

Romans pt. 106

Life in the Spirit pt. 2

Romans 7:6

Welcome back to Vida Online.

Welcome to those who may be watching today for the first time,

My name is J.C. Mejia, and J.C. stands for James Christian, but my friends and family call me J.C., and I'm the Lead Pastor here at Vida Church in Delano, CA.

This is the last sermon out of Romans for 2025.

Next week this church will enter its Advent season or Christmas season.

The word Advent means COMING.

The objective of Advent is that a Christian is reminded to prepare for Christ's second coming by looking back at his first coming.

Advent is a very special time, and I can't wait to sing Christmas hymns and exalt Jesus, who is the Christ of Christmas.

But today, I will wrap up Romans for 2025, and we will pick up again in a few weeks.

We may even start again in 2026 in Romans 7:7.

People who wrongly thought that Christianity encouraged lawless, sin-filled living did not understand the supernatural side of being a Christian.

People who accused Christians of ignoring, despising, or getting rid of the law did not understand the supernatural side of being a Christian.

Those who think a Christian can live however they want, since they are saved by grace through faith, forget

the supernatural fact that the Holy Spirit dwells in every Christian.

A christian is under the control of the Holy Spirit.

Those who think that Christians are to ignore, despise, or throw out the law are those who do not realize that the Holy Spirit who lives in Christians. That Holy Spirit is the power that changes how a Christian lives.

In fact, the Holy Spirit in a born-again Christian becomes what controls a Christian.

The Holy Spirit living in a Christian is like having the law written on our hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:3 (NLT)

3 ...This “letter” is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts.

That’s the point Paul is making in Romans 7 concerning the Law...

A Christian, a born-again, supernaturally resurrected Christian, is no longer under the power of the law and is now under the control of the Holy Spirit.

It’s the only way any man can live for God or bear fruit for God...by the Supernatural power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 7:6, which tells us how we are able to live out this new life.

Romans 7:6 (NLT)

6 But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

That's the phrase:

A New Way of Living in the Spirit.

A Christian consequently has

A NEW WAY OF LIVING

It's:

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Now we can serve God...in the new way of living in the Spirit.

There was the old way of trying to serve God by obeying the law, from the inside out.

Then, there's the new way of actually serving God by the letter of the law...

What's different about your life now that you are in the Spirit?

Now that Jesus has saved you, and the Holy Spirit resides in you?

Seven things are different about your new life in the Spirit that were not there before.

Last week we covered four of these major differences that have taken place since Christ saved you:

Go back to last week's message if you missed it...GO LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF AS A BELIEVER:

1. A CHRISTIAN SERVES GOD BY KEEPING GOD'S LAW FROM THE INSIDE OUT.

2. A CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDS WHAT THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND BEFORE.

3. A CHRISTIAN CARES ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW.

4. A CHRISTIAN IS SOMEONE IN THE SPIRIT, WITH NEW MOTIVATIONS TO LIVE RIGHT.

This week, we are looking at these significant changes that took place when Christ saved you:

5. A CHRISTIAN LIVES IN A NEW SPIRIT [of adoption, not fear]

**6. OUR NEW SPIRIT OF ADOPTION
MEANS OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN
[PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE].**

**7. OUR NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT
PROGRESSES TOWARD BEING MORE
LIKE JESUS.**

**So let's look at these three this week
and**

**Learn about changes that the Holy
Spirit has produced in you since
Christ saved you:**

**5. A CHRISTIAN LIVES IN A NEW
SPIRIT [of adoption, not fear]**

**We can serve God...by the Holy Spirit
who lives in us...**

And the Holy Spirit adopts us into the family of God.

In Romans 8, Paul tells us that we live in a new spirit of adoption, not fear.

Romans 8:15-16 (NASB)

15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

Romans 8:15-16 (NASB)

16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

The old life that was in bondage to the law was a life chained to fear, hopelessness, and darkness.

The old life was a life of tension and stress, and for some, about their standing with God.

The old life was one where we were afraid of God.

It was also a life all about avoiding suffering, as well as one of pride.

There was no purpose to pain, and there was momentary happiness over being proud of ourselves.

That pride added a weight on our shoulders to keep up appearances...

A Christian is free from fear that leads to avoiding suffering and maintaining a good public image.

A Christian is not to have any bondage in their life because they are not in terror of God.

A Christian does not live under the weight of trying to earn salvation.

A Christian is free from self-imposed pressure based on having a fear of hell...

When Speaking to reporters on Air Force One in October 2025, the current president was asked if a peace deal might help him get into heaven.

The President replied, "I don't think there's anything going to get me in heaven.

I think I'm not maybe heaven-bound".

He added, "I'm not sure I'm going to be able to make heaven, but I've made life a lot better for a lot of people".

My friends, someone needs to preach the Gospel to the commander-in-chief.

Anyone who wondered whether the president is a Christian had their question answered.

His response to being heaven-bound was based on works.

His response to being heaven-bound was based on track record.

He said, “I don’t think there’s anything going to get me in heaven.”

Mr. President, there is one who gets someone into heaven: Jesus Christ.

A Christian does not live with that fear or pressure...

No, a Christian is assured by the spirit of God that he is saved.

The Holy Spirit give us the assurance that we are adopted...

It's why we sing that line in the hymn I wrote for our church:

**Thank You Father for sending Jesus
For His triumph, on that Roman Cross
Thank You Jesus for your Spirit
Who calls us children of Almighty
God.**

Romans 8:15-16 (NASB)

15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as

sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

Romans 8:15-16 (NASB)

16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

Out of that assurance, the Holy Spirit compels them to good works by love.

Everything a Christian does is because they have been adopted.

We are adopted, and there is freedom and gratefulness, and the result of that is a desire to please our Father.

1 John 5:3 (NLT)

3 Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome.

Doing the right thing is no longer a heavy load or a hard task.

It's a desire to live for God and to do what pleases him, and to honor him with our lives.

EVERYTHING WE DO IS A RESPONSE!

Serving God and living for him is no longer something burdensome under the spirit of fear and slavery...

It's something a born-again child of God wants to do!

As adopted children, we don't serve God for acceptance, but because WE ARE ACCEPTED!

We are his children, and we enjoy our privileges as his adopted Children who he will never leave nor forsake BECAUSE:

6. OUR NEW SPIRIT OF ADOPTION MEANS OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN [PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE].

Our new spirit of adoption means that we are dead to sin, the law, and death!

We are adopted. Our sins are forgiven!

Hebrews 8:12 (NLT)

12 And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”

But pastor, the scripture just said, he will not remember our sins...that only covers our past sins...

So how can I preach that our sins, past, present, and future, are forgiven in Christ?

I say this based on the fact that what is true of Christ, our husband, is true of us.

Because Christ is dead to the realm of sin, from being under the law, and has overcome death!

If that is true of Christ, then it is true of us who are in union with him!

Romans 6:9-10 (NLT)

9 We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him.

Romans 6:9-10 (NLT)

10 When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God.

If it's true of him, it's true of Christians based on the doctrine of union with Christ!

And if we want to simplify it with a more explicit statement, then I give you Romans 8:1

“THERE IS THEREFORE, NOW NO CONDEMNATION TO THOSE IN CHRIST JESUS!”

In Christ Jesus, [which we are], we are free from condemnation forever!

He doesn't say sometimes.

He doesn't say at a certain point. He says, now and forever, you are free from condemnation because you died

in Christ to the realm of sin, the power of the law, and punishment of death!

YOU ARE FREE IN CHRIST

This new life and this new spirit of adoption is one of liberty.

2 Corinthians 3:17 (ESV)

17 ...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

An adopted child of God is free from the dominion of sin.

An adopted child of God is free from the power of the law. That power that condemned us forever.

An adopted child of God is free from the fear of death.

As Christians, we will fall asleep and be with him instantly.

As Christians, we will never experience the second death, which is eternal perishing in hell.

We are free from all these things and free from fear.

“OH, PASTOR, IF YOU SAY THESE THINGS, CHRISTIANS ARE GOING TO GO OUT AND DO WHAT THEY WANT!

MY FRIEND, IF THAT’S HOW YOU THINK, THEN YOU THINK LIKE THOSE WHO WERE ACCUSING PAUL OF SAYING THE SAME THING.”

A true born-again Christian cannot stay in sin because the Holy Spirit will correct, convict, and if He has to, will discipline the Christian.

A Christian is under a new principle.

Notice the Holy Spirit's power of the New Covenant:

Jeremiah 31:33 (ESV)

33 ...I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

What a privilege and what an encouragement...

You cannot sin for too long because you have died to sin and are alive to God.

You have been given the Holy Spirit if you are a born-again Christian.

The Holy Spirit works in Christians:

Philippians 2:13 (ESV)

13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

SO

5. A CHRISTIAN LIVES IN A NEW SPIRIT [of adoption, not fear]

**6. OUR NEW SPIRIT OF ADOPTION
MEANS OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN
[PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE].**

**And lastly, the final point from
Romans in 2025 is this:**

**7. OUR NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT
PROGRESSES TOWARD BEING MORE
LIKE JESUS.**

**When we lived under the power of sin,
under the power of the flesh, and
under the law, they would work to
keep us sinning...**

Romans 7:5 (NLT)

5 When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death.

The old life was a life of constant defeat and failure...

The older people get without the Lord, the worse they get because they lose their willpower.

In the flesh, it becomes harder to resist temptation, leading to hopelessness, helplessness, and surrender to sin.

Now it's the opposite of that...

Is there a battle with the flesh and temptation for Christians?

Absolutely...

But our new direction is not one to sin, but NOT TO SIN.

Our new God-given desire by the Holy Spirit is to bear fruit, to be more like Jesus.

And by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are becoming more and more like Jesus.

The Holy Spirit is pulling us in the opposite direction.

When Jesus saved you, he removed the separation that was between you and him.

THERE WAS A VEIL OVER YOUR EYES!

Now you can see Jesus, and the more you see him, the more you become like him.

It's not immediate and it's not clear...

It's little by little...

But the more we see him, even if it's just a little bit, a little goes a long way!

Seeing Jesus changes us more and more.

Check this out...

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (NASB)

16 but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (NASB)

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (NASB)

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

This transformation is happening to you little by little...

For a Christian, He can be difficult to see at times, but you're seeing him.

You're seeing him in your prayer time.

You're seeing him in your bible.

You're seeing him in your brother's and sisters in Christ.

Jesus is there, and little by little, you are seeing Jesus and becoming like him because the veil has been removed...

There is no veil, but you are looking at Jesus in a very dim mirror.

When the word mirror is used here, he's talking about first-century mirrors, which were made of metal.

You can imagine how smudged that mirror could get at times...

1 Corinthians 13:12 (NASB)

12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face...

A Christian is only as Christlike as they are able to see Jesus in the smudgy reflections of this world.

"To see a friend's face in a cheap mirror would be very different from looking at the friend."

No amount of seeing Jesus in a metal mirror will compare to seeing Jesus face to face!

BECAUSE:

If seeing Jesus this little in a mirror has changed you this much, imagine what Jesus face to face will do to you when he comes back!

1 John 3:2 (ESV)

2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

He's going to come back, and those who are His will be changed when they see him!

Their mortal and corrupt bodies will be transformed!

What a way to close out our Romans for 2025 before Christmas!

For Christians, Christmas serves to remind us that Christ came once and remembering that he came once, points to the fact that he's coming again!

And when we see him, we will be changed!

5. A CHRISTIAN LIVES IN A NEW SPIRIT [of adoption, not fear]

6. OUR NEW SPIRIT OF ADOPTION MEANS OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN [PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE].

7. OUR NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT PROGRESSES TOWARD BEING MORE LIKE JESUS.

All of this is possible, not by the letter of the law, but by the new way of living in the Spirit!

It's a matter of Power, the power of the Holy Spirit living in You!

GOSPEL.

Romans 1:16 (ESV)

16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..

Without that power, it is impossible to serve God.

That power, the power of the Holy Spirit, is available to us through the Gospel.

What is the Gospel?

**We were born into sin.
We cannot save ourselves.**

We can only be saved from sin through faith in Jesus Christ.

That's the gospel in short.

How do you respond to those three truths of God's good news?

ADMIT you are a sinner who cannot save himself.

BELIEVE that Jesus Christ, God the Son, died on the cross in your place, rose from the grave and is alive today.

CONFESS that Christ is Lord, the highest authority above all things.

DEAR LORD JESUS

**I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE THE SON
OF GOD**

I BELIEVE THAT ON THE CROSS,

**YOU TOOK MY SIN, MY SHAME, AND
MY GUILT;**

AND YOU DIED FOR IT.

**I BELIEVE THAT YOU FACED HELL
FOR ME;**

SO THAT I WOULD NOT HAVE TO GO;

AND YOU ROSE FROM THE DEAD,

TO GIVE ME A PLACE IN HEAVEN,

A PURPOSE ON EARTH,

**AND A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR
FATHER.**

TODAY LORD JESUS,

**I TURN FROM MY SIN
TO BE BORN AGAIN.**

GOD IS MY FATHER,

JESUS IS MY SAVIOR,

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS MY HELPER,

THE BIBLE'S MY GUIDE

AND HEAVEN IS MY HOME...

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,
THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT,
AMEN.**

BLESSING:

**NUMBERS 6:24-26 (ESV)
THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP
YOU;
THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE
UPON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS TO
YOU; THE LORD LIFT UP HIS
COUNTENANCE UPON YOU AND GIVE
YOU PEACE.**

**Hope to see you here again or in
person.**

**GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU FROM
GOD OUR FATHER AND THE LORD
JESUS CHRIST**