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Train & Multiply™

Project WorldReach (T&M™ ministry operation)
Dr. George Patterson (Originating Author)
SEAN International



Contact: **Project WorldReach PWR™**

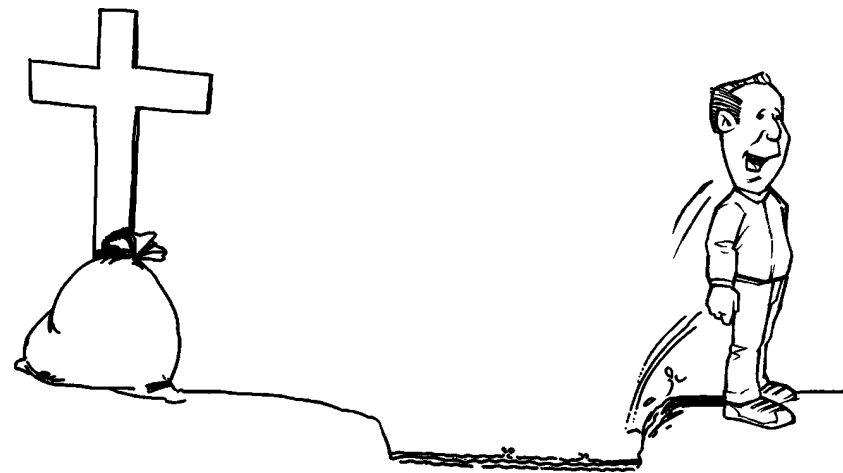
474 - 800 - 15355 - 24th Ave
Surrey BC, Canada
V4A 2H9

E-mail: pwr@trainandmultiply.com

Website: <http://www.trainandmultiply.com>

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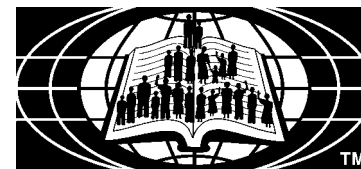
Romans: The Life of Faith



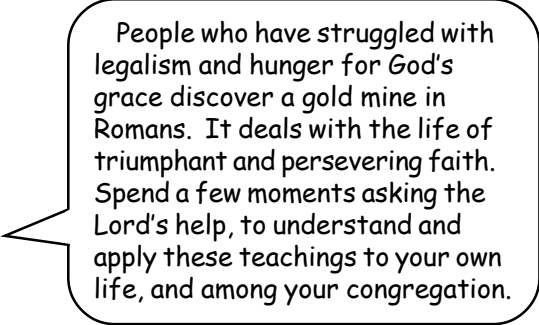
Pastoral Leader Training Booklet

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The Roman believers were ‘Gentiles’ (non-Jews). Jewish believers, however, had confused them, teaching that to be saved they also had to keep the Old Testament Law.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Romans to:

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Romans: The Life of Faith

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NOTES

Compare your answer with Romans 3:28:

“For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.”

THE MAIN THEME OF ROMANS

The letter to the Romans offers many edifying subjects but one central theme runs like a thread through all its pages, from beginning to end:



The thread: JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

“For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written, ‘The righteous will live by faith.’”

(Romans 1:17)

God declares that all who trust in Christ are free from guilt and receive guidance from His Holy Spirit to live by faith.

The letter to the Romans is a Declaration of Liberty. We are declared free from guilt through:

- ☐ faith in Jesus Christ.
- ☐ the works of God's law.

Compare your answer with Romans 3:22:

"This righteousness which is from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe."

Let us live by faith! Not only are we saved by faith at the beginning of the Christian life; we also go on living by faith. Our salvation is forever; it is eternal life. We go on persevering daily by faith, in everything we do.

Our faith leads us to receive Christ and:

- ☐ from then on we rely on our good works.
- ☐ unites us to Christ forever.

Check your answer: By faith we remain in Christ forever.

In chapter 16 Paul salutes many Christians, recognizing their work as servants of Christ. He warns them about those who divide the church:

"I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people."

(Romans 16:17-18)

PRACTICAL WORK

- Teach your congregation the steps towards spiritual maturity, from the letter to the Romans.



The proud Christian takes over other people's work, taking to his own credit the efforts of others. Where does the humble servant evangelize?

- ☐ Where he can take over the members of another church.
- ☐ In places where there are no churches, and the people are lost without Christ.

Check your answer with:

"It has always been my ambition to preach the Gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. Rather, as it is written, 'Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand.'"

(Romans 15:20-21)

Some Jewish believers wanted to oblige the Gentiles to keep the regulations of the Old Covenant. They contradicted Paul when he preached, interfering in someone else's work. But Paul did not do this.

STEPS TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

There are thirteen steps to spiritual maturity, divided into four stages. These steps are not always taken in consecutive order; a Christian might take several at once, as the Holy Spirit works.

THE STAGE OF CONVICTION (Chapters 1-3)

1. THE SINNER FEARS THE WRATH OF GOD.
2. THE SINNER STOPS MAKING EXCUSES.
3. THE SINNER IS CONVINCED HE IS LOST, AND TURNS TO GOD.

THE STAGE OF CONVERSION (Chapters 4-6)

4. THE BELIEVER INHERITS THE PROMISE BY FAITH.
5. THE BELIEVER FINDS PEACE WITH GOD.
6. THE BELIEVER DIES WITH CHRIST TO SIN, AND IS RAISED TO NEW LIFE.

THE STAGE OF GROWTH (Chapters 7-11)

7. THE SPIRITUAL MAN FIGHTS AGAINST HIS CARNAL NATURE.
8. THE SPIRITUAL MAN IS SECURE IN CHRIST.
9. THE SPIRITUAL MAN APPRECIATES HIS SPIRITUAL ROOTS.

THE STAGE OF MATURITY (Chapters 12-16)

10. THE MATURE BELIEVER PRESENTS HIMSELF AS A LIVING SACRIFICE.
11. THE MATURE BELIEVER IS RESPONSIBLE AND FULFILLS HIS DUTIES.
12. THE MATURE BELIEVER IS PATIENT WITH HIS WEAKER BROTHER.
13. THE MATURE BELIEVER BECOMES A HUMBLE SERVANT.

STEP 13: The mature Christian becomes a humble servant. (Read chapters 15-16)

The mature Christian:

- ☐ is the more famous preacher.
- ☐ is the one who gives more orders.
- ☐ serves everyone humbly, as Christ did.

“Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For even Christ did not please himself...”

(Romans 15:2-3)

“Accept one another then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles may glorify God for His mercy...”

(Romans 15:7-9)



"We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves."

(Romans 15:1)

The Bible doesn't forbid drinking wine in moderation.



No, thank you. I know we have that freedom, but some brothers don't understand. They would be offended.



Who should submit to whom?

- ☐ The weak in faith, to the strong?
- ☐ The strong in faith, to the weak?

Check your answer with Romans 15:1. We must think of others when we act.

THE STAGE OF CONVICTION

(Chapters 1-3)

Wrath of God



STEP 1: The sinner fears the wrath of God.
(Read chapter 1)

The sinner fears the wrath of God because:

- ☐ our wickedness provokes His wrath.
- ☐ in His wrath He might punish us unjustly.

Compare your answer with Romans 1:18:

“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness...”

STEP 2: The sinner stops making excuses.
(Read chapter 2)

EXCUSE:



“You have no excuse... but because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God will give each person according to what he has done.”

(Romans 2:6)

The person who is weak in the faith is whoever is not guided by the Spirit, but rather by rules and regulations. For example, someone weak in the faith will not consume certain food or drink.

(Romans 14:2, 21)

Underline WHAT the Kingdom of God is, in Romans 14:17:

“The Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

“So then, let us stop judging one another.” (Romans 14:13)

“It is better not to eat meat nor to drink wine or do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.”

(Romans 14:21)

According to the Apostle Paul, what should we avoid?

- ☐ Whatever offends, weakens, or makes others fall.
- ☐ Whatever is forbidden by false sects.

Check your answer with Romans 14:17-21.

The weaker believer leans on regulations for guidance. He cannot be free to do all that the Lord allows him to do, because his will is still affected by worldly habits.

The spiritual believer loves God and his fellow man. What he wants is healthy, and is born of his love for God and a desire to do His will.

God's sons are free to:

- ☐ disobey the government.
- ☐ serve God in love.

Check your answer with Romans 13:4-8 above.

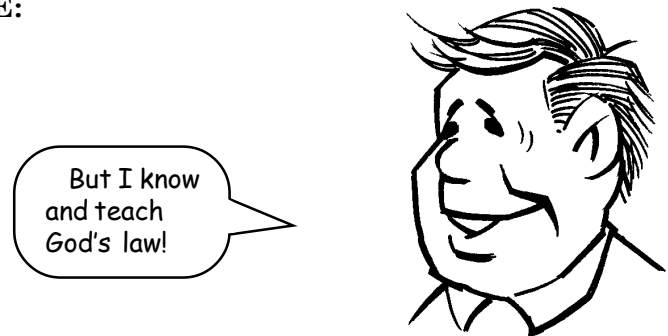
STEP 12: The mature believer is patient with his weaker brother. (Read chapter 14 and also 15:1)

Underline WHOM we should receive without passing judgment:

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.”

(Romans 14:1)

EXCUSE:



For there is no partiality with God. For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish with the Law; and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the law. (Romans 2:11-12)

EXCUSE:



“A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit...”

(Romans 2:28-29)

What excuse can we use before God?

- ☐ We inherit our weaknesses from Adam.
- ☐ Others behave worse.
- ☐ Before God, no excuse is any use.

STEP 3: The sinner is convinced he is lost, and turns to God.
(Read chapter 3)

What was the purpose of the Law?

- ☐ The consciousness of sin.
- ☐ The justification of those who stop sinning.

Compare your answer with the last phrase of Romans 3:19-20:

“Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those under the law, so that every mouth will be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.”

Underline WHOM the authorities should punish:

“...(the earthly government) is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.”

(Romans 13:4)

Underline SEVERAL duties that we must fulfill:

“Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. Let no debt remain outstanding; except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow man has fulfilled the whole law.”

(Romans 13:7-8)

We are no longer under the law of the Old Covenant. According to Romans 13:8-10, what law do we follow now?

- ☐ Love which fulfills the purpose of all the commandments.
- ☐ Moses’ law.

The worship which best pleases God is:

- ☐ public praise.
- ☐ a whole life given as a sacrifice to the Lord.

Check your answer by reading Romans 12:1-2 again.

A pastor must always build up his flock's faith, so that they will give themselves to God as a living sacrifice.

STEP 11: The mature believer is responsible and fulfills his duties. (Read chapter 13)

Underline TO WHOM we should submit ourselves:

"Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established."
(Romans 13:1)



"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
(Romans 3:23)

No one can save themselves, nor alone, avoid the inevitable result of their sin. The only hope for the sinner is to humble himself and seek God's mercy.



THE STAGE OF CONVERSION

(Chapters 4-6)

STEP 4: The believer inherits the promise by faith.
(Read chapter 4)

God is merciful, and sent His Son Jesus Christ to pay the condemnation we deserved. He died in our place as the sacrifice for our sins. He paid a very high price - His own life - for our redemption and salvation. Nevertheless, if we do not accept this salvation by FAITH, there is no other salvation, and we will be eternally separated from God. (Romans 3:24-30)

God promised Abraham to bless all nations through him. This was promised because of his faith, before his circumcision, and before the law was given.

Abraham's true sons and heirs are:

- ☐ his natural descendants.
- ☐ those who keep Moses' law.
- ☐ those who share Abraham's faith.

Answer: Read carefully Romans 4:14 and 16 (next).

THE STAGE OF MATURITY

(Chapters 12-16)

STEP 10: The mature believer presents himself to God as a living sacrifice. (Read chapter 12)

SUMMARY OF ROMANS CHAPTER 12

THEME: Romans 12:1: "*...I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - which is your spiritual worship.*"

To be living sacrifices to God, we must:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| verse 2: | Change our way of thinking. |
| verse 3: | Have a realistic concept of ourselves. |
| verse 4-8: | Use our gifts in a united body. |
| verse 9-10: | Love each other sincerely. |
| verse 10-12: | Work hard. |
| verse 13: | Help the needy. |
| verse 14-15: | Guard our tongue. |
| verse 16: | Be humble. |
| verse 17-21: | Repay evil with good. |

Who are the natural (original) branches?

- ☐ The Jews (Israelites).
- ☐ Believers of every race.

Why were the natural branches, the Israelites, removed?

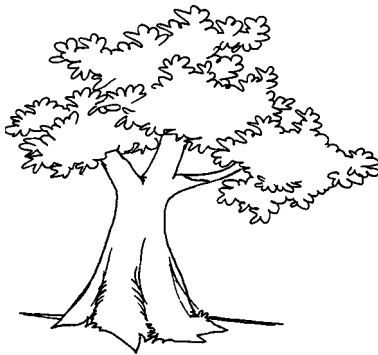
- ☐ For their unbelief.
- ☐ For their lack of zeal.

The Jews were removed because they did not believe.

Believers who are not Jews are:

- ☐ strangers in the Kingdom of God.
- ☐ wild branches grafted in.

We cannot boast about having inherited the promises made to the Jews. We are not better than they; we are wild branches grafted into the Kingdom of God by sheer mercy.



“For if those who live by the law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless... Therefore the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring - not only those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.”

(Romans 4:14,16)



It is important to emphasize that this SAVING FAITH is not just intellectual belief. The Bible says that even the demons believe and tremble. (James 2:19)

Saving faith includes:

Repentance

That is, a change of attitude about sin, in which we do a U-turn of 180 degrees, and are prepared to not go on sinning but follow the Lord.

“When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said, what shall we do? Peter replied, Repent...”

(Acts 2:37-38)



In the Old Testament the people of God were mainly:

- ☐ Israelites (Jews).
- ☐ Gentiles (non-Jews).
- ☐ both, equally.

The old covenant was made with only one nation. These Israelites were descendants of Abraham through his son Isaac.

The people of God in the New Testament are made up of:

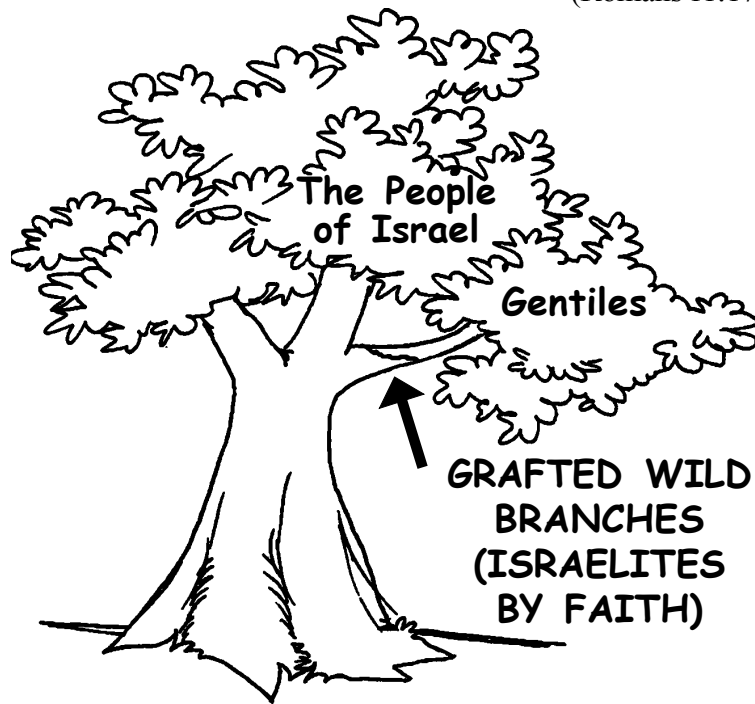
- ☐ Israelites (Jews).
- ☐ believers of every nation.

Believers of any nation are the true spiritual children of the believer Abraham. To this ancestor of the Jews and Jesus, God promised: *“...all peoples on earth will be blessed by you.”* (Genesis 12:1-3)

The olive tree represents the true people of God, the true descendants of Abraham, the Israel of God.

“If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.”

(Romans 11:17-18)



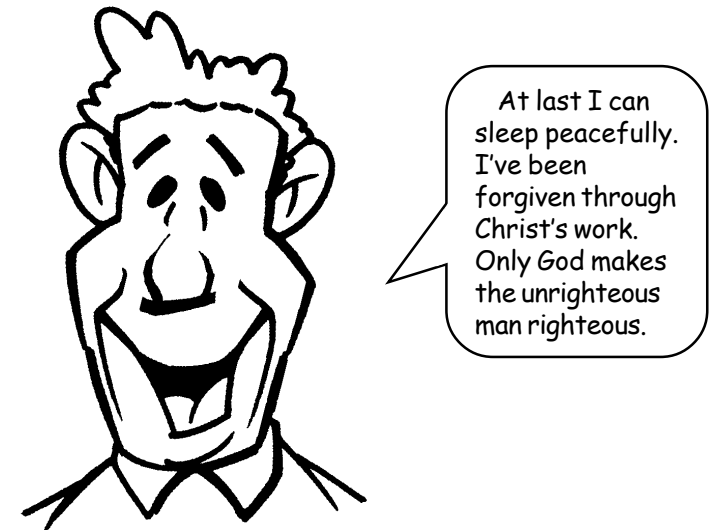
“...so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written, the deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.”

(Romans 11:25-26)

Receiving Jesus Christ As Savior And Lord.

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become the children of God.”

(John 1:12)



Obedying God.

“Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

(Matthew 7:21)

STEP 5: The believer finds peace with God.
(Read chapter 5)

“Grace” means the unmerited goodness and favor to us of our loving heavenly Father. Salvation is:

- ☐ only from past sins.
- ☐ eternal, because by grace we have a firm hope of being glorified with Christ.

Compare your answer with:

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.”

(Romans 5:1-2)

God’s grace is:

- ☐ limited.
- ☐ super-abundant.

Check your answer with:

“...faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”

(Romans 10:17)

Faith is based on:

- ☐ our feelings and emotions.
- ☐ our experience.
- ☐ the inspired Word of God.

Through the Word of God the Holy Spirit wakes a real faith in us. Teach your people not to trust their own emotions, but rather in the Word of God that never fails.

In Romans 11:17-21 Paul explains spiritual grafting. The Jews are olive branches which because of their unbelief were removed from the tree. The non-Jews (Gentiles) are wild branches grafted onto the trunk of the olive tree. Why should Gentiles not boast about this?

According to this verse, what is true faith?

Is there a difference before God now, between the Jewish believers and those of other nations, in the church?

Check your answer with:

“For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile - the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”
(Romans 10:12-13)

Faith comes through hearing. How does hearing come?

Compare your answer with Romans 5:19-20:

“For just as through disobedience of one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of one man the many will be made righteous. The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more...”

Summary of Romans chapter 5

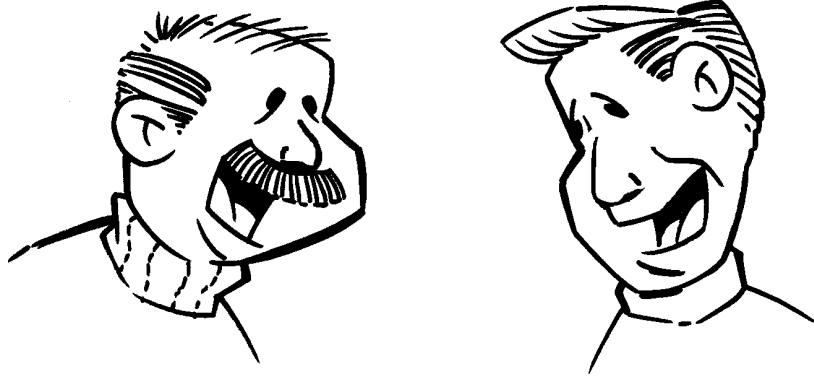
THE FRUIT OF FAITH:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Romans 5:1 | - PEACE WITH GOD |
| 2. Romans 5:2a | - ENTRY TO HIS PRESENCE |
| 3. Romans 5:2b-5 | - HOPE IN TRIBULATION |
| 4. Romans 5:6-9 | - FORGIVENESS |
| 5. Romans 5:10-11 | - RECONCILIATION WITH GOD |
| 6. Romans 5:12-18 | - ETERNAL LIFE |
| 7. Romans 5:19-21 | - GRACE AND FAVOUR OF GOD |

We are not saved by our own holiness. Rather, God applies Christ's righteousness to us. This is how we are saved by grace, that is, by God's love and mercy.

Does one have to become holy, to persevere?

Yes, but not by your own efforts. Let the Holy Spirit make you holy.



The Holy Spirit imputes and imparts the holiness of Jesus Christ to us, to save us, keep us and lead us into good works. Our holiness comes from Christ.

Because we are affected by Adam's disobedience, we have all sinned, and will die. But through the obedience of Christ, every believer will receive eternal life. Jesus Christ was crucified for our sin, and raised again to share His new life and holiness with all His followers.

According to this, are you a descendant of Abraham?

The heirs of the heavenly promises are those who believe in Christ. They are saved:

- ☐ by faith and good works.
- ☐ by faith, of which good works are a result.

Check your answer with:

"...Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the 'stumbling stone.' As it is written: 'See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.'"

(Romans 9:31-32)

"..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."

(Romans 10:9)

STEP 9: The spiritueal man appreciates his spiritual roots.
(Read chapters 9-11)

Paul was very sad and concerned because his fellow Israelites rejected Christ. (Romans 9:1-3)

Underline EIGHT privileges God gave the Israelites.

“Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised!”
(Romans 9:4-5)

Now the true Israelites are not the natural descendants of Abraham, but rather those who share his faith in the promises of God:

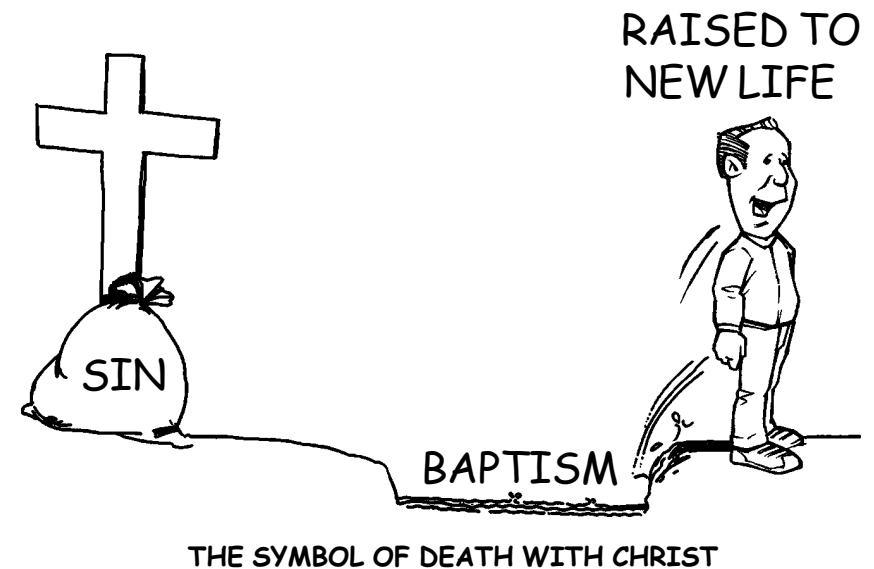
“...For not all who descended from Israel are Israe, nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children. On the contrary, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” In other words, it is not the natural children who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring.”
(Romans 9:6-8)

Jesus’ death and resurrection are applied to us by the Holy Spirit. He helps us:

- ☐ only at the start of our Christian life.
- ☐ to begin, and persevere.

The work of Christ keeps us eternally. The Holy Spirit unites us with Jesus Christ forever.

STEP 6: The believer dies to sin with Christ, and is raised to new life. (Read chapter 6)

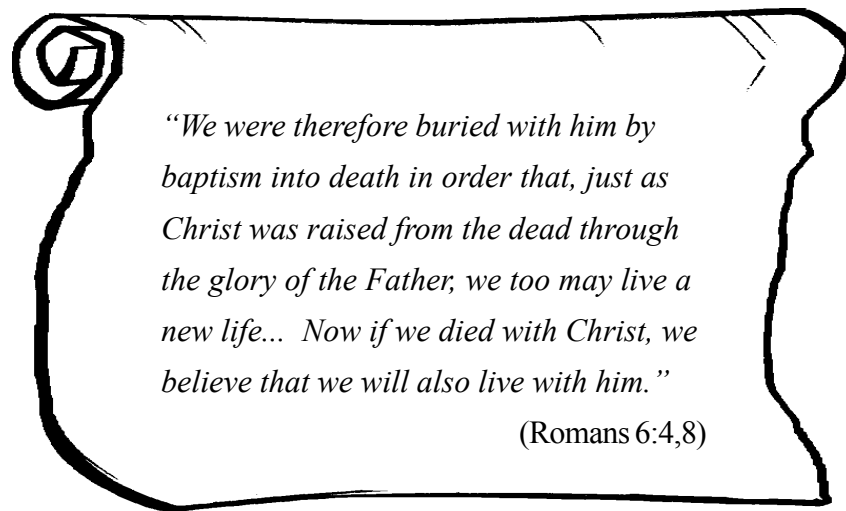


If, with Christ, we die to sin, we are raised also with Him to a new, holy and eternal life.

In what sense is the believer now raised from the dead?

- ☐ He is dead to sin, and raised with Christ to new life.
- ☐ He is raised to life by his good works.

Check your answer with:

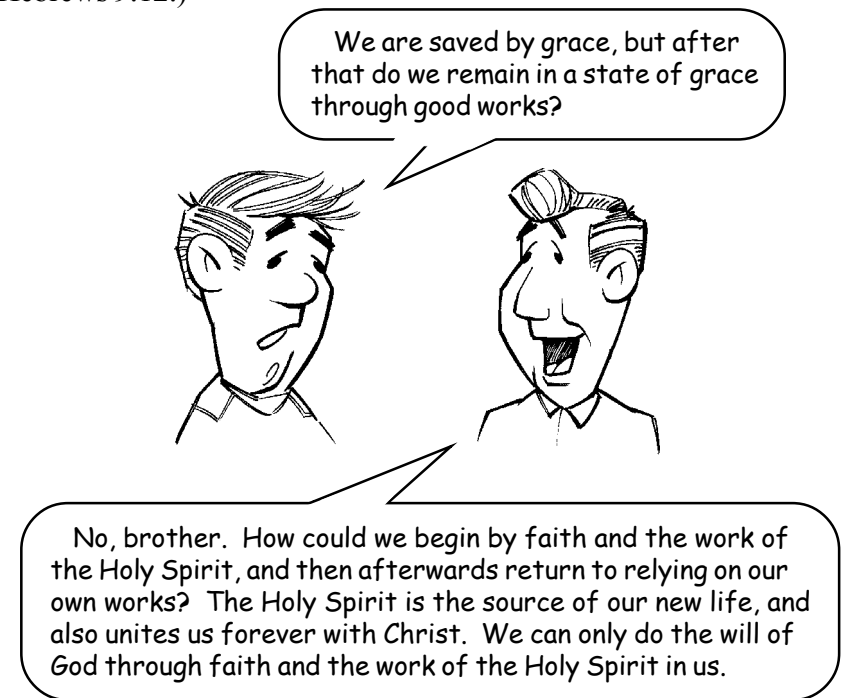


Baptism confirms our faith in Christ. Through this faith we are saved.

Our salvation in Christ:

- ☐ is eternal.
- ☐ is temporal.

(Check your answer with Romans 8:28-30, Romans 8:38-39 and Hebrews 9:12.)



We are saved by faith, and from conversion onwards:

- ☐ we continue to live by faith.
- ☐ good works keep us in Christ.

We always live by faith, because the Holy Spirit dwells in us.

Underline FIVE things that God does to assure our eternal salvation:

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”

(Romans 8:28-30)

He “predestined” means:

- ☐ by His will and grace, God chooses us before we receive Christ.
- ☐ we choose Christ first, by our own decision.

(Check your answer with Romans 8:28-30 and Ephesians 1:3-6.)

Underline things over which we triumph in Christ:

“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 creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 8:38-39)

THE STAGE OF GROWTH

(Chapters 7-11)

STEP 7: The spiritual man fights against his carnal nature. (Read chapter 7)

Romans chapter 7 speaks of three laws or codes:

1. The Law of Moses (from the Old Testament).
2. The Law of the Spirit (of the New Testament).
3. The law of sin (in our fleshly nature).

The believer, because of his faith, is subject to the law of:

- ☐ Moses.
- ☐ the Spirit.
- ☐ the flesh.

Check your answer with:

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

(Romans 7:6)

“So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law but I see another law at work in 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 7:21-23)

When we die with Christ, we die to sin and to the law. We no longer follow the ritual laws of the Old Testament, but rather the Spirit.

The spiritual believer is guided by:

- ☐ the ritual law.
- ☐ the Holy Spirit.

STEP 8: The spiritual man is secure in Christ.
(Read chapter 8)

Chapter 8 calms the deepest anxieties of the Christian’s heart. It quiets the fear of condemnation, of death, of our weaknesses or the accusations of the enemy. It explains how the Holy Spirit applies to the Christian the work of Christ, completely and for eternity.

Underline FIVE things that the Holy Spirit does in and for us:

“You, however are not controlled 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. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation - but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For 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, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received a Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit himself testifies to our spirit that we are God’s children.”

(Romans 8:9-16)

By whom is Christ’s redemptive work eternally applied to us?

- ☐ Ourselves.
- ☐ Peter or some other saint.
- ☐ The Holy Spirit.

(Check your answer with Romans 8:9-16.)

(God is like an artist who transforms us into the image of His Son.
Sometimes the process includes pain! God uses trials to perfect us.)

Does God pay heed to any charge made against us?
(Romans 8:31-34)

(Neither the devil, nor our enemies, nor our own conscience can
accuse us before God, if we have repented and believed in Christ.)

Can anything separate us from Christ? (Romans 8:35-39)

The work of the Holy Spirit in us affects our lives in:

- ☐ everything.
- ☐ a few things.

The Holy Spirit continues to work in our lives after our conversion.
There is much He transforms, sanctifies, edifies, and teaches, as He
gradually transforms us more and more into the image of Christ.

Being in Christ, what do we escape? (Romans 8:1)

If we live in Christ, from what two things has the Holy Spirit freed us?
(Romans 8:2)

From _____ and _____.

Who was our sin offering? (Romans 8:3-4)

On what does the Holy Spirit set our desires? (Romans 8:5-8)

Who helps us to control the way we live? (Romans 8:9-11)

The Holy Spirit helps us to live “by the Spirit.”
(See Galatians 5:22-23.)

What do we put to death, through the Spirit? (Romans 8:12-13)

Who are the sons of God? (Romans 8:14)

What kind of Spirit have we received? (Romans 8:15)

What does the Spirit testify to us? (Romans 8:16)

With what are our present sufferings not worth comparing?
(Romans 8:18-23)

What will happen to the natural creation, at the time of the redemption
of our bodies in the resurrection? (Romans 8:19-24)

What does the Spirit do to help us in our weakness?
(Romans 8:26-27)

Through each circumstance, and in everything that happens to us,
God is transforming us little by little. Into whose likeness has God
predestined us to be transformed? (Romans 8:28-29)
