

May 12, 2019



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
God promises that through faith in His Son, Jesus, we already have eternal life

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Dear Lord, during my times of doubt help me remember the promise of Your Word. Since I have invited Jesus into my life and placed my faith in His payment for my sins, You have promised me eternal life with You

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God

(1 John 5:13 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Oct 01, 2015)

Series: Discipleship & Mission

UNIT: Call To Life in Christ

NEXT WEEK

**Called to Mutual
Acceptance
(Romans 11:11-24)**

Called to Righteousness Romans 3:21-31

Lesson Background and Introduction

The baseline for last week's lesson from Romans 3 was that all men and women are sinners. Even so, God has made a way for us to be counted righteous in his eyes. In the texts that intervene between that lesson and this week's, Paul went on to examine the life of the great ancestor of the Jews: Abraham. The key verse in that regard is that "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness" (Romans 4:3, quoting Genesis 15:6; compare Romans 4:22). Abraham's righteousness came through his faith. And that was before he was circumcised (Genesis 17:24) and long before the law was given through Moses. Paul thereby concludes that faith (as opposed to works) is the God-established pathway to right standing with Him. This pathway predates both circumcision and the law. Abraham was essentially a Gentile when God reckoned him as righteous, since Israel did not exist at the time. This fact undercuts any argument that proposes keeping the Law of Moses is the way to earn God's favor and attain right standing with him. In the chapters from Romans that follow, Paul discusses the three terrifying tyrants of humanity: sin, the law, and death. Sin had dominion over us, but we are freed by the grace of God (Romans 6:14). Sin held out the terror of death as its consequences (6:16, 23). The law enslaved us, but we have been freed to a new life (7:6). Paul ends Romans 7 with an expression of sincere gratitude for his deliverance from the bondage of sin and the law (Romans 7:25). As he does so, he prepares to address further the issue of the three tyrants.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Remember when you said this? Wasn't that terrible that you did that? You'll never get over that one. God's going to get you." One of Satan's number one jobs is to accuse Christians, remind them of their past, make them feel hopeless over recurring habits, and most of all paint a picture of God looking at them with a big frown on His face. Paul counters Satan's attacks with truth from the Scriptures. Christians who are now in Christ Jesus, identifying with Him, God's penalty has been removed.

Flesh vs. Spirit - Paul drew a contrast between life in the flesh and the Spirit-filled life. People who are constantly looking to Christ for all their needs are very different from those who are always worried about if they are in or out of God's good graces. A loving Father wants His children to be free, enjoying their relationship with Him, not chained to a set of unachievable standards- Jesus' death perfectly fulfilled God's requirements.

The Spirit-Filled Life - When one becomes a believer, God's Holy Spirit now comes to life inside the person. This is the seal that he or she is truly God's child. Like a river, the Holy Spirit should be flowing through the life of a believer. Daily the spirit-filled Christian constantly consults the Holy Spirit for direction, conversation, help—basically running the life of the Christian.

Who's Driving? - Can you honestly say the Holy Spirit is in the driver's seat of your life, or are you in the backseat attempting to take over the wheel or complaining about every bend in the road. Some think, if they let the Holy Spirit direct their lives, it will be like living in a religious prison, without any freedom or joy. True freedom is trusting God knows how to drive and He always knows the best way to go.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

The Freedom of the Spirit (Rom 8:1-7)

Freedom from condemnation (1)

- No condemnation because of believing in the Name of Jesus (John 3:18)
- No condemnation because of hearing God's word and believing it (John 5:24)
- No condemnation because of being justified through faith (Rom 5:1)
- No condemnation because of being God's chosen (Rom 8:33-34)
- No condemnation because of the blood of Jesus (Eph 2:13-15)

Freedom from the law (2-4)

- Freedom from the law because of grace (Rom 5:20-21)
- Freedom from the law because of Jesus' proclamation of freedom (Luke 4:18)
- Freedom from the law because of the ransom of Jesus (Heb 9:15)
- Freedom from the law because of the righteousness of God (Rom 3:21-24)
- Freedom from the law because of faith in Jesus (Gal 2:16)
- Freedom from the law because the law leads to Jesus (Gal 3:24-25)

Freedom from the flesh (5-7)

- Freedom from the flesh through the discernment of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 2:14)
- Freedom from the flesh through denying self (Mark 8:33-35)
- Freedom from the flesh through living by the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:16-17)
- Freedom from the flesh through putting off the old self (Eph 4:21-24)
- Freedom from the flesh through setting my mind and heart on things above (Col 3:1-3)

The Power of the Spirit (Rom 8:8-11)

Power of being in Christ (8-9)

- Being in Christ brings life (1 Cor 15:22)
- In Christ, God's promises are yes (2 Cor 1:20)
- Being in Christ means being a new creation (2 Cor 5:17)
- Being in Christ means being heirs to the promises made to Abraham (Gal 3:26-29)
- Being in Christ means being blessed in the heavenly realms (Eph 1:3)

Spiritual power (10)

- Spiritual power through the Holy Spirit for eternal life (John 4:14)
- Spiritual power that leads us into the likeness of Jesus (1 Cor 15:46-49)
- Spiritual power that leads to perfection (Heb 12:22-24)
- Spiritual power that comes from putting on the full armor of God (Eph 6:12-13)
- Spiritual power in the inner being (Eph 3:16-19)

Resurrection power (11)

- Resurrection power for those who believe (Eph 1:19-20)
- Resurrection power that leads to a new life (Rom 6:4)
- Resurrection power that will be manifested by believers being raised (1 Cor 6:14)
- Resurrection power that presents the believer into God's presence (2 Cor 4:14)
- Resurrection power that transforms our bodies into a glorious body (Phil 3:21)

The Witness of the Spirit (Rom 8:12-14)

Witness of how we are living (12-13)

- Witnesses how we live by convicting of things sowed (Rom 6:21)
- Witnesses how we live by leading us to serve in a new way (Rom 7:6)
- Witnesses how we live by identifying the acts of the sinful nature (Gal 5:19-21)
- Witnesses how we live by convicting of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:6-11)

Witness of being sons of God (14)

- Witness of being sons of God through faith (Gal 3:26)
- Witness of being sons of God by being sealed by the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 1:21-22)
- Witness of being sons of God through the Holy Spirit who calls us into sonship (Gal 4:5-7)
- Witness of being sons of God through the testimony in the heart (1 John 5:10)