



FINDING FREEDOM IN THE STRUGGLE

July 27 & 28, 2024

Romans in 5 Words:

- _____ – **Our innate nature.**
(Romans 3:23)
- _____ – **A gift of God's grace through faith.**
(Romans 6:23)
- _____ – **Our journey to become more like Jesus.**
(Romans 7)
- _____ – **God's supremacy over all creation.**
(Romans 8-11)
- _____ – **Our purpose to help others.**
(Romans 12-16)

Romans 7-8:1 (NLT)

How I Find Freedom in the Struggle:



_____ on pursuing Christ, not the old law.

Romans 7:2-6 (NLT)

For example, when a woman marries, the law binds her to her husband as long as he is alive. But if he dies, the laws of marriage no longer apply to her. So while her husband is alive, she would be committing adultery if she married another man. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law and does not commit adultery when she remarries. So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God. When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

4 Results of Pursuing Christ:

- I have a new _____.
Verse 4b *"You died to the power of the law..."*
- I have a new _____.
Verse 4c *"...now united with the one who raised you from dead."*
- I have a new _____.
Verse 6b *"Now we can serve God..."*
- I have a new _____.
Verse 6b *"...but in the new way of living in the Spirit."*



Be _____ that sin is still present in every area of my life – but it does not have to define me.

Romans 7:8-9 (NLT)

But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power. At one time I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, the power of sin came to life...

The Law is Valuable To:

- _____ me what sin is.
- _____ light on God's character.
- _____ how far sin can sink me.

Romans 7:10-13 (NLT)

...and I died. So I discovered that the law's commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead. Sin took advantage of those commands and deceived me; it used the commands to kill me. But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good. 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.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 (NLT)

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.



_____ a battle between my two natures.

Romans 7:14-16 (NLT)

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. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good.

My Two Natures:

- **My _____ nature – all the sin in my flesh, past and world.**
- **My _____ nature – my spirit filled life that can't sin.**

Galatians 5:16 (NLT)

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

Paul's Emotional Struggle in Romans 7:

- **I have a big _____ (verse 14)**
- **I am _____ (verse 15)**
- **I am _____ (verse 17)**
- **I am losing the _____ (verse 21)**
- **I feel _____ (verse 24)**



_____ every day with Jesus.

Romans 7:24-8:1 (NLT)

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. So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

How?

- _____ my struggle.
- _____ my imperfections.
- _____ for failure.
- _____ God honestly and consistently.
- _____ eternity in Heaven.

1 Peter 1:3c-4, 6 (NLT)

Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay... So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.



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Romans in 5 Words:

- **Sin** – Our innate nature.
(Romans 3:23)
- **Salvation** – A gift of God’s grace through faith.
(Romans 6:23)
- **Sanctification** – Our journey to become more like Jesus.
(Romans 7)
- **Sovereign** – God’s supremacy over all creation.
(Romans 8-11)
- **Service** – Our purpose to help others.
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How I Find Freedom in the Struggle:



Focus on pursuing Christ, not the old law.

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For example, when a woman marries, the law binds her to her husband as long as he is alive. But if he dies, the laws of marriage no longer apply to her. So while her husband is alive, she would be committing adultery if she married another man. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law and does not commit adultery when she remarries. So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God. When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

4 Results of Pursuing Christ:

- I have a new **freedom**.
Verse 4b *"You died to the power of the law..."*
- I have a new **relationship**.
Verse 4c *"...now united with the one who raised you from dead."*
- I have a new **purpose**.
Verse 6b *"Now we can serve God..."*
- I have a new **compass**.
Verse 6b *"...but in the new way of living in the Spirit."*



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The Law is Valuable To:

- **Show** me what sin is.
- **Shine** light on God's character.
- **Signify** how far sin can sink me.

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3

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Embrace every day with Jesus.

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- **Accept my imperfections.**
- **Allow for failure.**
- **Approach God honestly and consistently.**
- **Anticipate eternity in Heaven.**

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