

Living the SPIRIT Directed Christian Life
Victory is Ours!
Romans 8:1-13

Introduction

Paul has revealed that we operate with a new identity or a New House. (Rom 6) Hence he commands us to live in that new position (6:12-13). However the reality is that we also live in this world in a Death House. (Rom 7) The battle is between the flesh and the Spirit. (Mk 14:38) The result is that I am a wretched man (7:25) The law will never defeat the flesh. So, God gave us a Power House (Rom 8) to enable us to defeat the power of the flesh give us the victory through the Spirit.

I. The Requirement for Victory 8:1

A. The Contextual Issue (Rom 5-7)

1. New House Freedom In Christ (Rom 5-6)

No longer in Adam but in Christ. 5:12ff Old man is dead 6:6

2. Death House Slavery to the Flesh (Rom 7)

The Role of the law is unhelpful 7:1-6

The Reality of the fight in the Christian life 7:15-23, Gal 5:16ff

The Result of the flesh is devastating 7:24-25

B. The Textual Issue (Rom 8:1) (95% of Greek mss contain the longer version)

^{DRA} **Romans 8:1** There is now therefore no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not according to the flesh.

^{GNV} **Romans 8:1** Now then there is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, which wake not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

^{NAS} **Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

^{NET} **Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

^{NKJ} **Romans 8:1** *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. (Also the KJV)

^{YLT} **Romans 8:1** There is, then, now no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus, who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit;

^{BGT} **Romans 8:1** Οὐδὲν ἄρα νῦν κατάκριμα τοῖς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

^{BYZ} **Romans 8:1** Οὐδὲν ἄρα νῦν κατάκριμα τοῖς ἐν χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ, μὴ κατὰ σάρκα περιπατοῦσιν, ἀλλὰ κατὰ πνεῦμα. (95% NT GK Mss have this reading)

C. The Lexical Issue 8:1

The only means for the Christian to be delivered from the manipulation of sin, manifested in the flesh, which is servitude to sin is by submission to the internal power of the Spirit not by the attempt to keep the external law. (2 Cor. 3:7)

Condemnation in the Christian life is overcome by walking in Spirit not the flesh

The term for the translation of the NAS “Condemnation” is Katakrima

It includes the declared judgment of Guilt and the penalty that is inflicted.

The topic under consideration in ch 6-8 is sanctification and therefore what Paul has in mind is that when we walk in the power of the Spirit we do not suffer the condemnation (Penal Servitude) that comes from a Christian living in sin- sin can kill you James 1:15

This is the tension Paul has been talking about 7:9-10, 24,

Also 6:6 Slaves, :14 Master, Slaves 16-22 motif.

Ch 2-4 How to be delivered from penalty of sin (Condemnation)-Justification

Ch 6-8 How to be delivered from power of sin (Penal servitude)- Sanctification

When we walk in the Power of the Spirit we can overcome sin and the results of condemnation and the servitude it brings into the life of a believer.

But this is not automatic. It is potential.

Our Position is Declared Justified- Righteous Rom 3-4. It is Fixed

Our Condition is to live Righteous- Sanctification Rom 8. It is in Flux

II The Reason of Victory 8:2-11

A. The Provision for the Victory- (Spirit of Life in Christ 8:2-4)

The Law could not deal with the guilt of sin or the power of the flesh. 7:7-25

God sent His son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with the problem

Walking **according** to the Spirit of Christ gives us life to win the victory

(This is similar to Gal 5:16 walking according to the Spirit or the flesh)

B. The Power for Victory (The Spirit 8:5-9)

Notice the difference between the use of “According” (Kata) and “In: (En)

“According to”—a Christian living under- operating by either Spirit or flesh

“Not Being In” – A non Christian not “in Christ” they are “in the flesh”

All Christians are **in** Christ but not all Christians walk **according** to the Spirit

The Spirit “dwells” in Christians. 8:9, 11x2

C. The Product of Victory 8:10-11

1. The FACT :10

Even as a Christian your body is under the death sentence 7:24

But the Christians Spirit is alive being raised with Jesus 5:12, 6:3-4ff

2. The ACT :11

The Law cannot deal with the sinful body. (ch 7:23-24)

The Spirit indwelling is the only person and power that can combat the flesh. The “mortal body” and its sinful desires right now can be controlled.

Paul has exhorted us to live this way 6:12-14 and now tells us how to do it in ch 8. This is how we live apart from condemnation- penal servitude- to sin in the life of the Christian. Walk in the Spirit and experience the power of the life of the resurrected Christ Now!

Summary

Romans 8:1 tells us that there is not only no longer a guilt for our sinful position (Rom 3-4 Justification- Delivered from the Penalty of Sin) but there is also a way to be removed from the Power of sin in our daily life. But this second aspect is conditioned on living out a life that is led by and lived according to the Spirit. (The long reading of 8:1,4 Gal 5:16) This is the ability to live or walk according to the Spirit and not according to the flesh. Remember, a Christian is **IN** Christ (Identity or our position) but a Christian can live **According** to the Spirit or **According** to the flesh. (Our Practice or Mindset) But if we live according to the flesh we will experience a sense of death in our walk with the Lord and in fact, some experiences of sin can actually kill us physically as well. (I John 5, James 5)

The Christian life is to be lived by the resurrection power of the life of Jesus (Rom 5:9-10, 8:10-11) We can experience this power in our life and the intimacy that comes from it as we obey the word of the Lord (John 14:21) and thus experience fellowship with God moment by moment (I John 1) It is this power alone that will enable us to fulfill Paul’s command in Rom 6:11-12 and be delivered from the body of sin (7:24-25)

III. The Results: A Victim or Victor 8:12-13

A. Death

Christians who give into the flesh will experience a sense of death in their walk with the Lord. Paul experienced this 7:9,11 The result is the wretched man 7:25 that is enslaved in servitude to sin. But Paul tells us that we are no longer slaves of sin 6:11,18. We are in fact to stop giving in to sin in our mortal bodies 6:12.

But: How do I do that? Not by the law but by the Spirit. (Gal 5:16)

B. Life

This is the same Spirit that gave life to Jesus by the resurrection and who can and will give life to us. 6:6-10. This is resurrection life Today!

This what Paul desired in his life: ekanastasis “Out Resurrection” Philippians 3:5

(This is manifested by fruit of Spirit **Gal 5**, Being filled with the Spirit **Eph. 5:18**, Walking in the Light Eph. 4-5, Enjoying Fellowship and Abiding in Christ John 15, I John 1-2, Being Holy I Peter 1:15, and “put on the LJC and make no provision for the flesh in regards to its lust.” Rom 13:14)

We can live the resurrection life right now. This is not about the future resurrection but life today-right NOW. We live in this power by the risen life of Christ through His Spirit controlling us moment by moment. (See Romans 5:9-10, Gal. 5:16)

So, what now? In light of Gal 5:16 and Rom 8:1-12.....

Divide your day into three sections. Morning, afternoon and evening.

At the end of each section ask- Did I walk according to the Spirit?

How was He manifested in me and through me to me and to others?

What do I need to confess as sin and what happened that almost led me to sin?
(Think in terms of relationships- To God, Self, Spouse, family, work, church people)
neighbors, strangers...)

How will I walk according to the Spirit? How will I be Spiritually Oriented?

This will take a Mindset, a Method and a Motive! (More on Motive next week!)