT

When we look at ourselves honestly, we realize we need others in the body of Christ and others need us. Christians are interdependent persons. Like members of a human body, we need to be in place to be effective and to function as God intends. Don't isolate yourselves from other Christians. Get involved in sharing your faith and life with others.

MEMORY VERSE

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

I Peter 2:9-10 NKJV

LESSON 12: THE SHAPE OF LOVE

ROMANS 12:9-21

What are the characteristics of true Godly love (Agapao)?

If everybody loved Jesus what a wonderful world this would be!

ROMANS 12:9-13

NKJV: “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.”

NLT: “Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.”

Discussion Question #1

- Explain how some of these exhortations have made a difference in your life?

ROMANS 12:14-16

NKJV: “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.”

NLT: “Bless those who persecute you. Don’t curse them; pray that God will bless them. Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don’t be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don’t think you know it all!”

Discussion Question #2

- What does it take for a person to apply these principles, is it always easy?

ROMANS 12:17-21

NKJV: “Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge

yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

NLT: “Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the Lord. Instead, “If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.” Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.”

Discussion Question #3

- Have you discovered the benefit of applying God’s principles to your life? Explain

APPLY THE TEXT

Love is not an abstract concept in Scripture. It is a way of life. This passage describes many ways that you and I can express God’s love to others. Let’s not complain if others’ lives are not characterized by the life described here. Let’s begin to live to love ourselves among others.

MEMORY VERSE

“Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.”

Psalms 34:14-15 NKJV