

Transformed!

How God Renews the Lives of His People

Get Personal

Part 5: A New Source, a New Life

A Note from Pastor Keith...

We're at a crucial point, so I need to be sure you're staying with me. Let's start with some Q and A:

Q: *Why do we experience spiritual bondage? What's it all about? What's going on?*

A: It's an expression of God's wrath. We chose to worship created things instead of the Creator, and He said, "So be it." The result: We're in bondage to the sin we've chosen. (Romans 1:18-32)

Q: *How do we free ourselves from this spiritual bondage?*

A: We can't. We're helpless. But what we can't do, God did! Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the dead, and now God offers to declare righteous anyone who puts their trust in Jesus. (Romans 3:20-31)

Q: *But if I've trusted Christ and have been declared righteous, is there still wrath and bondage?*

A: Great question! You're ready for today's lesson!

No Wrath, No Bondage

1. If you've trusted Christ as Savior, you've been declared righteous.

¹...since we have been justified [declared righteous] through faith....

Romans 5:1b

2. If you've been declared righteous, there's no cause for God's wrath. You have peace with God!

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ^{2a}through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

Romans 5:1-2a

3. The hardships? The suffering? They're not about wrath. They're about growth!

^{2b}And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Romans 5:2b-5

Get Personal!

Warning: These questions are hard! But they're important, too, so give them a good effort.

If you've trusted Christ as Savior, you haven't just been forgiven; you've actually been declared righteous. Why is that important?

How has God used suffering and hardship to grow you spiritually?

Now here comes the good news...

4. No Wrath, No Bondage!

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹*Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!* ¹⁰*For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!* ¹¹Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 5:9-11 (emphasis added)

Q: *But if I'm "free," why do I still experience spiritual bondage?*

A: Because former slaves will continue to live as slaves until they learn to live as free men and women.

New Source, New Life

1. Your old life flowed from an old source—Adam.

¹²Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—

Romans 5:12

2. Your new life will flow from a new source—Christ.

¹⁸Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. ¹⁹For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:18-19

3. To draw new life from your new source, you need a new approach—grace.

²⁰The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, ²¹so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:20-21

Under your old source, Adam, the Law revealed the problem.

Under your new source, Christ, grace provides the solution.

Conclusion: *If you have trusted Christ as your Savior, you have been declared righteous, set free from spiritual bondage, and provided a new source for a transformed life. Question: What are you going to do with all this?*

Next Week: *Why You Should WANT to Be Transformed*

Get Personal!

Some people seem to believe that God continues to show His wrath *even against people He now considers righteous*. How might the Apostle Paul respond to this?

Why do so many people who have trusted Christ feel as though they are still in spiritual bondage? What are they missing?

Why is a source change so important? Why couldn't God simply ask us to change our behavior?

We have a new source. But why do we need a new approach? Why doesn't Paul simply ask us to start obeying the law?