***Transforming Power of Knowing that You are Alive to God (Part 2)***

1. reckon yourselves Alive to God
	1. 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.
	2. 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 withdraws to access it. Romans 6:1-10 is our spiritual bank account.

11Reckon [see] yourselves to be…alive to God in Christ… (Rom. 6:11)

* 1. 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.

2…be transformed by the renewing of your mind… (Rom. 12:2)

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

17If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away…all things have become new…21thatwe [our spirit] might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor. 5:17-21)

* 1. ***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.
	2. ***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.
	3. ***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.

17But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (1 Cor. 6:17)

* 1. 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.

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

1. Our legal position in Christ (Rom. 5:21-6:10)
	1. 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—either as being “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.
	2. 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.

21…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 and peace, etc. is in our spirit (Gal. 5:22). Simply thanking the Spirit for His peace in our spirit releases it to our soul (emotions).

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

1. romans 6: the transformed life
	1. 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).

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

* 1. 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.

21…as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through…Jesus Christ…6:2How 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 Cor. 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).
	1. 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.
	2. 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.

3Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4Therefore 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 Cor. 1:30).

30But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption… (1 Cor. 1:30, NAS)

* + 1. We were raised with Christ—we received the benefit of His resurrection (Col. 2:12).

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

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

5If we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6knowing 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. 7For he who has died has been freed from sin. (Rom. 6:5–7)

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

8Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10For 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)

1. Seeing ourselves as alive to God (Rom. 6:11)
	1. 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).

11Reckon [see] yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ… (Rom. 6:11)

* 1. ***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.
	2. ***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.
1. Applying the promises of God
	1. 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.
	2. 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.
	3. 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.

8The word is near you, in your mouth…that is, the word of faith…9that 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]. 10For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation [complete deliverance]. (Rom. 10:8-10)

* 1. ***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.
	2. ***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.
	3. 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.

2 Be transformed by the renewing of your mind… (Rom. 12:2)

32And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (Jn. 8:32)

* 1. 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*.
	2. 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.

13…but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead… (Rom. 6:13)

1. questions for small-Group discussion *(i.e., FCF Friendship Groups)*

 1. Which point in this session would you like more understanding of?
 2. Which point most inspired or challenged you? Why? What will you do differently to apply it?
 3. Which point do you want to impart to a younger believer? Why? How will you elaborate on it?
 4. What is one point in this session that needs to be emphasized to the larger Body of Christ? Why?