

# Out Of The Old Into The New.

How believers are changed in the hands of God.



A Two-Part Message Series

## **PART TWO INTRODUCTION**

As Christ followers on a journey, why do we sometimes feel like we still fall short of the transformation we hope to receive to becoming more like Christ? Sometimes, these are ways for God to tell us that we are still “flapping” - that is, trying hard on our own to change, but still operating under the law of sin and death.

The only way to overcome this and receive real transformation is to let another law take place: “the law of the life-giving spirit”.

How do we let this law work in our lives?

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. We were, by nature, of the flesh, which opposes and does not submit to God. (Romans 8:7) It was only by receiving Christ into our lives that we received the Holy Spirit in us.

*Galatians 5:17: “For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.”*

The reason why we face constant conflict is because of the internal conflict of the Spirit and flesh within us. What is your response to the following questions? Explain your responses.

- Do you believe that the old man is dead when you are born again?
- Do you believe that you have a new nature when you are born again?
- Do you believe that the Christian can still sin and walk or live according to the flesh?

**If your response to the last question is ‘Yes’, why do you think some of us Christians are not living like liberated children of God?**

2. As both the Spirit and the flesh cannot co-exist (Gal 4:30), we must make a decision to fully disassociate with, and put to death the flesh, by making no provision for it (Romans 13:14).

**Think of some examples where we ‘make provision’ for the flesh, and then think of how we can stop doing so.**

3. Do an inductive bible study (observations, interpretation and application) on Romans 6:1-14. You can use the following as a guide.
- i. Posture your heart. Spend some time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher. Open your heart to the Lord to speak to you.
  - ii. Read the passage aloud
  - iii. Ask some context questions of the passage:
    - What sort of writing is this? (a letter, a poem, a narrative etc?)
    - Are there any clues about the circumstances under which it was written?
    - What has happened so far in this particular book of the Bible?
  - iv. Some observation questions of the passage:
    - Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the passage?
    - What is the main point or points?
    - What surprises are there?
    - What are the key words? What words or ideas are repeated?
  - v. Some meaning questions of the text:
    - How does this passage relate to other parts of the book?
    - How does the passage relate to Jesus?
    - What does this teach us about God?
    - How could we sum up the meaning of this passage in our own words?
  - vi. Some application questions of the passage:
    - How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
    - Is there some attitude I need to change?
    - How does this passage call on me to change the way I live?

### **THINK ABOUT IT**

Read the illustration, 'The Thirteenth Amendment' at the end of this curriculum which helps to explain why Christians are still living in bondage though they have been set free.

### **WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**

Romans 6:5 - As Christ died for our sins, we unite with Him by dying to our old selves (the one of the flesh). And as He resurrected, we unite with Him by resurrecting as new selves (the one of the Spirit).

Make the decision to reckon your old self as fully dead, and receive God's gift of eternal life with your new self - which will allow you to live freely by the law of the life-giving spirit!

### **CHANGE YOUR MIND**

*"Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace." ~ Romans 6:13-14*

## The Thirteenth Amendment

Slavery in the United States was abolished by the Thirteenth Amendment on December 18, 1865. How many slaves were there on December 19? In reality, none, but many still lived like slaves. They did because they never learned the truth. Others knew and even believed that they were free, but chose to continue living as they had always been taught.

Many plantation owners were devastated by this proclamation of emancipation. "We're ruined! Slavery has been abolished. We've lost the battle to keep our slaves." But their chief spokesman slyly responded, "Not necessarily. As long as these people think they're still slaves, the proclamation of emancipation will have no practical effect. You don't have a legal right over them anymore, but many of them don't know it. Keep your slaves from learning the truth, and your control over them will not even be challenged."

"But what if the news spreads?"

"Don't panic. We have another barrel on our gun. We may not be able to keep them from hearing the news, but we can still keep them from understanding it. They don't call me the father of lies for nothing. We still have the potential to deceive the whole world. Just tell them that they misunderstood the Thirteenth Amendment. Tell them that they are going to be free, not that they are free already. The truth they heard is just positional truth, not actual truth. Someday they may receive the benefits, but not now."

"But, they'll expect me to say that. They won't believe me."

"Then pick out a few persuasive ones who are convinced that they're still slaves and let them do the talking for you. Remember, most of these newly freed people were born as slaves and have lived like slaves all their lives. All we have to do is to deceive them so that they still think like slaves. As long as they continue to do what slaves do, it will not be hard to convince them that they must still be slaves. They will maintain their slave identity because of the things they do. The moment they try to profess that they are no longer slaves, just whisper in their ear, 'How can you even think you are no longer a slave when you are still doing things that slaves do?' After all, we have the capacity to accuse the brethren day and night."

Years later, many slaves have still not heard the wonderful news that they have been freed, so naturally they continue to live the way they have always lived. Some slaves have heard the good news, but they evaluate it by what they are presently doing and feeling. They reason, "I'm still living in bondage, doing the same things I have always done. My experience tells me that I must not be free. I'm feeling the same way I was before the proclamation, so it must not be true. After all, your feelings always tell the truth." So they continue to live according to how they feel, not wanting to be hypocrites!

One former slave, however, hears the good news, and receives it with great joy. He checks out the validity of the proclamation, and finds out that the highest of all authorities originated the decree. Not only that, but it personally cost that authority a tremendous price, which he willingly paid so that the slave could be free. As a result, the slave's life is transformed. He correctly reasons that it would be hypocritical to believe his feelings and not the truth. Determined to live by what he knows to be true, his experiences began to change rather dramatically. He realizes that his old master has no authority over him and does not need to be obeyed. He gladly serves the one who set him free.'

The gospel is the "proclamation of emancipation" for every sinner who is sold into the slavery of sin. Every person that comes into this world is born dead in his or her trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1), and is by nature a child of wrath (Ephesians 2:3). The good news is that we who are Christians are no longer slaves to sin. We are now alive in Christ and dead to sin (Romans 6:11). We have been set free in Christ. We are no longer sinners in the hands of an angry God. We are saints in the hands of a loving God. We are forgiven, justified, redeemed, and born-again children of God. We may not feel like it, we may not act like it, and others may tell us that we are not, but we have been sanctified in Christ and are being sanctified in Him.

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