

Transformed!

How God Renews the Lives of His People

Get Personal

Part 8: *How to Experience Spiritual Transformation*

A Note from Pastor Keith...

God has provided all of us who have trusted Christ with the same spiritual resources. So why do we get such different results? Why do some people experience real growth while others only struggle? The difference is not in God's *provision*, but in our *approach*. Paul reminds us that, "We serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code" (Romans 7:6). Last time we uncovered the flaw in the "old way of the written code." Today we begin our exploration of the "new way of the Spirit." If you want to experience spiritual transformation, this passage is the place to start!

The KEY to "New Way of the Spirit" is ...the Spirit of God!

- "the law of the Spirit of life" (Romans 8:2)
- "live...according to the Spirit" (v. 4)
- "those who live in accordance with the Spirit" (v. 5)
- "minds set on what the Spirit desires" (v. 5)
- "the mind controlled by the Spirit" (v. 6)
- "controlled...by the Spirit" (v. 9)
- "the Spirit of God lives in you" (v. 10)
- "the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you" (v. 11)
- "he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you" (v. 11)
- "by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body" (v. 13)
- "those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God" (v. 14)
- "you received the Spirit of sonship" (v. 15)

My New Life

1. The condemnation of spiritual bondage is lifted...

¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ^{3a}For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering.

Romans 8:1-3a

2. Real spiritual transformation is now available...

^{3b}And so he condemned sin in sinful man, ^{4a}in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us...

Romans 8:3b-4a

3. But **ONLY** through this "new way" of the Spirit.

^{4b}who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:4b

Get Personal!

What does it mean to you that you are no longer under condemnation and that you are now set free from slavery to sin? How does this make you feel?

Now compare this feeling with the way you feel most of the time—during your everyday struggles with sin and self.

Which feeling is based on truth and which is based on a lie?

My Options

1. The issue is, what's controlling my mind?

⁵Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 8:5-6

2. My old nature **CANNOT** produce new results.

⁷the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

Romans 8:7-8

3. But if I belong to Christ, I have another option — control by the Spirit of God.

⁹You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

Romans 8:9

4. *Control by the Spirit will transform my life!*

¹⁰But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

Romans 8:10-11

My Obligation

1. Since I have an option, I have an obligation.

¹²Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. ¹³For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live....

Romans 8:12-13

2. It is the obligation of a spiritual son who will inherit spiritual glory.

¹⁴because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8:14-17

Conclusion:

Tap into the Spirit. He is the source of spiritual transformation.

Next Week: *Growth Takes Time—How to Stay Encouraged*

Get Personal!

It's natural that we would focus our efforts on changing our behavior, when we should be focusing on upgrading to a new and better source for our behavior. Natural, but misguided. What are some of the ways you focus on changing your behavior directly, instead of on changing the source?

What do you do to tap into the Spirit as the new and better source?

What behavior changes have you experienced as a result on this change in source?

Why does the *option* of living by the Spirit include an *obligation* to live by the Spirit?