

Romans 8:15-16 • Sonship: Legally & Relationally

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been **justified by faith**, we have **peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**.

Psalms 34:8 Oh, **taste and see that the Lord is good!** Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Psalms 27:4 **One thing** have **I asked of the Lord**, that will **I seek after**: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, **to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord** and to inquire in his temple.

Psalms 37:4 **Delight yourself** in the Lord, and **he will give you the desires of your heart**.

Romans 7:6 But **now we are released from the law**, having died to that which held us captive, so that **we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code**.

Romans 7:15 For **I do not understand my own actions**. For I do not do what I want, but **I do the very thing I hate**.

Romans 7:18 For I know that **nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh**. For **I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out**.

Romans 7:22 For **I delight in the law of God, in my inner being**,

Romans 7:23 but I see in my **members** another law **waging war** against the **law of my mind** and making me captive to **the law of sin** that dwells in **my members**.

Romans 7:24 Wretched man that I am! **Who will deliver me from this body of death?**

I do not want to sin.

I have the desire to do what is right.

I delight in the law of God in my inner being.

I do not have the ability to do what I want.

Who will deliver me from this body, so I can actually do what I want?

Who will supply the ability to match my desire?

Romans 7:25 **Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the **law of sin.**

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**

Romans 8:2 For the law of **the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.**

Romans 8:3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

Romans 8:4 **in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

Romans 8:8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:9 **You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit,** if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. **Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.**

Romans 8:10 But **if Christ is in you,** although the body is dead because of sin, **the Spirit is life because of righteousness.**

Romans 8:11 If the Spirit of him who raised **Jesus from the dead** dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will **also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.**

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Romans 8:12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

Romans 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but **if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body,** you will live.

Romans 8:14 For **all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.**

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the **spirit of slavery to fall back into fear**, but you have **received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”**

Hebrews 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, **that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,**

Hebrews 2:15 and **deliver** all those who through **fear of death** were **subject to lifelong slavery.**

Romans 8:16 The **Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,**

Galatians 4:6 And because **you are sons**, God has sent the **Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”**

Galatians 4:7 So you are no longer a slave, but **a son**, and if a son, then **an heir** through God.

Galatians 4:8 Formerly, **when you did not know God, you were enslaved** to those that by nature are not gods.

John 14:15 **“If you love me,**
you will
keep my commandments.

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Helper**, to be with you **forever,**

John 14:17 even the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for **he dwells with you and will be in you.**

John 14:18 **“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**

John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. **Because I live, you also will live.**

John 14:20 In that day **you will know that I am in my Father**, and **you in me**, and **I in you**.

John 14:21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, **he it is who loves me**. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and **manifest myself to him.**"

John 14:22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "**Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?**"

John 14:23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone **loves me**, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and **make our home with him**.

John 14:24 Whoever **does not love me does not keep** my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

John 14:25 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.

John 14:26 But the **Helper, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, he will **teach you all things** and **bring to your remembrance** all that I have said to you.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; **my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you**. Let not your hearts be **troubled**, neither let them be **afraid**.

John 14:28 You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because **I am going to the Father**, for the Father is greater than I.

John 14:29 And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.

John 14:30 I will no longer talk much with you, for **the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me,**

John 14:31 but **I do as the Father has commanded me**, so that the world may know that **I love the Father**. Rise, let us go from here.

Mark 14:36 And he said, "**Abba, Father**, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. **Yet not what I will, but what you will.**"

Hebrews 12:2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who **for the joy** that was set before him **endured** the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Isaiah 55:2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and **delight yourselves** in rich food.

Hudson Taylor

“We may fail — do fail continually — but He never fails. . . . I have continually to mourn that I follow at such a distance and learn so slowly to imitate my precious Master. I can not tell you how I am buffeted sometimes by temptation. I never knew how bad a heart I have. Yet I do know that I love God and love His work, and desire to serve Him only and in all things. And I value above all else that precious Saviour in whom alone I can be accepted. Often I am tempted to think that one so full of sin can not be a child of God at all. . . . May God help me to love Him more and serve Him better.”

On September 4, 1869, when he was 37 years old, Taylor found a letter waiting for him at Zhenjiang from John McCarthy, a fellow missionary. God used the letter to revolutionize Taylor’s life. “When my agony of soul was at its height, a sentence in a letter from dear McCarthy was used to remove the scales from my eyes, and the **Spirit of God revealed to me the truth of our oneness with Jesus as I had never know it before.**”

“We shall never forget the blessing we received through the words, in John iv. 14, “Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst,” nearly thirty years ago. **As we realized that Christ literally meant what He said** — that “shall” meant shall, and “never” meant never, and “thirst” meant thirst — our heart overflowed with joy as we accepted the gift. Oh, the thirst with which we had sat down, but oh, the joy with which we sprang from our seat, **praising the Lord that the thirsting days were all past, and past for ever!**”

“the Spirit of God revealed to me the truth of our oneness with Jesus as I had never known it before.” “As I had never known it before.”

“that the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know . . .” “As I read (Eph 1), I saw it all! . . . I looked to Jesus and saw (and when I saw, oh, how joy flowed!) that He had said, ‘I will never leave thee.’” “I saw not only that Jesus will

never leave me, but **that I am a member of His body**, of His flesh and of His bones. The vine is not the root merely, but all - root, stem, branches, twigs, leaves, flowers, fruit. And Jesus is not that alone - He is soil and sunshine, air and showers, and ten thousand times more than we have ever dreamed, wished for or needed. **Oh, the joy of seeing this truth!**

“The sweetest part, if one may speak of one part being sweeter than another, is the rest which **full identification with Christ brings.**”

“To let my loving Saviour work in me His will, my sanctification, is what I would live for by His grace. **Abiding, not striving nor struggling; looking off unto Him; trusting Him for present power; resting in the love of an almighty Saviour.**

“From the consciousness of union springs the power to abide. “Let us, then — not seek, not wait, not pursue — but now accept by faith the Saviour’s word — ‘Ye are the branches.’”

“**Work is the outcome of effort; fruit, of life.** A bad man may do good work, but a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.” “How to get faith strengthened? Not by striving after faith, but by resting on the Faithful One.”

C.S. Lewis

“In a sense the central story of my life is about nothing else (pursuit of joy).” One decisive influence was J. R. R. Tolkien, author of The Lord of the Rings. He argued like this: “When this Joy—this stab of inconsolable longing—is awakened by certain powerful “myths” or “stories,” it is evidence that behind these myths there is a true Myth, a true Story that really exists, and that the reason the Joy is desirable and inconsolable is that it’s not the real thing. The True Myth, the Real Joy is the original shout, so to speak, and the stories and myths of human making are only echoes.”

Tolkien pressed the analogous truth for Christianity. And Lewis did the same years later: “A man’s physical hunger does not prove that that man will get any bread: he may die of starvation on a raft in the Atlantic. But surely a man’s hunger does prove that he comes of a race which repairs its body by eating, and inhabits a world where eatable substances exist.” In other words, “If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.”

“I have just passed on from believing in God to definitely believing in Christ—in Christianity.” The Great Story really is true. God really sent his Son. He really died

for our sins. We really can have forgiveness and eternal life in the presence of the One **to whom all the Joy was pointing.**

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. **We are far too easily pleased.**”

“The books or the music in which we thought the beauty was located will betray us if we trust to them; it was not in them, **it only came through them**, and **what came through them was longing**. These things—the beauty, the memory of our own past—are good images of **what we really desire**; but if they are mistaken for the thing itself, **they turn into dumb idols, breaking the hearts of their worshipers**. For they are not the thing itself; they are only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of the tune we have not heard, news from a country we have never yet visited.”

“It was valuable only as a pointer to something other and outer. While that other was in doubt, the pointer naturally loomed large in my thoughts. When we are lost in the woods the site of the signpost is a great matter. He who first sees it cries, ‘Look!’ The whole party gathers around and stares. But when we have found the road and are passing signposts every few miles, we shall not stop and stare. They will encourage us and we shall be grateful to the authority that set them up. But we shall not stop and stare, or not much; not on this road, though their pillars are of silver and their lettering of gold. ‘We would be at Jerusalem.’

“God is glorified not only by His glory’s being seen, but by its being rejoiced in.”

Jonathan Edwards

“The Scotch catechism says that man’s chief end is ‘to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.’ But we shall then know that these are the same thing. Fully to enjoy is to glorify. In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy him.”

C.S. Lewis

“A perfect man would never act from a sense of duty; he’d always want the right thing more than the wrong one. **Duty is only a substitute for love** (of God and of other people) like a crutch which is a substitute for a leg. Most of us need the crutch at times; but of course **it is idiotic to use the crutch when our own legs (our own loves, tastes, habits, etc.) can do the journey on their own.**”

In reality Tyndale is trying to express an obstinate fact which meets us long before we venture into the realm of theology; **the fact that morality or duty (what he calls ‘the Law’)** never yet made a man happy in himself or dear to others. It is shocking, but it is undeniable. **We do not wish either to be, or to live among, people who are clean or honest or kind as a matter of duty: we want to be, and associate with, people who like being clean and honest and kind.** The mere suspicion that what seemed an act of spontaneous friendliness or generosity was really done as a duty subtly poisons it...In theological language, no man can be saved by works. The whole purpose of the “Gospel,” for Tyndale, is to deliver us from morality. Thus, paradoxically, the “Puritan” of modern imagination—the cold, gloomy heart, doing as duty what happier and richer souls do without thinking of it—is precisely the enemy which historical Protestantism arose and smote.

I do not want to sin.

I have the desire to do what is right.

I delight in the law of God in my inner being.

I do not have the ability to do what I want.

Who will deliver me from this body, so I can actually do what I want? Who will supply the ability to match my desire?

The righteous requirements of the law, which I delight in, I can now fulfill by the Spirit.

The Spirit leads me to do what I desire and put to death the deeds of the body that I do not want to do, proving that I am a son of God.

My spirit and the Spirit that dwells in me, cry out in perfect harmony, Abba, Father. This is the cry, the distinctive cry, of a child of God.

“The gospel is designed to make forgiven sinners love righteousness, not do it against all their inclinations.”

John Piper