

The Key To Victory Over Sin
Rom 8:12,13

7-05-09

The eighth chapter of Romans begins with an amazing truth

Rom 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

Like a pardoned criminal on death row

We have been set free from the penalty of the Law

This is the sweetest sound of any words that could possibly come from God

It's even been set to music

I thought about singing it - and then I thought better

But the words spoken without a tune are still music

Can we say them together

There is therefore, now no condemnation, for those who are in Christ Jesus

We have been set free from the penalty of sin and death

We were condemned to hell

We were living on death row

Awaiting the day of our execution

And the Judge of the universe declared us - not guilty - by reason of His Son's death

No condemnation - this is the great news that introduces this great chapter

And the chapter just keeps getting better

The eighth chapter of Romans is about the change in our nature

You see God not only declared us righteous

But He gave us a new nature

So that we might actually live the righteous life

He has already declared we have

As Paul states in Ephesians 2 - we are God's workmanship

And having had our nature changed by the Holy Spirit

We are now able to fulfill God's law

We not only have been set free from the penalty of sin

We have been set free from the captivity of sin

We are the only people on earth with the power to say no to sin

That sin that controlled you is now controllable

That is a truth that every one of us needs to appropriate

God has empowered us for victory over sin

We have been declared righteous - We have had our nature transformed

We have been enabled to keep God's law

But the fight is not over

For we still have a battle with the present flesh

And we have it on a daily basis

That is why Paul cried out in Romans 7

For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish

In other words – I don't want to sin but I just can't seem to stop

How many here can echo that painful admission

If we are to have victory over the flesh

Which is defined as our old sinful nature

Then the Holy Spirit must empower us for the fight

Or it will be a losing battle

We have been saved – no condemnation

We have been transformed – indwelt by His Spirit

But the Spirit dwells side by side with our old nature - the flesh

So there is a constant battle

Between our old fleshly nature and our new indwelt nature

And it is a battle we cannot win on our own

We must rely – WE MUST RELY on the power of the Holy Spirit

For the day to day victory over the flesh

READ ROMANS 8:12,13

These two verses tell us that the Holy Spirit has indwelt us

And we now have the power to stop the cycle of sin that dominates us

You can achieve victory over sin

The key to understanding these two verses

Is the little phrase in vs 13 – **By the Spirit**

If - by the Spirit - you are putting to death the deeds of the flesh

This is talking about a life

In which we win the battle over sin and temptation

And we do it by the power of the Spirit of God

It is important to note

That apart from the Holy Spirit there can be no victory

Flesh cannot overcome flesh

Humanness cannot overcome humanness

You cannot pick yourself up by your own bootstraps

If you try to overcome sinful desires in your own strength you will fail

The harder you try the worse you will fall

And when you fail the more guilt you will feel

The problem is this

**All that your sinful nature (the flesh) can do is serve the law of sin
Rom 7 – I know that nothing good dwells in me; that is in my flesh**

And your old nature wars against the Spirit within you

But God is at work in you and He will not ever stop

Sanctification is that process by which the Spirit of God

And I mean only the Spirit of God

Puts to death the desires of the flesh and

Conforms us into the image of the Son of God

Any false understanding of sanctification literally cripples the process

If anything is left to up to us

If anything is taken out of the control of the Spirit

Then no sanctification takes place

The flesh your old sinful nature can only serve the law of sin

Now it has many ways to disguise itself

It can appear holy- It can be sweet

It can teach Sunday School

But it is still flesh and that means that the activities

No matter how saintly they appear – are still sin

For us to express our new nature and live for God

There must be a triumph over the flesh

And the only way the flesh is defeated

Is by the power of the Holy Spirit

And in our passage today the Apostle Paul defines for us

Victory over the flesh by the power of the Spirit

When you received the Holy Spirit you received His power

**Acts 1 - You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon
you**

Power to do God's will – power for right living – power in the form of gifts

**Eph 3:16 – that God would grant you to be strengthened with power
through His Spirit in the inner man**

When Paul says you are God's workmanship he is talking about the inner
man

The Spirit of God has taken up residence within you

That is why you are called the temple of God

And you are now alive because of Him

The Spirit who is in you is the very power of God

In Acts chapter 6, It was said of the deacons

They were full of faith and full of power and full of the Holy Spirit

Now those three “full ofs” are linked

You are full of power because you are full of the Holy Spirit

You are full of the Holy Spirit because you are full of faith

Faith is the key that appropriates the very power of God

In Matt 12, Jesus said I do what I do by the power of the Spirit

That is the same Spirit now resident within you

So in Christ you have been freed from the law of sin and death

You have been made alive to God

You have been credited with Christ's righteousness

You have a new disposition

You are a new person

You are a new creation

You have the Holy Spirit in full power

Whose power has been made available to you

For among other things victory over the flesh

It is no coincidence that in Chapter 7 Paul lays out the battle

He is a wretched man - He does what he does not want to do and can't do what he wants

And then in chapter 8

He launches into the work of the Holy Spirit

Because it is the Holy Spirit

And only the Holy Spirit who gives you victory in this battle

And he says it specifically in verses 12 and 13

Now you may be thinking - I am not having too much victory in my life

Maybe I have a power shortage

But that's not the case

The power is there – it is always there

The Holy Spirit alone is the source of all your spiritual power

You just need to plug in

God in the Person of the Spirit resides in a temple called your body

And the promise of Jesus was

You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit comes upon you

Listen carefully - there are no conditions

If you are a child of God

You have the power of the Living God resident within you

When you received Jesus Christ as Savior

You received the gift of the Holy Spirit

It's really pretty simple

If you have Jesus you have the Holy Spirit

If you don't have the Holy Spirit you do not have Jesus

So the power is there

In Eph 5 Paul says – keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit

We are like a battery operated car that needs constant recharging
And Paul wants us to keep experiencing the fullness of power
To being keep filled means to yield to the Spirit totally – all the time
And that simply means to give up your own control- your agenda

Let the Holy Spirit permeate your life and exercise full control

And you do this by letting the Word of Christ dwell in you richly
Saturate yourself with the Word of God

Then Surrender your will your intellect your body

Your time your talent your treasure

Surrender everything you are and everything you have to the Spirit's control

It is really the elimination of the self-life

This is the crucified life

And it has to be done daily or more often than that

But when you begin to do this you will experience the power

And not until you do it will you consistently experience the power

So these two verses define for us the tremendous reality

Of victory over our old sinful nature

If I were to break this down into a little outline

Point 1 would be – The Power of Victory

And I have already mentioned

The power of victory is the Holy Spirit - 2X

Victory over sin and self can come from nowhere else

Point 2 is - The People of Victory

In verse 12 they are introduced - So then brethren

The people of victory are the brethren

The people of victory are those who have been redeemed in Christ

The rest of the world never, never experiences victory over sin

For some they never even experience the war

They get along fine

We have the war because when we received Jesus as Savior

We were awakened to the sin nature within us

Activities that we thought were just how people lived

We suddenly recognized as being sinful

And we don't want to be like that anymore

I believe it is possible for Christians to have higher highs

And lower lows than those who are not saved

It is possible to experience the highest exhilaration

Of praise and gratitude to God for His mercy and grace

And the depths of despair and remorse
Because of battles lost with sin
And you can have both those experiences in the same day
You cannot go through life with a continual high
And the higher the high you experience in God's presence
The lower you feel when you sin
And nothing should be more disheartening to us
Than losing the battle with the flesh
For God has supplied us with all that we need for victory
The people of victory are the brethren – the body of Christ
Only the brethren can experience the joy of rising above the corruption
The world doesn't have a clue what the Spirit filled life is about
They have a constant lack of fulfillment
Bouncing from one relationship to another
One form of pain deadener to another
A constant search to fill the emptiness
That can only be filled by Christ
There is a C/W song called – "It's Drugs Or Jesus"
In my home town; For anyone who sticks around
You're either lost or you're found
There's not much in between - In my home town
Everything's still black or white
It's a long, long way from wrong to right
From Sunday morning to Saturday night
My whole life I've tried to run; I've tried to hide
From the stained glass windows in my mind
Refusing to let God's light shine - Down on me; Down on me
Everybody wants acceptance; We all just want some proof
Everyone's just looking for the truth
Now listen to this refrain
Everybody just wants to get high;
Sit and watch a perfect world go by
We're all looking for love and meaning in our lives
We follow the roads that lead us - to drugs or Jesus
That's the choice – something to dull the pain and afford temporary relief
Or Someone to take your pain and bear it Himself – it's drugs or Jesus
The power of victory is the Holy Spirit
The people of victory are the brethren

**We achieve victory not by our own strength
But by the very power of God**

Let's finish with the third point - We Have the Pattern For Victory

Verse 12 tells us that we are not under obligation to the flesh

We do not have to do what our old sinful nature wants us to do

When we live by the Spirit we have power over our sinful nature

So the pattern for victory is simple

Don't live according to the flesh

Because you don't need to – you can rise above your old sin nature

Give yourself over to the control of the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:5 tells us that it is our mindset

That causes us to fall or to fly

If your mind is set on the things of the flesh – you will fail

If it is set on the things of the Spirit – you will succeed

You no longer have to obey the desires of the flesh

We are the only people in the world who have an option

We are not captive to the flesh – it is powerless against the Holy Spirit

But we need to have our mind set on the things of the Spirit to succeed

Make yourself captive to the Spirit of God

And you will no longer carry out the desires of the flesh

Sure the flesh is there with all its carnal demands

But you are no longer the servant of the flesh

In fact Paul says in verse 13

If you are living according to the flesh – you must die

That verse kind of frightened me

What did Paul mean by that

Did he mean that I wasn't saved if I felt trapped by sin

Or I kind of fell in and out of the salvation

I think the answer is in Galatians

Gal 2 - For I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith, of the Son of God who loves me

If you are living according to the flesh you must die to self

Remember what Jesus told His disciples

If you wish to be My disciple you must take up your cross daily

A daily dying to self

A daily filling with the Holy Spirit - A daily mindset

1John tells us we are still capable of great sin

In fact if we say we have no sin we are telling God He is a liar

Romans 7 tells us that we are still in the struggle
We continue to do what we know to be wrong
We are incapable of doing what we know to be right
But Romans 8 shows us **that victory is ours**
If we will live in the Spirit

Okay now what should you do when those fleshly desires come upon you
The first step is a step of recognition

Realize you do not have to give in to the demands of sin

You are not sin's slave – you are free from its curse and its power
You have power within you to live a better more holy way

The second step is a step of action

Verse 13 – put to death the deeds of the body

That means live the crucified life

With the Holy Spirit you have the power within you for victory

The old sin nature is not converted

It is not renewed or tamed

Brought under control or made to be obedient

Your sin nature is either crucified or it is boss

As long as it is alive it is in control

And as long as the flesh is in control

You will experience defeat after defeat

You will know that there is something

About the Christian life you are missing

And you will become discouraged

You may even begin to question the truth of the Gospel

Remember what was said of the deacons in Acts Chapter 6

They were full of faith, and full of power and full of the Holy Spirit

Remember those three “full ofs” are linked

You are full of power when you are full of the Holy Spirit

You are full of the Holy Spirit when you are full of faith

And you are full of faith when you have been crucified with Christ

I suspect that some of you are struggling with a besetting sin

You are experiencing guilt and discouragement

If the Christian life is so good - why do I feel so bad

The Christian life is not to be a rut from which we cannot escape

Or a roller coaster ride of

Sin guilt remorse confession praise

Sin guilt remorse confession praise

When God saved you

God gave you everything you need to live the life He saved you for

But to live that life you need

To pick up your cross daily

Reckon yourself as dead to sin and alive to Christ

And live by the power of the Holy Spirit

The Key To Victory Over Sin
Romans 8:12,13

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There is therefore, now no condemnation, for those who are in _____

_____ The Judge of the universe declared us not guilty, by reason of His Son's

_____ You see God not only declared us righteous, but He gave us a _____ nature, so that we might actually live the righteous life He has declared we have

We are the only people on earth with the power to say _____ to sin

To have victory over the flesh, which is defined as our old sinful nature, then the Holy Spirit must _____ us for the fight

We must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit for the day to day _____ over the flesh

Apart from the _____, there can be no victory

All that your sinful nature (the flesh) can do, is _____ the law of sin

Sanctification is that _____ by which the Spirit of God puts to death the desires of the flesh, and conforms us into the image of the Son of God

The _____ the flesh is defeated is by the power of the Holy Spirit

You are full of power because you are full of the Holy Spirit; you are full of the Holy Spirit because you are full of _____

The Holy Spirit _____ is the source of all your spiritual power

If you are a _____ of God, you have the power of the Living God resident within you

If you have _____, you have the Holy Spirit; if you don't have the Holy Spirit, you do not have Jesus

_____ on being filled with the Holy Spirit

Let the Holy Spirit permeate your life and exercise full

_____ everything you are and everything you have to the Spirit's control

The Power of Victory

The power of victory is the _____

The People of Victory

The people of victory are those who have been _____ in Christ

God has supplied us with _____ that we need for victory

Only the _____ can experience the joy of rising above the corruption

We achieve victory not by our own strength, but by the very power of _____

The Pattern For Victory

When we _____ by the Spirit we have power over our sinful nature

Give yourself over to the _____ of the Holy Spirit

Make yourself _____ to the Spirit of God, who is the power of God residing in you, and you will no longer carry out the desires of the flesh

If you are living according to the flesh you must _____ to self

_____ over sin is yours, if you will live in the Spirit

You do not have to _____ to the demands of sin

You are full of _____ when you are full of the Holy Spirit; you are full of the Holy Spirit when you are full of _____, and you are full of faith

when you have been crucified with _____

God gave you _____ you need, to live the life He saved you for

My Commitment