

Foundations for Spiritual Growth – Romans 6-8 – Week Five

The Open Secret on Spiritual Growth

It's not about self-effort but spiritual empowerment – Romans 7:1-6

Introduction: Through our identification with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, we are free from having to use laws (or self-effort) as a means of spiritual growth. Rather, we grow as the natural by-product of our love relationship with Jesus and the influence of his indwelling Holy Spirit.

- 1. A LEGAL REALITY – At salvation, we died to the law. Rom. 7:1-4a, 5**
 - A. Universal legal principle – The law has governing power over a person as long as he lives. 7:1
 - B. Universal illustration – A married woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. 7:2-3
 - C. Application – At salvation you died to the law. 7:4a.

- 2. A LOVE RELATIONSHIP – At salvation we were married to Jesus. Rom. 7:4b**
 - A. Timing – Our marriage to Jesus took place the day we came to Christ. 7:4b
 - B. Natural result – We are designed to produce fruit for God. 7:4c
 - C. Therefore – Sanctification comes as the by-product of a rich love relationship with Jesus.

- 3. A LIFE MISSION – At salvation, the Spirit gives us fresh purpose. Rom. 7:6**
 - A. Paul implies that we have a transcendent purpose in life: To serve God. 7:6
 - B. But we have to serve God with the right perspective.

- 4. FOUR CONCLUDING QUESTIONS – If we are freed from the law, then...**
 - A. Does this mean we don't need the Old Testament any more?
 - B. Does this mean we don't need to obey the Ten Commandments?
 - C. How do we deal with imperatives of Scripture?
 - D. What's the role of the spiritual disciplines?