

Transformed By Knowing You are Alive to God

I. RECKON YOURSELVES ALIVE TO GOD

- A. Romans 6 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. Transformation in our life begins by *knowing* who we are in Christ or seeing ourselves in the way God sees us in Christ.
- B. Paul exhorted us to reckon ourselves “alive to God” or to see ourselves in the way that God sees us in Christ—as accepted by God and empowered by the indwelling Spirit and much more.
¹¹***Reckon [see] yourselves to be...alive to God in Christ... (Rom. 6:11)***
- C. We are transformed by changing how we think. As our mind is renewed, our emotions are transformed, and thus our behavior changes. Our emotions are not transformed by *trying harder*, but by *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)***
- D. As we said last week, Paul’s dramatic declaration that we have become a new creation in Christ, with all things becoming new, has vast implications. The “he” that is a new creation is our born-again spirit. All things pertaining to our spirit have become new. Our spirit was instantly made righteous.
¹⁷***If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away...all things have become new...²¹that we [our spirit] might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor. 5:17-21)***
- E. ***Old things have passed away***: We were under *condemnation* before God and *powerless* with regard to sin (at the heart level). We were under *darkness*, lacking ability to understand God and His Word, etc. We were *destitute*, without a relevant or lasting purpose in God.
- F. ***All things have become 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.

II. OUR LEGAL POSITION IN CHRIST

- A. Paul described our legal position before God in Romans 5:12-21. He developed a foundational principle for understanding salvation and 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.”
 2. Whatever is true of Jesus’ standing before God, as a man, is true of all “in Christ.”
- B. All who are “in Adam” are under the “*reign of sin*” in their legal position before God. All who are “in Christ” are under the “*reign of grace*” in their legal position before God.

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

- C. **The reign of sin**: We were under condemnation before God, powerless before sin and satanic attacks, and were in darkness, without the ability to understand God and His Word, etc.
- D. **The reign of grace**: We received a new position, power, nature, insights, and destiny. We are now enjoyed, indwelt, empowered, and commissioned by God, with a relevant purpose.

III. THE REIGN OF GRACE

- A. **Acceptance by God, with affection**: The result of receiving this new position is that God enjoys and delights in relating to us both as the sons of God and the Bride of Christ.

⁹**“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.** (Jn. 15:9)

- B. **Indwelling Spirit**: The Spirit gives us new power with new desires and insights that we may know God, His Word, and His will. We have received power to effectively resist sin and Satan. The presence of the indwelling Spirit is His love and peace, etc. being in our spirit (Gal. 5:22).

²²**The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness...** (Gal. 5:22)

1. We access the Holy Spirit's power simply by acknowledging His presence in our spirit and thanking Him for it; this is how faith works. The simple act of thanking the Spirit for His peace in our spirit releases it to our soul (emotions).
2. We have a Person living in our spirit on whom we can draw. Before we were born again, our spirit was spiritually dead or devoid of God's life (Gk. *zoe* = life).

IV. ROMANS 6: THE TRANSFORMED LIFE

- A. Romans chapter 6 is the main chapter in the Scripture that teaches on personal transformation. It tells us how to access, or experience, the power of God, which is available to us in our legal position.

Note the three main sections in Romans 6:

1. **Romans 6:1-10**: Our legal position (what we freely and fully received at our new birth)
2. **Romans 6:11-13**: How to cooperate with grace (three principles to access God's power)
3. **Romans 6:14-23**: Our living condition (what we experience as we cooperate with grace)

- B. Paul declared that we are now under the reign of grace, as we were once under the reign of sin.

²¹...as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through...Jesus Christ... ^{6:2}**How shall we who died to sin [freed from the reign of sin] live any longer in it?** (Rom. 5:21-6:2)

1. The key to understanding Roman 6 is found in Romans 5:21. We are now dead to the reign of sin (6:2). We are *dead—removed, freed—*from our former position of bondage to the penalty and mandatory power of sin over our emotions.

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).

V. SEEING OURSELVES AS ALIVE TO GOD

- A. To reckon ourselves alive to God is to see ourselves in the way that God sees us—as under the reign of grace (Rom. 5:21). We are in a new position under the *reign of grace* with its privileges in Christ. We are dead to our former position of being under the *reign of sin*.
- ¹¹*Reckon [see] yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ... (Rom. 6:11)*
- 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 sons of God and the Bride of Christ, who function as kings and priests (Rev. 5:10).
- C. See yourself dead to sin: We are dead to the reign of sin or freed from our former position under the reign of sin, where we were powerless before sinful promptings, etc. Sin formerly had a mandatory control over our hearts, and we were powerless to challenge it. Temptation to sin is not removed, but now we have the power to effectively challenge sinful impulses, because the power of the Spirit dwells in our spirit (Gal. 5:22).

VI. APPLYING THE PROMISES OF GOD

- A. 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.
- B. 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.
- C. 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*.
- D. We present ourselves to God to love Him and be His instruments, that He may use us to bless people. Some resist sin and pursue God without knowing who they are in Christ.
- ¹³*...but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead... (Rom. 6:13)*