LIVING
ROMANS CHAPTER EIGHT

This is a Christian life that specializes in winning.

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Moving beyond basic Christianity

Living Romans Chapter Eight

Introduction

Living In The Spirit Realm

Rom 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I *want* to do I do not do, but what I *hate* I do. Romans chapter seven deals with all new and untrained Christian's lives. All of them use human effort and world training because that is all they know. Romans eight deals with you as a child of God, who has been born in the spirit realm. Things are very different in the spirit realm; but, that is where you will be living for eternity.

God want you, as His child, to be trained on how to use your human body and this planet to apply spiritual principles to this earthly life. You are in a very limited power-realm, where you can't do much damage. However, by putting you here, you don't get the full implications what your eternal life is going to be like. So, Jesus will be taking Romans chapter eight and showing you how to move out of the Romans chapter seven life into Romans chapter eight.

Living As A Child Of God

Gal 4:1-2 (NIV) What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. You are about to be exposed to some rules and regulations that govern the spirit realm. Just like aerodynamics, physics, and chemistry have rules that must be obeyed in this natural realm, your new child of God spirit, has to obey these spiritual rules and regulations.

You are going to rule and reign with Jesus. You are going to be given incredible power, positions, and authority. Jesus wants you to learn rules; but, He mostly wants you to be transformed in your attitudes and character. However, even though you can't make any of the changes by yourself, He won't just do it for you.

The Christian's Final Exam

First, The Foundation

1 Cor 3:10-11 (NIV) By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the One already laid, which is Jesus Christ. Salvation and justification are the foundation provisions that Jesus put in you. He is your foundation, so you can have a perfect record with God.

Now The Life-Building

1 Cor 3:12-13 (NIV) If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and <u>the fire will test the quality of each man's work</u>.

With a perfect record with God, you aren't doing anything good or bad. It is all being credited to your record through grace and mercy. However, Jesus wants to help you start doing some things that are good and will become rewards for eternity.

Salvation And Justification
Eph 2:8-9 (NIV) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. This doesn't allow you to do much. You come to Jesus and He does all the saving and justifying. From that point on, all your mistakes, failures, efforts, and accomplishments are coming through this perfect record with God. But, Jesus doesn't want you to stay there.

Sanctification
Eph 2:10 (NIV) For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Here is your chance to yield to the mighty work of Jesus in and through you. Even though it will be Jesus doing everything, because you are yielding to Him, He will give you eternal rewards for it. Everything you yield to, will have eternal rewards and benefits to them. Those things you allow Jesus to do through you will be considers to be **gold, silver,** and **costly stones**. Those things you do through your own efforts and human reasoning, will be **wood, hay or straw.**

All That Jesus Does Through You
1 Cor 3:14 (NIV) If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. Romans chapter eight is being used by Jesus to help you build the rest of your life out of **gold, silver,** and **costly stones**. He will be teaching and training you how to make your life count for eternity.

All You Do In The Romans Chapter Seven Life
1 Cor 3:15 (NIV) If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames. As long as you live your life with mistakes, failures, shortcoming, misdeeds, and sins that you don't do on purpose, you are running your life using **wood, hay or straw.** You aren't keeping yourself from going into God's eternal Kingdom, you **will suffer loss;** you yourself **will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.**

The Romans Chapter Eight Life

Phil 3:7 (NIV) But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for Whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

Phil 3:10-11 (NIV) I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Accept This As Your Commitment
Phil 3:12-14 (NIV) Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Chapter One

Taking Advantage Of Salvation Provisions

Romans chapter eight is looking at ten steps for getting the most out of your salvation experience; but it is looking at them from the perspective of faith. It is a look at how you and God have been able to establish a relationship, through faith, where you are now qualified through grace and mercy to get His help with all your needs.

STEP ONE: Know There Is No Condemnation

Satan Will Be Trying To Condemn You
Rom 8:1 (NIV) Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. From the moment of salvation on, you are going to think things, feel things, say things, do things, experience things, and hear things that try to get you to *believe* you have been cut off from your heavenly Father. In Romans chapter seven, you learned just how weak you and your "want" or will is as it relates to changing the behavior of your body.

Your "want" has been helping you **delight in the law of God**; but, it hasn't help you change your behavior. The "want" you studied in Romans 7:15-25, however, is vital to your Christian experience. It's a part of your God-given free will, and represents your acceptance of Jesus as your Savior and Lord. You got this "want" through salvation; but, it wasn't forced on you.

You Have The "Want"
You chose to get a special "want" through salvation, you choose to keep it after salvation, and you choose to use it for sanctification (spiritual growth). This is where the word "condemnation" comes in. The Bible is saying to you that **there is now no *condemnation* for those who are in Christ Jesus.** That means no one or nothing can forcefully take your "want" or your salvation away from you. Do you "want" to be saved? Then it can't be taken from you.

There are two things that have to be believed in order for you to go in faith from Romans 8:1 to Romans 8:2. You are being told, by God, to believe that you *cannot* have your salvation taken away from you *against your will*. As long as you have the "want" of Romans 7:15-25, no matter what else happens to indicate otherwise, *you cannot lose your salvation*.

You Are In Jesus
The second thing you have to believe is that you **are in Christ Jesus.** As you can see here **there is now no condemnation <u>for those who are in Christ Jesus</u>.** First, let Jesus show you that salvation and being *in* Him has *always* been available to those who consider His death to be their death. Jesus didn't just provide salvation for those who accept Him.

Your Salvation Was Already Provided
2 Cor 5:14 (NIV) For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that One [Jesus] died for *all*, and therefore *all* died. And He died for *all*, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him Who died for them and was raised again.

Salvation is for *everyone*! No one was left out! As was said before, faith is the acceptance of those things God says He has *already* done for you. Hope is the acceptance of those things God says He is *going* to do for you. You don't accept salvation through hope. You accept it through faith, because it was already provided for you. In a sense, everyone in all the world is saved; you didn't *get* saved; you *accepted* Jesus' salvation. If someone doesn't end up saved, it will be because they *rejected* that which was provided for them.

You Accepted The Fact Of Salvation By Faith
It is true that there were some requirements for you to enter into the salvation Jesus provided: **Rom 10:9-10 (NIV) That if you *confess* with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and *believe* in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, <u>you will be saved</u>. For it is with your heart that you *believe* <u>and are justified</u>** (your record made perfect)**, and it is with your mouth that you *confess* <u>and are saved</u>.**

1 Cor 1:30 (NIV) It is because of Him [God] <u>that you *are in* Christ Jesus</u>, Who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. See how you just did what Romans 10:9-10 said and you were able to go on with your life, as a child of God. Whether you felt different or not, you just did what you were told, and had what the Bible said would be given to you. You have been living ***in* Christ Jesus** by faith.

STEP TWO: Know You Are Free

This Happened To You
Rom 8:2 (NIV) Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. Because you accepted this fact through faith, you have been living your life based on **Romans 7:20 (NIV): Now *if* I do what <u>I do not want to do</u>, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.** This means you *believed* He forgave and cleansed you from all sins (past, present, and future). Even though your thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds aren't *yet* living out the victorious Christian life, you have been *believing* that your record is still perfect with God.

The problem is, the behavior of your body is indicating you aren't free. If you were free, wouldn't you stop sinning? But, in spite of the accusations from Satan, you have been **living by faith, not by sight (2 Cor 5:7 NIV).** You allowed Romans 7:15-25 explain why you are experiencing this situation, as a new or untrained Christian. That was **living by faith, not by sight.** Now you are ready to take your next steps of faith. You will use your experiences with Jesus in the Romans 7:15-25 life to understand and live your Romans 8:1-39 life.

This Is Going To Happen To You

Rom 7:24 (NIV) What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? There are two aspects to your freedom. First, you had to be free from a law that is making you a sinner. That was so Jesus and the Holy Spirit could come inside you. They are going to give you your next aspect of freedom. They are going to empower you to stop sinning. All **the law of sin and death** could do was show you what was separating you from God. It couldn't heal or cure you. So, Jesus set you free from it; He let you accept His death as your death and that caused you to die to **the law of sin and death.**

Rom 8:3 (NIV) 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. And so He condemned sin in sinful man. Only Jesus can take you to this next aspect of freedom. All the things you couldn't do in your Romans 7:15-25 life, Jesus and the Holy Spirit will empower you to start doing now. **Phil 4:13 (NIV) I can do everything through Him Who gives me strength.** You have been trying to live the Christian life with human effort and world training, because that was all you knew.

It's Just A Matter Of Training

The law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death: Your faith in Jesus' death as being your death made you a candidate for being united to a new law. However, Jesus' raising from the dead gave Him a new life. Your faith in Jesus' new life, as being your new life, made you a candidate for being united ***in*** **Him**. This is what that new life looks like: **2 Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!** This happened to you like a million dollars in your bank account. You just haven't learned how to draw it out and use it.

When you look at a healthy, fully formed infant, they have all the equipment; but, they have no idea how to use it. When you were born again, Jesus gave you all your child of God equipment, you just have no idea how to use it. So, in order to keep you from doing things that would kill you before you got old enough to start living as an adult child of God, He made you innocent of all **the law of sin and death.** But, as you get older, He expects you to start "acting your age."

Chapter Two

The Infant Child Of God Training Program

Gal 2:20 (NIV) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Jesus' Training Program Part One

Gal 2:20 (NIV) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live: You had an existence inside your mother's womb getting you ready to live as a human. In a similar way, you have had an existence, as a human, getting you ready to live as a child of God. You needed to grow a human body prior to birth. Everything was provided for you during that time.

Your development, as a child of God, is going to be similar to your growth in your mother's womb. With your cooperation, Jesus is going to be doing a lot to you, for you, in you, and through you. But, an unborn baby doesn't have a free will yet; you do. So, all Jesus' provisions and work will have to be through your permission. If you are going to **no longer live,** you will have to agree to it all during your day for the rest of your life.

I have been crucified: When you accepted Jesus' death as your death, it was your body that was placed on that cross with Jesus. Now that you have a perfect record with God, you are ready to start Jesus' child of God training program. But, it will all have to take place through your human body. You will misunderstand, mess up, fail, fall short, do the wrong thing, and a lot of other mistakes. But, your perfect record with God will keep you protected for as long as you don't do it *on purpose*.

Jesus' Training Program Part Two

I no longer live, but Christ lives in me: Now, you are not only in Jesus, He is in you. The process of sanctification (spiritual growth training) is a process that teaches you how to live on the basis of Jesus' life. All day long Jesus will be *available* to live in you. All day long, you will be able to **no longer live.** This will be the step-by-step process of sanctification or spiritual growth. It will be a way for you to actually start treating yourself and others with right, good, and righteous things. They will start seeing you live the Christian life in front of them.

The life I live in the body, I live by *faith* in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me. You are moving into a life of faith in the life of Jesus. Just like your faith in Jesus' death, as being your death, set you free from **the law of sin and death**, so will your faith in the life of Jesus, as being your life, will move you into **the law of the Spirit of life.** Because you were dead to **the law of sin and death,** you got a perfect record with God. Because you are alive in Jesus, you will start living a life based on **the law of the Spirit of life.** What does that mean? Jesus and the Holy Spirit will be giving you power to actually live a good life.

STEP THREE: Know What Jesus Did

You Still Can't Live This

Rom 8:3 (NIV) 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. And so He condemned sin in sinful man,

For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature means you are going to have to believe that **I [Jesus] am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; <u>apart from Me you can do nothing</u> (John 15:5 NIV).** This can be a real faith struggle for you; the more you have had faith, confidence, and esteem in yourself, the harder it will be to transfer it over to, **apart from Me you can do nothing.** But, until you are able to believe this truth, you will not be ready to believe this truth: **Phil 4:13 (NIV) I can do everything *<u>through</u>* <u>Him Who gives me strength</u>.**

STEP FOUR: Know What Has Been Done For You

Rom 8:4 (NIV) In order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

You Are Being Given Time

In order that the righteous requirements of the law might be <u>fully met in us</u> brings you to the point of faith where you know that your record is perfect. This gives you the time you need to start on the journey into spiritual growth through studying and praying the verses in your Bible. You believe that the righteous requirements of the law *are* fully met in you.

Now you are ready to address the issue of **who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.** When you had faith in yourself, you continued to live the Romans 7:15-24 life. As you grow in your faith in Jesus, you start living the Romans 8:1-39 life. That life deals with this issue of **who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.**

What is God able to do about the powerlessness of the law to deal with your inability to live according to what is right and fair? First, through faith in Him, you were able to get your record made perfect. Now, through Him you are going to get your life perfected.

STEP FIVE: Know You Have Your Mind Set

You Already Have The Right Mind-Set

Rom 8:5 (NIV) Those 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.

You just found out that **the righteous requirements of the law** are only **fully met in** those**, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.** Now you are finding out that **those who live according to the sinful nature have their *minds set* on what that nature desires.** And you are finding out that **those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their *minds set* on what the Spirit desires.**

During A Time When It Doesn't Look Like It

Gal 6:9 (NIV) Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. This is a vital subject for your next assignment. You have been living a life of inconsistency, while knowing you have a perfect record with God. With all evidence against you, day-after-day you suffered the pain of being a Christian, while not having a lot of evidence in your behavior. The only reason you continued to have that perfect record was because you trusted God. You believed that He was going to "do something" that would change your life. This next assignment is going to take the same kind of faith.

This Set You Up For Your Next Assignment

Romans 7:15-25 has already shown you that you are one of those who **have their *minds set* on what the Spirit desires.** This is what they look like:

- Romans 7:15 tells you that they **do not understand what** they **do. For what** they **want to do** they **do not do, but what** they **hate they do.** This is how a true new or untrained Christian feels**, who has their set on what the Spirit desires.** They are confused as to why their life isn't living up to their desires. But, these are the desires of a true Christian.

- **Romans 7:16** explains that they realize that, **if** they **do what** they **do not want to do,** they **agree that the law is good.**

- **Romans 7:18** shows you they realize there is **nothing good that lives in them, that is, in their sinful nature. For they have the desire to do what is good, but** they realize they **cannot carry it out** through their own determination or efforts.

- **Romans 7:20** reveals that they accept the Biblical truth that, **if** they **do what** they **do not want to do, it is no longer** them **who does it, but it is sin living in** them **that does it.**

- **Romans 7:22** makes it clear that in their **inner being** they **delight in God's law.**

- **Romans 7:24** says they cry out with a hungering and thirsting for righteousness. They say something like, **what a wretched** person **I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?**

So, in order for you to believe that you have your **mind set on what the Spirit desires**, you must accept all of those truths in Romans 7:15-25 as being true of you. Then you will be ready to move through faith in the death of Jesus into faith in the life of Jesus. Because, Romans 7:15-25 is a life based on the death of Jesus. Romans 8:1-39 is based on the life of Jesus.

Chapter Three

STEP SIX: Know How To Control Your Mind

God's Type Of Control

Rom 8:6 (NIV) The mind of sinful man is death, but <u>the mind controlled by the Spirit</u> is life and peace. Having your **mind set** is one thing; but, having your **mind controlled** is quite another. Having your **mind set** has to do with you believing your **mind** and will are *focused* on **what the Spirit desires.** But, having your **mind controlled by the Spirit,** sounds like you are giving up your will. But, this is *never* God's plan for you. He gave you your free will and He doesn't want to have it taken away from you.

You can be in control while being **controlled by the** Holy **Spirit.** You have to give Him that control by asking God to help you with it. If that help doesn't conform to your wishes, you can reject it. *If* you have faith in God, you will trust that control; but, it will always be up to you as to whether or not you trust Him.

You Have To Be Convinced

The problem you face, is that **the mind of sinful man is death.** You don't have all the facts on each decision you make. That is how you got addicted to the sinful nature. As you study and pray through the Bible, it reasons with you, helping you believe, trust, and rely on God's wisdom and control. If you aren't convinced, then you won't give control.

The solution you face, is **the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.** Your faith, trust, and reliance on the Holy Spirit is based on the awesome job He does, as He works with you. The more you trust His control because of His gentleness, the more you yield.

STEP SEVEN: Know How To Be Free From The Sinful Mind

Rom 8:7 (NIV) The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Let Jesus show you the people who have and want to keep the *sinful mind*:

- **Rom 1:18-19 (NIV) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.** These are people who know God exists because of His creation. And, they know, through the written law or the law of their conscience how they should live.

- **Rom 1:20 (NIV) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.** God has made sure that they know He exists by speaking to them through His creation. At some point in their life faith was awakened inside them and they *knew* He does exist. But, they didn't want to know or believe that He exists.

- **Rom 1:21 (NIV) For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.** After this knowledge and after the awakening of their faith, they used their God-given free will to reject God, reject the message of Jesus, and devote themselves to a life of world philosophies, mores, and principles. They forgive themselves, excuse themselves, justify their deeds, and ignore the damage they do to themselves and other people.

  They know the righteousness (things that are good for us) of God; but, they don't appreciate all the great things His had done for them and provided for them and others. Instead, they are people **who suppress the truth by their wickedness.**

- **Rom 1:22 (NIV) Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools.** They claim to be experts, professionals, leaders, authorities, educators, and successes. But instead, they become fools that live their lives to the hurt, damage, and even death of other people. Many of them don't appear to be really bad people; but, in eternity, when you look at their lives, you will see how many people they hurt, damaged, and destroyed. Some of the damage will come through what they did, taught, and lived. Other damage will come from what they didn't do, teach, and live.

STEP EIGHT: Know How To Please God

Something Is Controlling You
Rom 8:8 (NIV) Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

Romans 7:22 describes what is controlling you: **For in my inner being I delight in God's law.** This is what is controlling your mind: **I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law.** But, this is what is controlling your body: **But in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin (Romans 7:25b).**

Through faith you have been saved from all of this; God has worked you miracles. It is now time to use your faith to keep moving in this miraculous direction and away from the sinful nature. Being pleasing to God automatically causes you to be helpful to yourself and all those around you. God's way is a wonderful way of life that is not only free from the control of the sinful nature, it is filled with the desires of the Holy Spirit.

STEP NINE: Know That The Spirit Lives In You

Faith In The Bible
Rom 8:9 (NIV) You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, <u>if the Spirit of God lives in you</u>. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

This step requires you to believe Romans 10:9-10:
Did you do this? **That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess <u>and are saved</u> (Rom 10:9-10 NIV).**

If you believe what God is saying in Romans 10:9-10, then you *know* **the Spirit of Christ lives in you.** Since you know the Spirit of God lives in you, then you *know* you are controlled by the Spirit and not the sinful nature. This is a vital moment of faith; you *must* accept the fact that God is telling you the truth about *your* salvation.

STEP TEN: Know Your Spirit Is Alive

Your Body Doesn't Stay This Way

Rom 8:10 (NIV) But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet <u>your spirit is alive because of righteousness</u>. If you believe Romans 10:9-10, you *know* (believe) that Jesus **Christ is in you.** If you *know* Jesus is in you, then you know your **body is dead because of sin**, but your **spirit (inner being) is alive** because of the death of Jesus being accepted as your death made you righteous (gave you a perfect record).

Your **body is dead because of sin** and is therefore separated from God. Your **spirit is alive because of righteousness** and therefore united with God. Your body being dead is a temporary condition because the Bible is going to take you into the next principle.

Chapter Five

Taking Advantage Of Sanctification Provisions

These are the steps for getting healing and miracles in your behavior. This is dealing with your relationship with yourself and with other people. Salvation took care of your relationship with God; and now, sanctification is starting to work on your human relationships.

STEP ONE: Know How To Get Life For Your Body

You Must Believe In Jesus' Resurrection

Rom 8:11 (NIV) And 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.

Rom 10:9 (NIV) That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God *raised Him* from the dead, you will be saved. This is why it is so important for you to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. It gives you a faith in the power of God that is going to be applied to all the other situations of sanctification (spiritual growth).

You Must Believe In The Power Of Jesus' Resurrection

Eph 1:18-21 (NIV) I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the *hope* to which He has called you, the *riches* of His glorious *inheritance* in the saints, and His incomparably great *power* for us who *believe*.

That *power* is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ *when He raised Him* from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

He Who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, Who lives in you. This is a powerful and incredible moment in your training; this is saying that God is going to show you how to get life into your body, so you won't have to always be carrying a body of death around with you; but, you must believe this is true *of you*.

STEP TWO: Know Where Your Obligation Is

You Have Some Responsibility In This

Rom 8:12 (NIV) Therefore, brothers, you have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. How are you going to be able to accept some sort of obligation, when your whole life, prior to and after salvation, has been pushed by the desires of the sinful nature in your body? You can feel like there's no hope for this ever happening. You know God *can* help you; but, you have experiences where God hasn't helped you win over your body.

Jesus is in you through the power of the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit is giving you four aspects of Jesus. You will only be looking at the first of four aspects of Jesus at this time. He is giving you Jesus' life: **John 14:12 (NIV) I [Jesus] tell you the truth, <u>anyone who has *faith in Me*</u> will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.**

Your Responsibility Is To Yield

Your obligation is to allow Jesus through the Holy Spirit to live His life in you. **I [Jesus] tell you the truth, anyone who has *faith in Me* <u>will do what I have been doing</u>.** Jesus lived a sinless life; in other words, He has the power to *live* a life that is free from sin. You don't have that kind of power or abilities. As you saw in Galatians 2:20, Jesus' plan is to live His life through you. Rather than just giving you the power, He is going to keep it and show you how to use it, when you enter into eternity.

If you can somehow yield to the life of Jesus, you can start winning over the sinful nature in your body. If you have faith in yourself, you can't have faith in Jesus. If you look at all your failures to win over the sinful nature, and *believe* you will never win, then you can't have faith in Jesus. Let Jesus show you how faith in Him works!

STEP THREE: Know How To Put To Death The Misdeeds Of The Body

This Is Where You Fit In

Rom 8:13 (NIV) For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; <u>but if *by* the Spirit *you*</u> put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. During your Romans 7:15-25 stage of Christianity, your faith in the power of Christianity typically gets damaged. The power of God doesn't "seem" to work for you; but, it is like a baby that has come into a new world with a new body. It has all the working parts of its body that an adult has. But, they are much smaller, much weaker, and completely untrained.

As a baby grows into a little child, it gets better at what it can do. Its body has grown, developed, and its skills have increased. They are now able to do a lot of things they could not do before. The new Christian is like a baby human; the untrained Christian is like a neglected baby that has grown into a child or maybe even a teenager. Jesus is going to turn you into a trained Christian by using a system that is the best in all of creation.

This Is Where Ministers Fit In

Eph 4:11-14 (NIV) It was He Who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <u>to prepare God's people for works of service</u>, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. <u>Then we will no longer be infants</u>, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

If the new Christian isn't properly exposed to spiritual training, the only thing that will happen to them is they will grow in their potential. Like a neglected baby that's body grows in size. But, it has malnutrition, poor motor skills, poor social skills, and poor emotional development. In Christianity, they are untrained Christians that are living in the Romans 7:15-24 life. They have a perfect record with God, but have a bad reputation with the people around them.

Your Responsibilities Are Changing

The new Christian has to be taught how to **put to death the misdeeds of the body.** This ability comes through faith in the power of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. The **"If *by* the Spirit *you* put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live"** approach, is a way of you doing it with power. But, it is a power that only comes through faith in Jesus and the Spirit's abilities.

***By* the Spirit** means you look to (have faith in) the Holy Spirit for your abilities, skills, training, and power. That enables you to do what you couldn't do before. Jesus said: **"Anyone who has *faith in Me* will do what I have been doing."** If you will accept the fact (believe) that Jesus can **put to death the misdeeds of** your **body,** you **will live.** This is how you gradually go from good behavior just being credited to your record to you actually having good behavior.

What kind of life will you be living? You will live the life of Jesus, because your faith is in His abilities, skills, wisdom, and power. Yes, you failed, as a sinner; and, yes you fail, as a new Christian (Romans 7:15-24); but now, *through faith in Jesus*, you are growing in your joint life with Him. He is providing you with the wisdom and power and you are doing it through them.

STEP FOUR: Know How To Be A Son Of God

The Holy Spirit/Jesus Training Program

Rom 8:14 (NIV) Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Where is the Holy Spirit leading you? **John 16:13 (NIV) But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.** Jesus will be training you through the Holy Spirit. **"He will not speak on His own,"** means He will only say what Jesus wants you to hear.

The Holy Spirit came and started His ministry on earth in Acts 2:4. From that point on, He started coming inside the body of every person who accepted Jesus as their Savior, Lord, and King. Once inside you, He starts to lead and **guide** you **into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell** you **what is yet to come.**

The Holy Spirit Is Your Intermediary

John 16:14 (NIV) He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you. He will provide you with Jesus and His training that Jesus gave His first disciples. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus will help you allow His life to become your life. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus will teach you how to *believe* in His abilities, skills, wisdom, and power. He will do in and through you, those things you were not able to do on your own.

The life of Jesus living and working in you is a life of faith. Here is the *statement of faith* you need to make in order to bring the life of Jesus into your life: **Gal 2:20 (NIV) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

Chapter Six

Learning To Live The Life Of Faith

STEP ONE: Know You Have The Spirit Of Sonship

It's Your Choice

Rom 8:15 (NIV) For we did not receive a spirit that makes us a slave again to fear, but we received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father." From this point on, Jesus will be teaching you the new life of getting everything from your heavenly Father *through faith*. **2 Cor 5:7 (NIV) We live by faith, not by sight.** Because of your perfect record with your heavenly Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are living in you. So, when you have a choice of believing your senses or believing what Jesus is telling you in the Bible, you must ask Him to empower you to choose to believing Him *rather than* what your senses tell you. As you go through your day, this will be your constant responsibility.

For we did not receive a spirit that makes us a slave again to fear: There are two things that destroy your life of faith…fear and doubt. They cause you to yield to the weaknesses of your body. Faith in Jesus, gives you a confidence that you will win over your body and life's circumstances. As you navigate your day, you won't be deciding what you can do; you will be deciding what Jesus can do. You *know* you will be able to do what you are supposed to do. And, you will *know* this, because you *know* Jesus has the power, skills, abilities, and wisdom to do them in and through you. That elevates the performance of your day.

This Is A Relationship

We received <u>the Spirit of sonship</u>. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Holy Spirit is the **Spirit of sonship**; He gives you the faith to believe (know) you are God's child. This changes your view of who you are and what your relationship is with Him. Your faith has to be based on what your relationship is with God. As a child of God, you have rights and privileges. It is easy to believe that your heavenly Father will do things for His children that He wouldn't do for anyone else. Your faith is based on the fact that God is your Father; even if you had a bad family relationship, as a human, you still know how it should have been. Ask Jesus to help you feel the relationship, the love, the acceptance, and the generosity. To the degree you feel these things, will be the degree of how much you live on the basis of them.

STEP TWO: Know You Are God's Child

Rom 8:16 (NIV) The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Jesus builds faith by speaking it into you. The Holy Spirit builds faith by telling you who you are. He is *telling* you that you are God's child; and, He is telling it to you Spirit to spirit. He is trying to help you visualize the fact that you belong to the family of God. He is trying to help you embrace the truth that you have gained all the rights and privileges that come from that relationship. So, when you read a verse in the Bible that tells you what your heavenly Father has done for you, you *know* it is talking to you, as His child.

STEP THREE: Know You Are An Heir Of God

The New Will Is For You

Rom 8:17 (NIV) Now 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. The Holy Spirit is telling you that you have become an heir; this is typical of children that are born in wealthy families. You, in this case, have been *born again* into God's family. **Phil 4:19 (NIV) And my God will meet all your needs <u>according to His glorious riches</u> in Christ Jesus.** That is what parents do, if they are good parents.

Mat 7:11 (NIV) If you, then, though you are evil, <u>know how to give good gifts to your children</u>, *how much more* <u>will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who *ask* Him</u>!

Now if we are children, then we are heirs: When you read the *New Testament*, you are reading a will. A testament is another word for a will. The old will was based on the death of animals that were sacrificed. Wills are enacted and executed at the death of the person who had the testament or will written. The "New Will" was enacted and executed at the death of Jesus. That is another aspect of Jesus' death. His death enacted the new will (testament); and now, the Holy Spirit is executing it by making you, as an heir, aware of what you inherited.

You Are At The Reading Of The Will

Heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ: That is the most amazing inheritance of all times! You inherit God! And, you become co-heirs with Jesus in inheriting your heavenly Father. That is what the New Testament (will) is all about. This is the fact that all your faith is based on. You inherited God and all He has to offer. All the promises and provisions apply to you. And, the Holy Spirit is reading the will to you: **John 16:14 (NIV) He will bring glory to Me by <u>taking from what is Mine and making it known to you</u>.**

The Will Has Requirements

If indeed you share in His sufferings in order that you may also share in His glory: Jesus' will has one requirement of all inheritors. You must be willing to **share in His sufferings in *order that* you may also share in His glory.** As **co-heir with Christ**, you must be willing to allow Him to take you where He wants to go. As He lives His life in and through you, you will be walking into situations that will create **suffering.** There will always be people who will try to stop Him from bringing people to Him; and, He will be using you and your body to do that.

If indeed you share in His sufferings: That may try to generate a spirit of fear in you that leads you back into the bondage of your old way of life. **For we did not receive a spirit that makes us a slave again to fear.** You might start listening to your body, the world, and the devil and imagine all kinds of possibilities as to what this *could* mean. But, you must simply believe in Jesus and trust Him to handle this requirement for you.

STEP FOUR: Know The Value Of The Glory

Suffering For Others

Rom 8:18 (NIV) I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

John 16:33 (NIV) I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. It is true of all people, whether they are Christians or not, **in this world you *will* have trouble.** However, to the Christians, you have Jesus telling *you*: **"But take heart! I have overcome the world."** Taking heart, is a process of yielding to faith in Jesus. Your faith in Jesus gives you peace concerning the struggles and battles of life and the suffering you do as others come to Jesus.

"I consider" is a statement of faith; when you say: **"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us,"** you are expressing your faith in Jesus. Your body, the world, and the devil are saying that the things you are going through aren't worth it. But, your statement of faith resists all of these lies. **"I consider"** is a matter of weighing out all the facts. It is taking into consideration, the short time you suffer issues here on earth. And then you compare the unending time of eternity, where you will inherit God, be co-heirs with Jesus, and rule and reign in God's eternal Kingdom.

Chapter Seven

STEP FIVE: Know The Truth About The Sons Of God

Rom 8:19 (NIV) The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. All the wars, famine, storms, floods, earthquakes, drought, disease, suffering, and pain of this world can say to you that God doesn't care. But, you need to *believe* that it is saying that this isn't your home. It can all look like you are being defeated; but, you are learning how to win over it all through faith in the training and power of God. You are a child of God, who needs to face battles and difficulties, so you can be taught how to operate in the spirit realm. These challenges are your life-classes getting you ready for eternity.

2 Pet 3:10 (NIV) But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. This is going to happen; and, all these things Jesus is having you let Him do in and through you are getting you ready for this.

Get Trained In

2 Pet 3:11-12 (NIV) Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. This is telling you that what you are doing here is important to what you will be doing there.

2 Pet 3:13-14 (NIV) But in keeping with His promise we are *looking forward* to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are *looking forward* to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him.

You must *believe* in the future (**looking forward**) by asking Jesus to prepare you for eternity. When you *believe* these verses, you are **"*looking forward* to a new heaven and a new earth, the *home* of righteousness."** You can fix your attention, hopes, and dreams on this world; or you can do these things, to increase your eternal rewards in your Father's Kingdom.

STEP SIX: Know Why Bad Things Happen On Earth

Rom 8:20 (NIV) For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the One Who subjected it, in hope. This life presents difficulties, problems, struggles, challenges, and suffering. But, they don't exist for you, as a Christian, so as to be defeated. **Eph 6:10 (NIV) Finally, *be* strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.** Your time here is a faith training ground to learn how to yield to the power-relationship with Jesus.

You aren't learning how to be able to simply put up with the difficulties of this life. You are learning how to address them and cooperate with Jesus to make them work together for your good. You are using them like an athlete uses weights to build their muscles. You need the challenges, so you can learn these truths. Ask Jesus to help you exercise your *faith*, and then *believe* your way into the successes of the victorious Christian life. Without these problems, you wouldn't have the resistances you need to practice living *by faith*. The spirit realm is very different from this natural realm. And, you will be spending eternity there, not here.

STEP SEVEN: Know About The New Heaven And Earth

Rom 8:21 (NIV) That the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. You are living your life here for an eternal purpose. You can only have *faith* and win at this life, if you realize why you are doing all these things. Life won't make any sense, if you only live based on the way things are now. With an eternal perspective, you will be motived to get ready for God's Kingdom.

Rev 21:1-2 (NIV) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. This is what your life is all about. This is what Jesus is trying to do in and through your life right now. He has an eternal perspective.

This Is Worth Suffering For

Rev 21:3-4 (NIV) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. <u>There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away</u>.

As you look at these Scriptures, it helps you have faith to look forward. In other words, you can use these verses to motivate you to invest in eternity. You can put all your faith and trust in building a life right here, right now; or, you can use your faith in the future with God by living this life to learn the spiritual truths of God.

God wants to teach you how to **be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.** He wants to teach you how to live the victorious Christian life. He has provided you with faith to believe in Him and all He has done to enable you to **be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.**

STEP EIGHT: Know About The Purpose Of This Creation

Rom 8:22 (NIV) You know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. It is vital that you realize and believe that your heavenly Father knows about the suffering and pain of this life. It is also vital that you *believe* in Jesus and know He is ready to help you learn how to be victorious over it.

The life of Jesus, in the Gospels, shows you how all the healing, power over storms, raising people from the dead, cleansing lepers, delivering the demon possessed, and feeding the multitudes is a message of victory. It was a message that you are to win over all life has to offer.

John 14:12 (NIV) I tell you the truth, anyone who has *faith* in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. Faith in Jesus will open the door to you experiencing His incredible life. He wants to do much more than just salvation, in and through you. He wants to help you learn how to accept His life as your life. If you *believe* in Him living His life in you and through you, you will be able to *believe* that you **can do everything through Him Who gives** you **strength (Phil 4:13).**

STEP NINE: Know Why This Life Isn't Going To Be Perfect

Rom 8:23 (NIV) Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

You have heart damage. You suffer from the sins, habits, and addictions your body pulled you into. You struggle with the issues of life. And, you wonder why you are going through all the things. You will be able to remain in total trust and faith in your heavenly Father, if you understand why all the things are happening, as you live in your human body. The reason why athletes say, "no pain no gain," is because they understand what kind of suffering they are going to have to go through in order to be successful athletes. Here is a spiritual athlete with a complete faith invested in the principle of **"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."**

Let Jesus Be Your Trainer

1 Cor 9:24 (NIV) Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. This takes studying about the race, knowing what it is, and knowing how to win at it. It takes training to be able to not only compete in the race but knowing what it is going to take to win. It takes faith that the suffering in preparing is worth getting the prize. If you want the prize, you will do what it takes to get it.

1 Cor 9:25 (NIV) Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it *to get* a crown that will not last; but we do it *to get* a crown that will last forever. Your faith has to be able to see the prize; you must believe that God is going to do all He says He will do. You must have faith that all the studying, praying, believing, growing in love, and taking faith-action is worth it.

Give Jesus Your Cooperation

1 Cor 9:26 (NIV) Therefore <u>I do not run</u> like a man running aimlessly; <u>I do not fight</u> like a man beating the air. Every bit of effort you put into all of this is based on a faith that accepts the Word of God as truth. You won't run or fight, if you don't see all of the tremendous benefits through your eyes of faith. Faith in Jesus makes the goals and prizes clear enough to motivate a willingness to go **into strict training,** and, ***not run*** **like a man running aimlessly,** and, ***not fight*** **like a man beating the air.**

1 Cor 9:27 (NIV) No, <u>I beat my body and make it my slave</u> *so that* after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. Study convinces your mind that this is a worthwhile goal; prayer brings the power of God to you, so you can **beat** your **body and make it** your **slave.** Faith helps you know that the goal is real. Love moves the effort into a project that is beneficial to everyone involved. And faith-action takes the promises, provisions, and plans of God and makes them real in your life.

Chapter Seven

STEP TEN: Know The Difference Between Hope And Faith

Rom 8:24 (NIV) For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? For all the victories, healings, blessings, miracles, and help you get from your heavenly Father, as great as these things are, none of them will compare with what you are *yet* to experience. There are three main things God wants to place in your heart for now and eternity.

1 Cor 13:13 (NIV) And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. You have been looking at the life of faith. The main emphasis of the life of salvation and sanctification is all about faith. But there is a powerful spiritual characteristic called hope. Faith embraces what God has *already* done; it is the power to *believe* He has already done it for you and all you have to do is *believe* He is telling you the truth.

Hope embraces what God is *going* to do for you. You can't *believe* you have the new heaven and earth and get it right now. It is something you must put your hope in. **But hope *that is seen* is no hope at all. Who hopes for what *he already has*?** You believe in those things you already have because God is saying He has already provided them. You hope for all those things God is telling you, you are going to get, because they are coming. Therefore, your faith and your hope are both based in the honesty and integrity of God.

STEP ELEVEN: Know What You Are *Going* To Get

Rom 8:25 (NIV) But if we hope for what we do not *yet* have, we <u>wait for it patiently</u>. If you use this life to learn how to live in the spirit realm, you will be well prepared for eternity. If you apply yourself to this life, like you would go to a college or university, then you would live here to prepare for your future. If you went to learn how to be a professional and have a career in the real world, then you would leave that institution trained for the future in real life. This world and this life is *just* a training system for the new heaven and the new earth. You know you aren't going to be staying here forever. You know you will leave behind all the things you accumulate and get good at in this life. But, you must also know that *everything* you learn, accumulate, and get good at in the spiritual realm, you will take with you into eternity.

Let Jesus Increase Your Hope

If we *hope* for what we do not *yet* have: Students that don't understand why they are in school, will have a hard time applying themselves. Their faith isn't locked into the future they are preparing for. Their faith, heart, and mind are locked into enjoying and living in the present. Going into strict training isn't possible because the potential of the future isn't influencing their current behavior.

Hope raises your eyes toward your future. You begin to see yourself living a better life. Hope helps you see what you need to be doing now, in order to live that future life. It gives you the current plan you have to have; it gives you the goals you currently need to start striving for; and it gives you the current purpose for why you are doing what you are doing.

STEP TWELVE: Know How To Pray For What You Don't Know

Rom 8:26 (NIV) In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We <u>do not know what we ought to pray for</u>, but the Spirit Himself intercedes <u>for us</u> *with groans that words cannot express*. Since the Holy Spirit has been working with you through your conscience from the time you became old enough to be responsible for your behavior, you have had a lot of experiences with Him. Since you have had a lot of experiences with Him, you can use these experiences to allow your faith to increase in God.

You Must Know You Don't Know

If you want to, you can enter into your prayer time with a tremendous amount of faith in yourself. You can believe that you *do* know **what** you **ought to pray for.** So, you can spend your whole time praying about those things you believe you should pray for. Rather than allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you, you would have your mind made up, as to how you think you should spend your time in prayer.

Faith in God helps you read verses like this and believe what it says. Faith helps you read the Bible and realize you need to know how it works. Faith helps you read this verse and want what it has to offer. It helps you pray and believe that the Holy Spirit is interceding in your behalf and assists you in cooperating with God.

STEP THIRTEEN: Know The Spirit Intercedes For You

Rom 8:27 (NIV) And He Who searches our hearts (your heavenly Father) knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in <u>accordance with God's will</u>.

Mat 6:7-8 (NIV) And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

Your Prayers Need To Be Specific

Matthew 7:7-11 and James 4:2 make it clear you must ask for those things you need. But, simply throwing out a bunch of words isn't something you can put your faith in. It isn't until you allow the Holy Spirit to guide you, that you find yourself praying with much better skill and getting much better success.

Another problem you can have, is believing in techniques that don't work. These pagans thought they would **be heard because of their many words.** As long as they thought that, they used techniques that do not work. However, by putting your faith in being guided by the Holy Spirit, you pray using techniques that work; and, you pray prayers that pinpoint what your real needs are.

As your faith moves from human effort to faith in God, it changes the procedures or activities of your life; you go from James 4:1-3 to Romans 8:26-28. You go from trying to figure out how *you* can get the things you want, to learning how you can get them through God. Your faith stops believing in you knowing what is best for you. You start to doubt that you know what is best for you. You start to *believe* that if you get everything through God, *they* will be the very best for you.

STEP FOURTEEN: Know God Works For Your Good

Rom 8:28 (NIV) And you *know* that *in all things* God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

This is what faith is all about; this is the fulfillment of Hebrews 11:6. **Heb 11:6 (NIV) And without *faith* it is impossible to please God, <u>because anyone who comes to Him</u> *must believe*:**

1. **that He exists and**
2. **that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.**

The Holy Spirit is speaking to your spirit directly and causing you to *know* you are God's child. He is praying for you according to God's will; He is *causing* you to *know* God is working for your good. You know your heavenly Father exists, because you have a parent/child relationship with Him, which is also being *caused* by the Holy Spirit. You *know* He rewards your seeking Him because you have faith in His working for your good.

Once you constantly believe God exists and is rewarding you seeking Him, you start wanting to filter everything through Him. Your faith grows in God's wisdom, His knowledge of what is best, His better understanding of the whole situation, His incredible love for you, and His ability to see into the future. He becomes your most valuable asset.

STEP FIFTEEN: Know God Predestined Your Life

Rom 8:29 (NIV) For those God foreknew <u>He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son</u>, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.

You have been experiencing God all of your life. You haven't always been appreciative or in agreement with what He did and has been doing to and for you. But, consider this: He used His **foreknowledge** and **predestination** power to choose when you would be born, where you would be born, to what parents you would be born, what body you would have, and what circumstances would come your way. He has been exposing you to these special life-classes, so you would be trained in the very best way for eternity.

Understanding God's Foreknowledge And Predestination

Why do you have the body you have? Why are you experiencing the circumstances you are facing? Why do you have the kind of talents, strengths and weaknesses you have? And, why are you getting the kind of opportunities you are being given? What you may not know is, God made all these decisions based on what would give you the greatest chance of accepting Jesus as your Savior, Lord, and King. And, He did it, so you would be able to be the very best you can be in eternity.

You now ***know*** **that** ***in all things*** **God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.** But, you may not be aware that He was even doing a lot of this all during the time you were living in sin.

God's Actions Prove His Love For You

Rom 5:8 (NIV) But God demonstrates His Own love for us in this: <u>While we were still sinners</u>, Christ died for us. While He was using His **foreknowledge** and **predestining** you, by choosing your time, geography, physical condition, and all those other things, He was making sure you had a Savior. He did it, so you wouldn't desperately need one and not have one. The moment you realized you needed help with your body and your life, Jesus was already there to give you the things you reached out for.

If you put your total faith in God, you will learn to appreciate when you were be born, where you were born, to what parents you were born, what kind of a body you have, what gender you have, what kind of circumstances you face, what kind of talents, strengths and weaknesses you have, and what kind of opportunities you are being given.

Chapter Eight

STEP SIXTEEN: Know Your Predestined Life

Rom 8:30 (NIV) And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified. You know your heavenly Father's work through the Old Testament; you know His spiritual provisions in the New Testament; you know His predestination in your life; you have experienced His work in saving you; and you are learning His sanctification through studying, praying, believing, loving, and taking faith-action. You are learning how to hope for all the eternal benefits that God is preparing for you. Now let Jesus break this verse down and help you look at each of its parts.

And those He predestined: As was said, God **predestined** you by providing Jesus' salvation; and, He **predestined** you by giving you your best chance of hearing and receiving the gospel message. So, since He **predestined** you, you are all set up for what He is doing now for you.

He also called: This is that vital drawing of God, the Father.

- **John 6:37-38 (NIV) All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do My will but to do the will of Him Who sent Me.**

- **John 6:39-40 (NIV) And this is the will of Him Who sent Me, that I shall lose none of all that He has given Me, but raise them up at the last day. For My Father's will is that *everyone* who looks to the Son and *believes* in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise Him up at the last day.**

- **John 6:44 (NIV) *No one* can come to Me unless the Father Who sent Me *draws him*, and I will raise him up at the last day.**

This is the call that God uses to draw you into salvation and spiritual growth, through Jesus. The **predestination** has and is giving you all your very best opportunities to be willing to respond to that call or drawing. Those who respond positively to this call, will not only do what Romans 10:9-10 tells them to do, they will be justified and sanctified.

Setting You Up For Great Success

Rom 10:9-10 (NIV) That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and *believe* in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <u>For it is with your heart that you *believe* and are *justified*</u>, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are *saved*.

He also justified: This is where you are given a perfect record.

- **1 Cor 6:11 (NIV) And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were *sanctified*, you were *justified* <u>in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of your God</u>.**

- **Rom 5:1 (NIV) Therefore, since you have been <u>justified through faith</u>, you have peace with God through your Lord Jesus Christ.**

Setting You Up For A Wonderful Ministry
Salvation brought Jesus' forgiveness for your past sins. Justification gives you a perfect record with God. It is a process of dealing with your current and future sins. These are things you typically find yourself inadvertently doing, as you learn how to *live* the Christian life. Sanctification is helping you stop doing things that would typically be sins against yourself, other people, and God. As you experience sanctification or spiritual growth, your behavior starts looking a lot like the things you are being credited for on your record with God.

Setting You Up For Eternal Life
He also glorified: You will be given a new body, a new heaven, and a new earth to live in.

- **Rom 5:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, since you have been justified through faith, you have peace with God through your Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom you have gained access by faith into this grace in which you now stand. And you rejoice in the hope of the GLORY of God.**

- **Acts 7:55 (NIV) But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.**

- **Rom 8:17-18 (NIV) Now if you are children, then you are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed you share in His sufferings <u>in order that you may also share in His *glory*</u>. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with <u>the *glory* that will be revealed in us.</u>**

- **1 Cor 2:7 (NIV) No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and <u>that God destined for our *glory* before time began</u>.**

Once your faith is taken out of yourself, out of your body, out of the world, and out of the devil, and once it is placed in God, you are on your way into the *glory* of God.

Chapter Nine

The Seven Love-Faith Questions

You now move into the final aspects of building, strengthening, increasing, and stabilizing your faith. All Christians got saved by faith; you continue living, as a Christian, through faith; and you grow spiritually through it. Faith, hope, and love are the three vital elements that all Christians must yield to. You got your faith developed and stabilized through sixteen powerful verses. Now bring your faith to God, so He can perfect it through His love.

2 Cor 4:18 (NIV) So you fix your eyes *not* on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, <u>the Author and Perfecter of our faith</u>, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

STEP ONE: Know How To Respond To God's Love

Rom 8:31a (NIV) What, then, shall we say in response to this?

John 8:36 (NIV) So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. The Holy Spirit is in you, ready to help you believe in all the provisions of God. Jesus explained all of this to His disciples prior to the Holy Spirit starting His ministry in Acts 2:4:

Getting Your Heart Trained In Jesus' Love

John 16:12-13 (NIV) I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.

John 16:14-15 (NIV) He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is Mine and make it known to you.

You can open your heart to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to help you respond to these questions with a totally receptive heart. He can give you a faith that will properly respond to God and believe in Him completely and constantly.

STEP TWO: Know God Is For You

Rom 8:31b (NIV) If God is for us, who can be against us?

- **Mat 19:26 (NIV) Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."**

- **2 Cor 9:8 (NIV) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.**

- **Mat 28:18 (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.**

- **1 John 4:4 (NIV) You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the One Who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.**

If God is for us, who can be against us: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are more powerful than anything or anyone that exists. God is for you; so, who can be against you and defeat you? This is the question you must ask every time you pray, every time you face an issue, and every time you find yourself being afraid or doubting.

STEP THREE: Know The Greatness Of God's Gift

Rom 8:32 (NIV) He Who did not spare His Own Son, but gave Him up for us all--how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? You just looked at the power and authority of God; now you are looking at the attitudes and desires of God. You know God *can* because no one and nothing can stop Him. Now you know God will because He has already demonstrated His willingness. When you get into a situation where you doubt God's willingness to help you get what you need, Romans 8:32 is the question you must ask yourself.

- **John 3:16 (NIV) For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

- **John 3:17 (NIV) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.**

STEP FOUR: Know You Are Free From Charges

Rom 8:33 (NIV) Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. You know God is so powerful that nothing is impossible for Him; you know He loves you so much He will **graciously give you all things.** But, sometimes you see yourself being the reason God won't **graciously give you all things.**

Satan speaks doubts into your mind and heart, trying to get you to believe you don't *deserve* being given the great things of God. Circumstances happen to you seemingly indicating that you *must* have done *something* that has caused God to not want to help you. You think, feel, say, and do things that you feel had to have caused God to refuse to help you. When you feel these feelings or think these thoughts, you must ask yourself this Romans 8:33 question.

STEP FIVE: Know That Jesus Is Interceding For You

Rom 8:34 (NIV) Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, Who died--more than that, Who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Sometimes you feel like you have done something that has cut you off from God. You think you have caused Him to reject you from being His child, a member of His family, and a citizen of His Kingdom. Condemnation is the feeling that makes you think you no longer have a relationship with God.

As long as you want to have a relationship with God, you can continue that relationship. Once a person does what it takes to make Jesus their Savior, Lord, and King, the only way they can lose it is to decide they don't want Him anymore. **Rom 8:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.** When you think or feel you are no longer a Christian, Romans 8:34 is the question you must ask yourself.

STEP SIX: Know That No Person Can Separate You

Rom 8:35a (NIV) Who shall separate you from the love of Christ? The idea and concept of condemnation is so important that you have an additional question to ask yourself. Within this question of **"Who shall separate you from the love of Christ?"** you have two questions that deal with two important issues. Both of them deal with separation from the love of Jesus.

This one deals with "who;" in other words, is there anyone in all of creation who is capable, powerful enough, or has the authority to separate you from Jesus' love. When you feel condemned because of a person's accusations or condemning words, Romans 8:35a is the question you must ask yourself.

STEP SEVEN: Know That No Circumstance Can Separate You

Rom 8:35b (NIV) Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? This second question is dealing with circumstances rather than people; *what* can separate you from the love of Jesus? If you feel circumstances are your proof that you have been cut off from your relationship with your heavenly Father, then Romans 8:35b is the question you must ask yourself.

Sometimes circumstances come in such rapid succession and with such intensity that it looks like you must have done something really bad. But, even though God may deal strictly with you for doing something really bad, He won't cut you off. Bad circumstances can mean He is trying to get your attention, but that would be because He loves you and is trying to grow you spiritually. But, one thing will be certain; you will not be confused as to why you are going through it. It will exactly what you did to cause Him to deal with you so strictly.

Chapter Ten

STEP EIGHT: Know Your Weaknesses

Rom 8:36 (NIV) As it is written: "For Your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." In order to have complete, constant faith in God, you have to understand problems with relationships, finance, emotions, and with the physical aspects of your body. You also have to understand the problems you have with circumstances that are outside of you.

You have just seen that people and things cannot separate you from Jesus' love unless you want them to. But, you still need to know why you have to have problems. Remember what Jesus said? **John 16:33 (NIV) I (Jesus) have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. <u>In this world you will have trouble</u>. But take heart! I have overcome the world."**

It is wonderful that Jesus has all power and authority; but, what about you? You have seen that He can always solve your problems because He has the power and authority. You have also seen He has the willingness and desire to help you. You have additionally seen that nothing or no one can separate you from that power, authority, willingness, and desire. Now you must have faith in the fact that all that power, authority, willingness, and desire are in you for a reason. God has established a power-relationship with you, so you can work together with Him.

STEP NINE: Know You Are More Than A Conqueror

Rom 8:37 (NIV) No, in all these things *we* are more than conquerors <u>through Him Who loved us</u>. Your faith in God must involve you believing that He is not only healing, blessing, delivering, and working you miracles, as a part of His creative language of love. He is working through you, empowering you to do great and mighty things. If you don't understand this part of the authority and power of God, then you will be constantly praying and asking God to do *everything* for you. Much of what God will do for you will be done *with* you and through you.

Rom 8:13 (NIV) For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; <u>but if *by* the Spirit *you*</u> put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

John 14:12 (NIV) I tell you the truth, <u>anyone who has faith in Me</u> *will do* what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

It is true that **apart from Me (Jesus) you can do nothing (John 15:5b NIV).** However, it is also true that you **can do *everything* through Him (Jesus) Who gives** you **strength (Philippians 4:13 NIV).** Jesus wants you *to be a part* of much of those things He wants to do *for* you, to you, in you, through you, and with you. This keeps you from expecting Him to do everything independent of you or you separate from Him.

STEP TEN: Know How To Be Convinced

Rom 8:38-39 (NIV) For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

"For I am convinced" is a statement of faith in God. It is a strong, consistent faith in God's authority, power, willingness, and desire to **along with Him (Jesus), graciously give us all things.** It is a strong, consistent faith in God's authority, power, willingness, and desire to protect you from being destroyed by any bad things.

Romans 8:38-39 *isn't* saying none of these things will come your way. Jesus said, in **John 16:33: (NIV): "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you *will* have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."**

When these things do come your way, **in Me (Jesus) you may have peace; you** can also **take heart** because **I (Jesus) have overcome the world**; and, **in all these things you are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us.** As long as you make the Bible the *final* authority in what you believe, accept, know, and are convinced of, then your faith will be powerful, constant, and unwavering.

Conclusion

These and many other Biblical procedures are presented on the wctlc.com website. This is especially true with the **"Starting Your Day With Jesus"** book series. Just go to the website and select: **"I would like good BOOKS to read."** Then take out the time to read all the introductory information on the **"Books For Successful Living"** page. And then select: **"I'm Ready To Go To The Book List."** Let the information there explain to you how to start a progressive spiritual growth system with Jesus.

The purpose of these pamphlets and booklets are for you to have as a quick reference for yourself and to help you give others short guidance, when they need it. There can be many situations where you don't need a full training or prayer time. The five-day-a-week, three-page system is very powerful and very rewarding. But, when that isn't what you need, these materials can supplement those books and series.