

## ***Session 9 Transforming Power of Knowing You are Alive to God (Part 2)***

### **I. RECKON YOURSELVES ALIVE TO GOD**

- A. Romans 6 is the main chapter in the Scripture that teaches us about personal transformation. It tells us how to access, or experience, the power, favor, and blessings of God, which are freely available to us because of what Jesus did on the cross.

*I am going to do a little review and then take it a little bit further. I hope to stay on this theme for a little while because it is such a very, very important part of our spiritual life. As I said last time, Romans 6 is the main chapter in the Bible that talks about personal transformation. It is so important, yet it is a chapter that is so often neglected. Beloved, we **can** live free of condemnation. We can live free of guilt. We can live free of the compulsion of sin dominating our emotions. We can live free of anger taking over.*

*The impulse of anger will be there, but it will not be dominating our emotions, reigning and ruling in us. Romans 6 is talking about all of these themes. This chapter tells us how to access the power of God and how the favor of God that was freely made available to us because of what Jesus did on the cross.*

- B. Transformation in our lives begins by *knowing* who we are in Christ or seeing ourselves in the way God sees us in Christ. Paul exhorted us to reckon ourselves “alive to God” or to see ourselves in the way that God sees us in Christ—as accepted and empowered by the indwelling Spirit and much more. Reckoning is an accounting term. Jesus put great wealth on our “account,” but we have to make withdrawals to access it. Romans 6:1-10 is our spiritual bank account.

**<sup>11</sup>Reckon [see] yourselves to be...alive to God in Christ... (Rom. 6:11)**

*The main passage and principle that we are looking at today is Romans 6:11 where Paul says, “Reckon yourself to be alive to God in Christ.” He says, “Reckon yourselves,” or see yourselves—now this is an accounting term—see yourself in this way. So what Paul is saying is that the Lord has put great wealth on our spiritual account because of what Jesus did on the cross.*

*The analogy I have used over the years is the beggar, the homeless beggar under the bridge. He gets the sudden announcement that a relative has died, and he has gained great amount of wealth suddenly in an inheritance. But that beggar under the bridge has to go a few blocks down the road to the bank and go through a few steps to access that wealth. If the beggar does not do that, he will live under that bridge in poverty, though he has a billion dollars in his bank account three blocks down the road.*

*Jesus has put great wealth in our account, but we have to put a little bit of effort into accessing the wealth. Many believers are spiritually wealthy in terms of what is legally theirs, but they live practically or functionally, in poverty in their emotions. Romans 6 is about more than just our emotions, but that is what I am locking into right now. It is also about divine healing, the power of God, no condemnation, authority over the devil—all of those truths are implied by the great wealth that Romans 6 describes.*

*Rom. 6:1-10 is our new spiritual bank account. It is what we inherited, but we have to make withdrawals on it. Some people think that the effort made in taking the withdrawals is actually legalism—that if you **do** anything, it is legalism—and that is obviously a very wrong definition of legalism. We have to bring our mind into agreement with the Word, and it takes effort to do that. But if we do that, our emotions become inspired and influenced by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

- C. We are transformed by changing how we think (Rom. 12:2). In Roman 12, Paul pointed back to the truths that he outlined in Romans 6. As our mind is renewed, our emotions are transformed, and thus our behavior changes. Our emotions are not transformed by *trying harder*, but by *knowing more* and *seeing more clearly* as we invest effort to fill our mind with the Word.

<sup>2</sup> ***...be transformed by the renewing of your mind... (Rom. 12:2)***

*In Romans 12:2, Paul says, “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Now in Romans 12, Paul is actually pointing back to Romans 6, and he is telling us that our emotions are transformed when we intentionally bring our minds into connection with the truth. Our emotions are not transformed by trying harder; our emotions are transformed by seeing more, by knowing more, by seeing more clearly.*

*So I encourage folks, “Do not put your energy into trying to transform your emotions just by resolution and the act of your will, but rather fill your mind with understanding of the truth. Through that process the Holy Spirit then influences our emotions and changes the way we feel and, of course, that is the best way to have long and deep and permanent change in our behavior.”*

- D. Paul summarized the truths of Roman 6 when he taught on the new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). The “he” that is a new creation is our born-again spirit. All things pertaining to our spirit are new.

<sup>17</sup>***If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away...all things have become new...<sup>21</sup>that we [our spirit] might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)***

*In 2 Corinthians 5:17-21—this is the passage we looked at last time—Paul says that if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, new things have come, and we have become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.*

*I call 2 Corinthians 5 “Romans 6 Made Simple” because the truths of Romans 6 are summarized in a very precise way there. Romans 6 contains more of the details of what is in the covenant document; it is a legal document of what has been put into our spiritual bank account.*

*Now the “he that is a new creation” is our spirit man; it is our spirit. We know that our human makeup is three-fold: spirit, soul, and body. When Paul says that “all things are new,” he means all things pertaining to our spirit, not our soul. Our soul is our mind, emotions, and will. He is not saying your mind and emotions are made new the day you are born again. That happens through a process, but a radical miracle happens in our spirit the moment we are born again.*

- E. ***Old things passed:*** We were under *condemnation* before God and *powerless* with regard to sin (at the heart level). We were under *darkness*, unable to understand God’s Word and will.
- F. ***All things are new:*** We are *accepted and enjoyed* by God. Our former powerlessness and darkness have passed—we have the *authority of Jesus’ name* and the *indwelling Spirit*, which enable us to resist sin, sickness, and Satan. Now we have a significant *destiny* in God.
- G. ***Legal position:*** This speaks of how God sees us and relates to us in Christ and of the benefits that He has given us because of what Jesus did *for us on the cross*. At the new birth, our spirit is joined to the Spirit, and we are filled with His life. We have the fullness of grace in our spirit.

***<sup>17</sup>But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (1 Corinthians 6:17)***

*Our legal status before God, our legal position, changes drastically, radically, in one moment—literally—the moment that we are born again. Now our legal position describes how God sees us and how God relates to us in Christ, and it describes the benefits that He has given us.*

*Now the verse that I love to meditate on and is an anchor in my spiritual life is 1 Corinthians 6:17. It is the reality that, the day that we are born again and we are joined to the Lord—that means to be born again—we are one spirit with God. I do not mean we are divine. Some false religions try to say humans are part divine or some kind of confusion like that. That is not what Paul is saying. He is saying that a Person comes to live in your human spirit, and that Person is fully God. He is God the Holy Spirit, and He lives in our human spirit forever. He is fully God living in us.*

*Now the Person of the Holy Spirit, who lives in our human spirit, influences our emotions in this age. In the age to come, our emotions are completely under His influence, but, in this age, He progressively inspires, influences, and transforms our emotions. He dwells in our spirit, and He influences our mind and our emotions. Of course that then changes our behavior in a deep and lasting way.*

H. The challenge of faith is that we do not “feel” our spirit. We cannot measure it by our emotions or five senses. Paul referred to our true life, or our spirit man, as being “hidden” in Christ.

***<sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. (Col. 3:3-4)***

*Now the challenge of this whole thing that I am saying—the challenge of this teaching of Paul the apostle—is that we cannot feel our spirit. Our five senses cannot discern or recognize or measure our spirit. You cannot get a handful of spirit and examine it or measure it or know that you have it by your five senses. The only way, the only way that we can know what has happened to our spirit is by the Word of God.*

*If the Word of God did not tell us—even though we were born again, but we did not have the information in the Word of God—we would be uninformed about the miracle that happened inside of our spirit. We read the covenant document. The covenant document is a legal document of what happened in our spirit the day we were born again, and Romans 6 is all about that.*

*The same is true with our resurrected body. We would not know about our resurrected body except the covenant document called the Word of God tells us about our resurrected body. That is the only way we know about it, and then we have confidence in what the covenant document says. It is the Word of God. Therefore we can draw on that spiritual bank account; we have confidence that the Holy Spirit, in fact, does live in us.*

*Paul tells us here in Colossians 3 that our life is hidden in Christ. It is not just hidden from another person. It is not just that they do not really know who you are in Christ. It is actually hidden from you. You do not know who you are, except it is written in the Word of God.*

*So my point being, we prioritize filling our mind with what is true about us, so that we agree with what God says happened in our spirit, and, by doing that, we draw on and access the power of the Holy Spirit living in our human spirit.*

## II. OUR LEGAL POSITION IN CHRIST (ROM. 5:21-6:10)

- A. Paul described our legal position before God in Romans 5:12-6:10. In 5:12-21, he developed a foundational principle for understanding how God views the human race. God sees all humans as being in one of two legal positions before Him—as being either “in Adam” or “in Christ.”
1. *Whatever was true of Adam’s standing before God is true of all who are “in Adam.”*  
All who are “in Adam” are under the “reign of sin” in their legal position before God.
  2. *Whatever is true of Jesus’ standing before God, as a man, is true of all “in Christ.”*  
All who are “in Christ” are under the “reign of grace” in their legal position before God.

*Now we are going to go into some new ground here, as these last few moments were all review from our last session. Romans 5 and Romans 6 go together; you have to read those two together. The reason I am saying that is that I am emphasizing the value of Romans 6 today.*

*When I was about eighteen years old, a Bible teacher told me that Romans 6 is the most important chapter in the Bible for personal transformation. It is true, and I believed him, and so I went home and read Romans 6. I was thinking, “Hey, I need transformation. This is awesome.” So I went home and read Romans 6. Particularly the first ten verses that tell us what happened in our spirit the day we were born again.*

*I remember the emotion I felt; it was a negative emotion. I read Romans 6 and did not understand any of it. I thought, “Wow, this is horrible. If this chapter is key to my transformation, I am never going to be transformed,” because I could not make any sense out of what that chapter was even about.*

*So I was a little bit in despair and began to read commentaries rather fanatically and go to Bible teachers. What does this chapter mean? Then over a little bit of time it became clear. It is actually not confusing at all. It is really straightforward. If you get a couple key points clear, the chapter is really straightforward.*

*What Paul is really doing is making the same points in the first ten verses over and over, the same two or three points. He is describing what happened in our spirit when we were born again or became a new creation in Christ. He is describing the spiritual wealth we inherited when we were received in the court of God—fully received and enjoyed. Not only are we received in God’s court, but we have a new possession—the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us to empower us.*

*So Romans 6:1-10 is really telling us how wealthy we are because we are received in His court, we have the indwelling Spirit, and we have the authority to use the name of Jesus. Again, Paul says the same truth, the same two or three truths, over and over again. Once you get clear what he is saying, you really will enjoy this chapter.*

*I want to encourage you—devour Romans 6:1-10. You want to know what is in your bank account. You do not want to be like that homeless beggar living under the bridge who got a great inheritance, but, because you do not want to walk three blocks down the road to go to the bank, you just live in starvation the rest of your life freezing at night out in the elements.*

*Paul makes a very, very important point, or principle, in the last half of Romans 5. The point is this: God sees the whole human race in one of two legal positions before Him. Every single person on planet earth—when God looks at them, He sees them as in Adam—in the legal position that Adam had before God after the fall—or He sees them as in Christ in the same legal position that Jesus has before God in His humanity.*

*I want to say that again. This might be a new point to you. Paul labors to make this point in the last half of Romans 5. His point is this: whatever is true of Adam is true of everybody in the human race that is in Adam's status, in Adam's category (unredeemed). When the Bible talks about being in Adam, it means you have his status; you are in the same condition. He is the family head of the human race.*

*There are only two family heads, Adam and Christ. There is not a third option. You are either totally in Christ or you are totally outside of Christ. Nobody is half in Christ. You are either 100 percent one or 100 percent the other; there is no third option. Whatever is true of Adam is true of everybody in his status before God. I do not care how intelligent or how sophisticated somebody is, they are still under the same condemnation and the same powerlessness that Adam was under.*

*The good news is that whatever is true of Christ is true of every born-again believer. The moment you are born again, whatever is true of Christ is true of you. The way that Jesus in His humanity stands before God is how God sees you. The power that Jesus has as a Man before God is the power He has made available to you—the indwelling Spirit—and there are many, many implications to this.*

*Now the good news that Paul is making in Romans 6 is that it is not just some of Jesus' status that is yours. All of it is. It is not partially yours or progressively yours. It is 100 percent yours the moment you are born again. It is an instantaneous miracle. You have a new status before God in His court, and you have a new possession, the indwelling Spirit. What happens in your spirit is radically changed. Now the goal is to get our soul—our mind and emotions—to access the power that instantly filled our spirit the day we were born again.*

- B. Paul's theme in Romans 5 comes to conclusion in verse 21—we are under the reign of grace. This is one of the most important verses in Romans; it sets the context to understand Romans 6.

*<sup>21</sup>...as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through...Jesus Christ... (Rom. 5:21)*

1. **Reign of sin**: We were under **condemnation** before God, **powerless** before sin and satanic attacks, and in **darkness**, without the ability to understand God's Word and will, etc.
2. **Reign of grace**: We are accepted, enjoyed, indwelt, and empowered by God. He delights in relating to us. The indwelling Spirit's love, peace, etc. are in our spirit (Gal. 5:22). Simply thanking the Spirit for His peace in our spirit releases it to our soul (emotions).

*<sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control. (Gal. 5:22–23)*

*Remember Romans 5 contains this great principle that whatever is true of Adam is true of everybody in Adam, and whatever is true of Christ is true of everybody in Christ. Paul comes to this crescendo, this grand and glorious conclusion in Romans 5:21. Verse 21 is the last verse of Romans 5; he gives the grand conclusion, and then Romans 6 draws on this truth.*

*Now the reason that I am saying this to you is because I am telling you how important Romans 6 is. But Romans 6 will not make sense if you do not understand Romans 5:21, the verse right before Romans 6. So tell yourself, "Note to self: I am going to be a Romans 6 believer. I am going to get this. I do not care how much effort it takes me. I am going to fill my mind with the truth of what happened in my spirit the day I was born again, who I am in Christ, and to do that, I have to understand Romans 5:21. It is the grand summary principle that creates the context to understand Romans 6."*

*In Romans 5:21, Paul is saying, “You used to be under the reign of sin, when you were in Adam,”—which is the point of Romans 5—“you were under the reign of sin. Sin reigned like a monarch, like a king over your life. The judgment, the condemnation of sin—you were under it. The powerlessness of sin—you were under it. The death that comes with sin—you were under it” (paraphrased).*

*The devil could attack you and harass you. You had no authority to say no to him because the devil does not recognize your authority. He only recognizes the authority of Jesus, but you did not have access to Jesus' authority. You were under this condition called the reign of sin; you were under it. You were under it 100 percent, meaning you were under condemnation, you were powerless in terms of the ability to overcome sin in your emotions, meaning when sinful emotions would rise in you they would just run their course.*

*When anger rose up in you, it ran its course, whether it was for five minutes or five hours. You had no ability in your human makeup to dissipate and break up the storm of anger. It just ran its course, and you just hung in there, and then it left. It came back again later on in the day, and later the next day, and next day, and the next day. You had no internal resource to break up the storm of anger. You just had to wait it out every time.*

*Paul says, “I have good news for you. As truly as you were under the reign of sin while you were in Adam, 100 percent under the reign of sin, now you are under the reign of grace because you are in Christ. Now there is no condemnation. Now when God looks at you, He enjoys you and receives you in the way He receives Jesus in His humanity. He receives you fully. He enjoys you. You are in His presence. You have the authority of Jesus. You have the indwelling Spirit.”*

*So when anger rises up in you—and it still rises up in our emotions—you can draw on the power of the Spirit to dissipate or break the storm of that emotion, and it will go away. It will come back again, but then it will go away again as you interact with the Holy Spirit. We will talk about that in just a moment here.*

*Under the reign of grace you are enjoyed by God, you are empowered by God, and the Holy Spirit dwells in your human spirit. Again, the challenge is that your soul would be inspired by the power that is in your spirit. In other words, that your soul—your mind and emotions—would be influenced and empowered by this vibrant Person who is fully God who dwells in your spirit.*

*Now again, you cannot measure your spirit man. Your five senses do not even know you have a spirit. A lot of the Greek philosophers did not even know that there was a human spirit. They had all these different philosophies. Why? Because you cannot discover your spirit by human reasoning. You do not know what happened in your spirit in redemption except the Word of God tells you. A glorious reality happened! God the Holy Spirit came to live in you, and you are one spirit with Him.*

*Now the Person of the Holy Spirit obviously has all the virtues of God in Him, resident in Him. He is fully God. In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul outlines nine different virtues—he called them the fruit of the Spirit—and these are nine virtues that inspire our emotions, that we can draw on **if** we take the time to make withdrawals. Again, it is like the beggar who gets the inheritance, and if he will walk a couple blocks down the road and make a withdrawal from the bank, he can live in the benefit of the wealth.*

*We have this great wealth, and, if we will draw on the wealth, these nine different virtues will impact our emotions. It is very, very easy to make a withdrawal, but nobody can do it for you. You have to do it, and **you have to do it every time that you want to experience the power of the Holy Spirit touching your emotions.***

*I always use the analogy of the issue of anger because everybody relates to it. When anger rises up in our emotions, we turn our attention to God the Holy Spirit who lives in our human spirit, and we simply thank Him for peace. The peace is not in our emotions; the peace is in our spirit, in the person of the Holy Spirit.*

*We say, “Thank You, Holy Spirit, that You dwell in me. Thank You that I am under the reign of grace. I am indwelt by You. You do dwell in me, in my spirit man. I cannot feel my spirit, but the Word says You live there, and I believe Your Word.” By simply thanking Him, turning your attention to Him, and thanking Him for peace, you will feel the impact of the Spirit's inspiration on your emotions.*

*Anger rises up, and instead of just gritting your teeth and just holding yourself back—and it is important to grit your teeth and not do something dumb; it is important to restrain ourselves, but we do not want to just be content with that. We want that storm of anger to be broken up right away—turn your attention inward. Again, the peace of God is in your human spirit, but you want it to influence your soul, your emotions.*

*So you have peace already in your spirit, but you want peace in your emotions; that is the difference. You thank Him, and suddenly you will feel the Holy Spirit's inspiration; the anger will dissipate. Now, an hour later you might need to do the same thing again. I am not saying the emotion of anger is now gone out of your life forever. I am saying you now have the power to challenge it when those emotions rise up and the storm breaks.*

*Maybe an hour or two later something else happens, so do it again. It will go away. The next day you will do it again, it will go away. The Holy Spirit is saying, basically, “If you will go to that bank and make a withdrawal simply by acknowledging that I am in you because the Word says I am, and thanking Me for what the Word says is in you, that I am in you with peace, then that peace will influence your emotions.”*

*If you do that as a lifestyle, that is called “abiding in Christ.” That is what Jesus calls abiding in Him in John 15. Paul calls it “walking in the Spirit” here in Galatians 5. So here Paul is telling us how to walk in the Spirit. Simply acknowledging the presence of the Spirit in us, thanking Him for it, and feeling the impact of it on our emotions. It is just a little impact, but it will happen over and over and over again. As many times as we make withdrawals on that account, it will affect us.*

*Well, let's say you are tempted to quit. You want to quit doing something in the will of God—you are pursuing God hard or you are pursuing your mandate in God hard—but you are discouraged and want to quit. Beloved do you know the power of longsuffering? Do you know what longsuffering means? To suffer long? It means perseverance; it could be the word perseverance because it is the same idea. So you want to quit. You say, “I do not want to do this any more. It is not worth it.”*

*The Holy Spirit could say, “I am dwelling in your spirit. I have all the perseverance you need. Turn your attention to Me. Thank Me for perseverance or longsuffering.” Beloved, I tell you that negative emotion will dissipate. It will come back again, but it can dissipate and break up again. That storm will come back again, and the Holy Spirit says, “Keep drawing on Me; I am in you.” Over time our whole emotional makeup changes a bit, little by little, over time.*

*Then there is kindness. So a friend or family member says an insulting, sarcastic word to you, and you feel a negative emotion. Or they do something wrong to you, and you want to get even a little bit—not do something really bad to them, but get just a little bit even—turn your attention inwardly, and thank the Holy Spirit for kindness. I tell you, you will have a different emotion very soon after that. I mean, I am talking about in moments.*

*Thank Him for kindness. He says, “You stay with that, it will change your mindset towards that person.” An hour later you've got that negative feeling again, so draw on the kindness, simply by acknowledging it, dialoguing with the Spirit, thanking Him for it.*

*It is the same with goodness or faithfulness. You just feel, “I do not want to be faithful. I want to cut some corners. I want to draw back and not do what I have committed to do.” You get that emotion—turn inward and*

*thank Him for faithfulness, and you will feel just a little inspiration. I do not mean it is overwhelming, but it is that inspiration that actually makes the difference. It really does.*

*Again, you do that day-by-day, year-by-year—it is called abiding in Christ, it is called walking in the Spirit. Now we will not walk in the Spirit more than we talk to the Spirit. If you do not talk to the indwelling Spirit, I assure you, you will not walk in the Spirit very much. I mean, you may keep some outward godly behaviors, and avoid scandals, and read the Word a little bit here and there, but that is not what I am talking about. I am talking about walking with the influence of the Spirit touching your emotions consistently.*

*Of course we all want a bigger measure of the influence of the Spirit and have it more consistently. We are always growing in that, but you will not walk in the Spirit with that ever-increasing inspiration of the Spirit on your emotions any more than you talk to the Spirit. Again, it is not like everything will be just perfect; that is not what I am saying. But the truth is, you will not walk in the Spirit more than you talk to the Spirit.*

*Some people never talk to the Spirit. They avoid big outward scandals and giant outbursts of anger. But they live condemned, frustrated, with lots of anguish inside, lots of fears, lots of negative emotions inside—despair, hopelessness. They smile a lot, they avoid crisis or scandal, and they read their Bible a little bit, but they do not feel God's presence at all.*

*The Holy Spirit says, “Talk to Me! I have so much to inspire you, but you have got to talk to Me.” Nobody else can do it for you—the Holy Spirit will not do that part for you. The Holy Spirit will say, “I gave you the wealth in the bank account, but like the homeless beggar, you have got to walk the three blocks down the road and make a withdrawal.” And you make a spiritual withdrawal simply by acknowledging and thanking Him for it.*

### **III. ROMANS 6: THE TRANSFORMED LIFE**

- A. Romans 6:1-10 describes our legal position in Christ—what we freely received at our new birth. Experiencing the benefits of our legal position begins by **knowing** (Rom. 6:3, 6, 9, 11, 16).

**<sup>3</sup>Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?...<sup>6</sup>knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him...<sup>9</sup>knowing that Christ...dies no more...<sup>11</sup>Reckon [see] yourselves to be...alive to God in Christ... (Rom. 6:3, 6, 9, 11)**

*Again, I am making this big point about how important Romans 6 is for personal transformation. Romans 6:1-10 describes the legal position you have the minute you are born again. Something happened to you in God's court. Your status changed radically. You were under condemnation, and now you are accepted and enjoyed. You went from being a criminal in your status before Him to being a part of the royal family. You went from being in great debt to having great wealth. It happened instantly. The legal document of Romans 6 lays out the details. I mean it is fantastic. It is not only that something different happened to you in God's court, but something different also happened in your human spirit. Not only are you accepted and enjoyed before the Father, you are indwelt and empowered by the Spirit.*

*In Romans 6:1-10, these ten verses tell us the same two to three truths over and over again. You inherited a billion dollars, you inherited a billion dollars, your debt is canceled, you inherited a billion dollars, your status changed, you are not a criminal, you are the royal family, and you inherited a billion dollars. Paul just says it over and over again, the same truths, and once you know that, you can read through Romans 6:1-10 and get it.*

*Now Paul does not break down all the implications of what you are going to do with that great wealth. He just tells you that you have it. But the implications are that when guilt, condemnation, and shame rise up, in the*

name of Jesus you can say, “I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.” When the devil attacks, we can use the authority in the name of Jesus.

When the cloud or fog of confusion comes on our minds, the Holy Spirit says, “I am a Teacher. I live in you. Little by little I will show you the way. I will show you the will of God. I will teach you the Word of God. I will show you the heart of God. I will train you. I will teach you far beyond your intellectual education or your abilities. I, the Teacher, am in you.”

Again, there are many implications to having that great wealth. Romans 6 does not break down all the benefits and the multitude of implications of our lifestyle. Paul just says over and over, “The wealth is yours. The debt is canceled. The status has changed. You are in a great position.” He says it over and over again, so you want to get familiar with the language of Romans 6. He says it different ways because different people will relate to one phrase more than another person, but they are the same truths over and over.

Now notice that **experiencing** the benefits begins by **knowing**. Knowing that the benefits are yours is where it begins. There is more to it than knowing, but knowing is the most neglected part of responding to this great wealth. Many believers do not know it.

If they do know it, usually they do not draw on it. They know they have a billion dollars in the bank, but they live under the bridge. They think, “Well, the bank is three blocks away, and I do not know how to punch in the right numbers to get the billion dollars. I will just starve under the bridge the rest of my life.” That is how they live emotionally. The analogy seems ridiculous, but, beloved, that is how many believers live.

Another guy comes along and says, “So you have to walk three whole blocks and punch in a code? That is legalism! I mean, Jesus did it all for you.”

Jesus says, “Yes, I put it in your account, but **you** need to access it. If you want what is in your spirit to influence your emotions—your soul—you do need to engage with Me to access it. That is not legalism; that is called ‘receiving by faith!’ That is the biblical term for it.”

I want you to notice the word “know” here in Romans 6. Paul makes reference to the word or the concept four times in these first eleven verses. In verse 3, he says, “Do you not **know** that as many people that were baptized into Christ were baptized into His death?” He means, “Do you not know that when you were baptized in Jesus, you were placed into the benefit of Jesus' death.” What is the benefit of Jesus' death? There is no more condemnation for you.

Really, what Paul is saying in this verse is that there is no condemnation for you. That is what it means to be baptized into His death. It means more than that—there are more implications—but that is a good beginning. Paul says in verse 3, “Don't you know that? Do you not know that when you were placed into His death, you were baptized into His death, meaning, placed into the benefit of His death? Do you not know that is what happened on the day you were born again?”

The believers at Rome were thinking, “No, no, we didn't know we received a big bank account, that we were placed or baptized into the benefit of His death, that Jesus' death paid our debt, so now we are accepted and enjoyed by God. Wow!”

So you want to take this phrase, “I am baptized into the benefit of His death,” and you want to speak that to the Father. You want to speak that to the Holy Spirit. When emotions of condemnation or guilt rise up in you, you can use the famed phrase, “There is no condemnation.” That is a great one for us. That is probably the most common expression, or you can use this, “I have been baptized into the benefit of His death.” They mean exactly the same thing, just different terms.

*In Romans 6:6, Paul says, in effect, “Do you not **know** that the old man was crucified with Christ? Do you not know that the person you were in Adam under God’s judgment—powerless, no authority over the devil—that person is gone forever? Do you not know that? You have a totally new status, a totally new authority, a totally new possession of the indwelling Spirit. Do you not know your bank account is loaded right now, and if you will draw on it, you will experience the benefit of it in your soul?”*

*In Romans 6:9, he says, practically speaking, “Do you not know that when Christ left the realm of death, He will never go back again? Death will never touch Him ever again, and the point is, whatever is true of Jesus is true of you.” What Paul is meaning is, “Do you not know death will never be over you ever again, not in this age, not in a billion years from now? You are totally free from the condemnation; you are totally free from the judgment of death, never ever to die again.” Paul is saying the same thing over and over again.*

*In Romans 6:11, he is applying this. He has told them three times in a row—verse 3, 6, 9—“Do you not know? You have got to know this.” Now in verse 11 he says, “Reckon it. Count on it.” Again, **reckon** is an accounting term. He is saying, “See this wealth on your account and make withdrawals. Go to the bank, which is the Word of God, and make the withdrawals by speaking these truths to the Spirit who lives in you. And the influence of the Spirit and the truth will touch your emotions. And when emotions get touched, your behavior changes.”*

*Now again, we have to restrain our behavior even before our emotions change. If you do not restrain your behavior, you go to jail; that is what happens. But there is more than an ape-like capacity to imitate good behavior available to you. Imitated behavior is outwardly, “Hi, Nice to see you,” while raging with anger, lust, vengeance, and bitterness on the inside. Christianity is not just an ape-like capacity to imitate; it is a life within us that influences our emotions and our thinking—if we will talk to the Person of the Holy Spirit according to the truth of what He has said in His Word.*

- B. The key to understanding Roman 6 is found in Romans 5:21. In our legal position in Christ, we are dead to the reign of sin (6:2). We are *dead—finished, thus freed* from our former position of bondage to the penalty (condemnation) and mandatory power of sin over our emotions.

*<sup>21</sup>...as **sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through...Jesus Christ...**<sup>6:2</sup> How shall we who **died to sin** [finished with the reign of sin] live any longer in it? (Rom. 5:21-6:2)*

1. In our legal position, we are under the reign of grace and dead to the reign of sin (v. 2). Dying to the reign of sin is synonymous with the “old things passing away” (2 Corinthians 5:17).
2. In declaring that “we died to sin” (v. 2), Paul was not exhorting us *to do something* for God, but *to believe in something* He did for us. Paul was not saying that “sin died in us” in the sense of sinful desires dying in us, but that we died to the reign of sin (Rom. 5:21).

*This is a big statement, but I believe it to be a true statement. The two most important verses in the whole book of Romans related to your emotional transformation are Romans 5:21 and 6:2. If you understand these two verses, you are in position to understand the process of emotional transformation, if you will stay with it. Again, there are many implications to these two verses.*

*Look what he says in Romans 5:21. We have already looked at it, but we will look at it again. He says, “In the same way that you were under the reign of death when you were in Adam before you were born again, in the exact same way, now you are under the reign of grace. Whatever is true of Jesus in His humanity before God is now true of you, instantly, in one moment, as a free gift. This describes what happened in your spirit.”*

*In Romans 6:2, Paul has the same theme. He says, “How shall we who died to sin live in it any longer?” Now this phrase, “died to sin,” is most crucial. There are three or four different interpretations of what “died to sin” means. I want to submit to you that there is only one biblical interpretation. It is not my interpretation because I have learned it from many Bible teachers through commentaries and studying. I believe it to be true in the way I will present this in its context.*

*When Paul said, “You have died to sin,” in the context he was saying, “You are finished with the reign of sin.” That is the context. You are finished forever with condemnation. You are finished forever with not being in God's family. You are finished forever with living without the indwelling Spirit, so now you can draw on Him. Never again will you be in that old position ever again. You are dead to the reign of sin.*

*The context is found in the two verses before Romans 5:21; he is talking about dying to sin. The reason this is important is that some people really misinterpret this; they think sin died in them. I have heard this over the years. A guy will say, “Romans 6:2, I died to sin. I do not have any sinful emotions any longer.”*

*I say, “We need to get you to a doctor quickly! We need to sign you up and get you in fast.”*

*They say, “No, I do not have any. It says in the Bible that I died to sin.” They misinterpret it. They think sin died in them.*

*Another believer thinks it means there is no more temptation. Paul is saying, “No, no, I am not talking about you having no temptation or having no negative emotions. I am saying you are no longer under the status of the reign of sin where you are under condemnation and where you have no ability to challenge those negative emotions.”*

*Now you have the indwelling Spirit. You can talk to Him. When those emotions rise in your soul, that storm of emotion, you can challenge it, and that storm will break up and go away. When it comes back, you challenge it again. And it comes back, and you challenge it again. That is called abiding in Christ and walking in the Spirit.*

*In Romans 6:2, when Paul says, “You have died to sin,” he is talking about a past tense event, a once-for-all event that happened instantaneously the day you were born again. He is not talking about all of those who renounce sin; he is not exhorting you to renounce sin here. In Romans 6:12, he does exhort us to renounce sin, but that is not what he is talking about here in Romans 6:2. He is talking about something done to you. He is announcing a glorious truth that you have a new status, and you have a new possession—the indwelling Spirit—and you have the new authority of Jesus against the works of the enemy.*

*He says, “You have died to the reign of sin.” Again, he is not exhorting us to **do** something right here; he is exhorting us to **believe** something right here. The reason this matters is because, if you get that one phrase wrong, you are going to read the ten verses, Romans 6:1-10, and you are going to be in constant confusion. He is not telling you in that passage to renounce; he is telling you to believe. Not to renounce the negative, but to believe the truth.*

*Later, in Romans 6:12, he says, effectively, “Now that all of this is true, and you know the power you have, you know your new status, you know your new position, you know the indwelling Spirit, **now** renounce sin and draw on the power of the indwelling Spirit, and He will inspire your emotions.” That is what is going on here.*

- C. Paul gives us details of our legal position with Jesus and of our born-again spirit (Rom 6:1-10). Whatever is true of Jesus' standing before God, as a man, is true of all who are “in Christ.” We are to relate to God on the basis of what happened to Jesus in His death and resurrection.

- D. Being baptized into Christ speaks of being “immersed” or “placed into” Christ. We were “placed into” the benefit of His death (v. 3). We were placed into the benefit of His burial (v. 4). His burial speaks of the His death being permanent, thus our death to the reign of sin is permanent.

***<sup>3</sup>Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Rom. 6:3-4)***

1. By an act of God we were placed into Christ—the benefit of what He did (1 Corinthians 1:30).

***<sup>30</sup>But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption... (1 Corinthians 1:30, NAS)***

2. We were raised with Christ—we received the benefit of His resurrection (Col. 2:12).

***<sup>11</sup>In Him you were...<sup>12</sup>buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God... (Col. 2:11-12)***

- E. We were united to the benefit of His death and to the benefit of His resurrection (Rom. 6:5-7).

***<sup>5</sup>If we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup>knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. <sup>7</sup>For he who has died has been freed from sin. (Rom. 6:5-7)***

- F. We died with Christ to the reign or dominion of sin and live in the reign of grace (Rom. 6:8-10).

***<sup>8</sup>Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, <sup>9</sup>knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. <sup>10</sup>For the death that He died, He died to sin [reign of sin] once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God [reign of grace]. (Rom. 6:8-10)***

#### **IV. SEEING OURSELVES AS ALIVE TO GOD (ROM. 6:11)**

- A. Paul wanted them to reckon or see what was true about their spirit because of being in Christ. To reckon ourselves alive to God is to see ourselves in the way that God sees us (Rom. 6:1-10).

***<sup>11</sup>Reckon [see] yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ... (Rom. 6:11)***

*In Romans 6:1-10, Paul has laid out our legal position, the wealth we inherited, what happened in our spirit, our new position before the throne of God. He says the same things over and over again for ten verses. I love it. I love all those little phrases and different angles of the same truths. Again, it is two or three different truths, and I just love to meditate on them. I like to say them to the Father. I like to say them to the Holy Spirit. I love to tell Jesus how excited I am about them.*

*We have to get these truths into our dialogue with the Spirit because we need to talk to the Spirit. He lives in us. He wants fellowship with us. He wants us to talk to Him, but not just to share our hearts. That is good; He*

wants that for sure, but He wants us to stand for the truth. He wants us to speak the truth to Him, “Holy Spirit, Your Word says this...” The Spirit will inspire our emotions as we do that.

Here in Romans 6:11, which is the main verse we are looking at today, Paul says, “Reckon yourself.” That is, he is saying, “See yourself. See your spiritual bank account. Count it to be true that you have inherited this wealth in your spirit man. You have inherited this wealth in your position before God, you have inherited this authority, count it to be true.”

Maybe you think, “Well, I do not feel the authority. I do not feel my spirit.”

Paul could say, “Yes, but you draw on it, and you will feel the influence of it in your emotions over time. Your emotions will feel the influence of it a little bit, and progressively, over time, it will transform your life.” So what Paul is communicating here in verse 11 is, “See yourself in the truth of what I just told you in verse 1-10.”

- B. **See yourself alive to God:** We must see ourselves as enjoyed, indwelt, and empowered by God. We apply “new creation truths” to our identity by seeing ourselves as God sees us in Christ.

Apply the new creation truths to yourself—see yourself alive to God. Now, to be “alive to God” means to be under the reign of grace; those are synonymous terms. In one place he says, “You are under the reign of grace,” and in the next place he says, “You are alive to God.” Then in the next place he says, “You have the indwelling Spirit,” and in the next place he says, “You are in Christ.” Those are all identical concepts; they all mean the same thing. They are different angles of the one diamond, different ways to look at that one glorious diamond.

- C. **See yourself dead to sin:** Here, Paul refers back to verse 2. We are dead to the reign of sin or 100% finished and thus freed from our former position under the reign of sin, where we were condemned by sin and powerless to challenge sinful promptings that arose in our emotions.

## V. APPLYING THE PROMISES OF GOD

- A. The impulses of sin do not all go away, but now we have power to challenge them *effectively* because we are alive to God and have the power of the indwelling Spirit in our born-again spirit.
- B. The renewing of our mind involves more than gaining information about biblical truths. It includes **confessing** the Word—interacting with the Spirit as we speak the Word to Him.
- C. Our confession is what we say to the indwelling Spirit about who we are in Christ. Confession engages our heart with God and His truth. Truth changes us as it gets into our conversation with God. We can know truths intellectually without applying them to our heart by confessing them.

**<sup>8</sup>The word is near you, in your mouth...that is, the word of faith...<sup>9</sup>that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart...you will be saved [delivered from the penalty and power of sin]. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation [complete deliverance]. (Rom. 10:8-10)**

Paul says in Romans 10:8, “The Word is near you,”—this Word of God that contains these promises, the Word of God that releases the power that dwells in your spirit. Again, the power is a Person; it is the Holy Spirit. Paul says in effect, “The Word is so close to you, it is as close to you as saying it. If you will say it [these truths]

to the Holy Spirit, you will access the power—activate the power, whatever it is—your emotions will be influenced by the power of the Holy Spirit.” That is what he is meaning.

- D. ***The word is near you:*** The word that contains God’s promises and releases His power in our life is so near to us—it is as close to us as speaking it. The power is accessed in our life by faith.
- E. ***Analogy:*** Imagine a homeless beggar who suddenly inherited great wealth. The announcement of his new inheritance doesn’t stop him from living in poverty. He must take the simple step of withdrawing the money. It only takes a few moments, but it is essential to accessing the wealth.
- F. We are transformed by changing our thinking. We are set free by the knowledge of the truth. It is only through the Word that we know the truth about our spirit and our resurrected body.

<sup>2</sup> ***Be transformed by the renewing of your mind... (Rom. 12:2)***

<sup>32</sup> ***And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (Jn. 8:32)***

- G. When condemnation, shame, fear, hopelessness, or lust, etc. rise up in us to challenge what God promised in His Word about loving, forgiving, empowering, directing, or providing for us, then we must apply the promise of the Word to our heart by *confessing the truth* and *resisting lies*.
- H. When we present ourselves to God to love Him and be a vessel of His blessing to others, we must present ourselves according to who we are in Christ. We present ourselves based on what Jesus did for us, not based on our own spiritual attainments—good or bad. Presenting ourselves with sincerity is not enough; we must have confidence in truth about Jesus’ work on the cross.

<sup>13</sup> ***...but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead... (Rom. 6:13)***

*Some people are waiting, “Somebody lay hands on me and break the power of negative emotions.” I believe in laying hands on people, and some catalytic moments happen by laying on of hands. But you don’t have to wait for that to happen.*

*Another guy wants a heavenly experience. “I want to go to heaven, and then I will feel differently.”*

*Paul said, “Let me tell you, the power of this is as close as your mouth.” You say this, the influence will touch your emotions—I promise you. That is what Paul was saying. Do it and activate this. Amen and amen.*