

Transformed!

How God Renews the Lives
of His People

Get Personal

Part 7: *Why We Still Struggle ...and What to Do About It*

A Note from Pastor Keith...

Declared righteous, set free from spiritual bondage, and provided a new source for a transformed life. Amazing! So why are we still struggling? Let's find out!

Spiritual Transformation is rooted in Personal Relationship.

Sin shall not be your master, *because* you are not under law, but under grace.

Romans 6:14 (all references are NIV)

Now that you have been set free from sin...the benefit you reap leads to holiness

Romans 6:22

1. **New Relationship → New Reality → New Results**

^{7:1}Do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to men who know the law—that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives? ²For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. ³So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man. ⁴So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.

Romans 7:1-4

2. **Old Relationship → Old Reality → Old Results**

⁵For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death.

Romans 7:5

Q: Some of us would say, “New Relationship, New Reality, Same Old Results!” What are we missing?

A: We're missing the new “How!”

⁶But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that **we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.**

Romans 7:6

Get Personal!

Spiritual transformation is rooted in a relationship with Jesus Christ. But what do we mean by *relationship*?

How have you moved beyond simply trusting Christ to having a *relationship* with Him?

How is that relationship growing?
What are you doing to help it grow?

How NOT to Experience the New Reality: *The Old Way of the Written Code*

1. **The Law provokes my sinful nature into taking control.**

⁷What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." ⁸But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. ⁹Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. ¹⁰I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. ¹¹For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. ¹²So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good. ¹³Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

Romans 7:7-13

2. **When my sinful nature is in control, I'm right back in spiritual slavery.**

¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. ²¹So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²²For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.

Romans 7:14-23

3. **I don't need more rules. I need to be rescued!**

And I have been!

²⁴What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Romans 7:24-25

Get Personal!

The Law—what the Apostle Paul calls “the old way of the written code”—is all about seeking spiritual transformation through rules, regulations or rituals. Describe how you've done that.

Has the rules, regulations and rituals approach ever seemed to increase your struggle? Explain.

What has convinced you that more rules are *not* the answer?

Conclusion

You will never experience your new life in Christ
by returning to slavery under Law.

Next Week: *How to Experience Spiritual Transformation*