

Uncharted Territory: Taking Life Where You've Never Been

Week Four: *You Are More Victorious Than You Know*

Because of our lifetime track record, we think we are stuck in the cycle of up-and-down, good-and-bad, sin and righteousness. But if we discover what an identity fully grounded in Jesus Christ truly means, we will be able to consider—and experience—a much greater reality. The Gospel promises the "power of God" (see [Romans 1:16](#) and [3:21-22](#)) to live with an *actual* righteousness. More than just a position of forgiveness, we are empowered to live bonded (*like a slave*) to all the righteousness we desire. The secret is to "consider" (or "*credit*") ourselves as victorious in Jesus—to count ourselves as if we are already entirely free from sin, even while we still struggle (see [Romans 6:11](#)).

This week, make a commitment to *invest three blocks of time* to meditate on God's Word slowly and carefully, to reflect on the internal leanings of your own heart, and surrender to God for His help.

Day One: How Bad is the Problem...and Am I Ready to Pivot?

Read slowly and carefully meditate upon: [Romans 7:15 – 8:1](#)

Reflect: Paul admitted an ongoing struggle to act in alignment with the will of God. He called himself a "wretched man" and used the horrible imagery of a dead body strapped to him to from which he needed to be rescued. But...thanks be to God; Jesus delivers us from the condemnation (*the punitive sentence*) of a spiritual body of death. We can then pivot to follow God's Word (see [James 1:12-25](#)) by walking in ("*companioning with*") the Holy Spirit (see [Romans 8:1-11](#)).

- *Do I really believe that my up-and-down sin cycle is fully addressed and delivered by Jesus? Why or why not?*
- *If he has fully delivered me, what causes me to still sin?*
- *Am I "companioning with" God through His Word, or am I "companioning with" my flesh (sinful nature)? Why or how?*

Pray: *God, I desire to do good; you know that. According to your mercy and love for me, I receive the truth that you have not only forgiven my sins, but you have set me free from them entirely. Help me to choose to walk around with, to companion with you rather than my flesh. Help me discern the difference and choose to yield to you. In Jesus' name!* (ALSO: Consider praying [Psalm 51](#) as your own prayer to God!)

Day Two: Sinner or Saint – Which am I? (...and does it matter?)

Review slowly and carefully these handful of verses we studied last week:

[Romans 1:4](#)
[Romans 4:17](#)

[Romans 3:10-12](#)
[Romans 6:5-7](#)

[Romans 3:21-26](#)
[Romans 8:1-5](#)

Reflect: In [Romans 1:4](#), Paul says that the Romans Christians were "*loved by God*" and "*called to be saints*". At the same time, he also declares that "*all have sinned*" ([Romans 3:23](#)). So, which is it? **Are we sinners or are we saints?**

- *What is different between those two terms—sinner and saint? Does one speak of behavior and one of identity? How?*
- *How would I live differently if I truly saw myself as a saint?*

Pray: *God, reveal to me the reality of being fully justified by you and how that should redefine my identity. Help me to no longer carry the guilt of sin, but rather to run in the freedom and joy of being righteous. I accept my new identity, in Jesus' name!* (ALSO: Consider praying [Psalm 30](#) as your own prayer to God!)

Day Three: Am I a Slave to Sin, or a Slave to God?

Read slowly and carefully meditate upon: [Romans 6:1-14](#)

Reflect: Paul used the imagery of Roman slavery to illustrate our bondage to sin. There were many pathways to deliverance and freedom in Roman slavery—all of which involved some kind of purchase (or "*ransom*") paid by the one who would free the enslaved. Jesus identified his death as a ransom (see [Matthew 20:28](#) and [1 Timothy 2:6](#)) by which we would be freed from our slavery to sin and become not only free, but also adopted as his sons/daughters (see [Romans 8:15](#)).

- *What does it mean to me to be freed from slavery to sin? How do I relate to that imagery?*
- *If I have truly been freed, what should that mean in terms of my identity?*
- *If my identity is no longer bound to sin but is now an adopted son or daughter of God, how could that affect my instinctive behaviors? Would I sin less frequently or intensely? Why or why not?*

Pray: *God, help me to understand my identity as a saint and a child of God. Reveal to me how my sins do not define me in your eyes. I choose to believe that the ransom of your crucifixion is entirely sufficient to both forgive my sin and to also deliver me from it. I rejoice in the freedom you have bought for me, and I*

covenant to walk in companionship with you. In Jesus' name! **(ALSO:** Consider praying **Psalm 118** as your own prayer to God!)