

CONVERTING THE SOUL A Mind Renewed By Faith

TEXT:	Psalm 19: 6- 14, Romans 7, 12: 2
KEY VERSE:	Psalm 19: 7

500 years ago, Martin Luther fought the same battle with himself that I find myself waging today; literally, this **very** day. God's grace given by faith wars within my sinful self, and its desires.

I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.

Romans 7:21 [NKJV]

Luther¹ said, "Yet my conscience would never give me assurance, but I was always doubting and said, 'You did not perform that correctly. You were not contrite enough. You left that out of your confession!'"

Like the father of the Reformation, I have become utterly and absolutely convinced, not only of justification by faith, but that the justified - the righteous – also **live** by faith. Not many argue the doctrine in principle, but I see the same folks struggling to try to please God. Do not despair, you are in good company; mine (and better yet) Martin Luther, and the apostle Paul. And every Christian... Ever.

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul:

the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

Psalms 19:7 [KJV]

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Colossians 2:6 [KJV]

We received Jesus Christ by faith, so the way we walk with him, is also by faith.

- But how is that accomplished?
- How **do** I "walk by faith?"

It is God's work – Philippians 2: 13.

More and more, God is revealing to me how to get **me** out of the equation; out of the way, so **he** can do the work. I cannot **decide** to have the mind of Christ, I must **allow** it to be in me. Look:

¹ James M. Kittleson, "The Accidental Revolutionary" Christian History Magazine, issue #34, P. 12

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
Philippians 2:5 [KJV - emphasis added]

SONGS OF

The justified

-the righteous-

Also LIVE by faith.

DELIVERANCE

“Lord Jesus, this is your mind. You think what **you** want to think with it.” (I pray that often.) The first step is to cease your own efforts at being righteous and depend on him. God calls this “resting.”

There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*

Hebrews 4:9-11 [KJV] [Shabbat, a Sabbath - genesis 2: 1- 3]*

It is interesting that God called the Sabbath rest a blessing. God wants us to rest from **our** labor, so **he** can bless our spirit. We can work at trying to be righteous, or rest and **let** his mind be in us, **let** God bless us with it. Notice also that the man who falls, falls in unbelief. Failure is a failure of faith.

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.
Philippians 2:13 [KJV]

He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Psalms 23:3 [KJV emphasis added]

Are you seeing how much depends on God, and how little depends on us?

SONGS OF

**Our work is to let him
do his work.**

DELIVERANCE

For we are his workmanship
Ephesians 2:10a [KJV]

Ours is to **let** him **do** his work. If we **try** to be righteous, we will fail. It is not in us.

*All of us have become like something unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like a polluted garment;
all of us wither like a leaf,
and our iniquities carry us away like the wind.*
Isaiah 64:6 [HCSB]

In yielding, not in striving, is victory. In our resting, he can work. And how much better can he do it than us!? As we yield ourselves daily to his mind, the Holy Spirit will speak to our spirit what to do or not do.

*And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying,
This is the way, walk ye in it,
when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.*
Isaiah 30:21 [KJV]

It is the word that renews your soul – Psalm 19:7.

*The law of the LORD is perfect, *converting the soul:
the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.
Psalms 19:7 [KJV * restoring]*

The way to flush out the sin that pollutes our minds is to pour in the water of the word. Like a glass full of muddy water, you can try to pick out the muck with a tweezer, or you can hold the glass under a faucet until it runs clear.

*Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.
John 15:3 [KJV]*

God's word is perfect for restoring the soul. It does the work like a medicine, just take it. I cussed! I was a trucker for 11 years. I taught my kids to cuss. After I returned to the Lord, it stopped. I did not **try** to stop. But I was spending HOURS every day in God's word. What went **in** began coming **out**, and it just stopped. The word cleanses your heart, and then it comes out your mouth². The important thing is to remember our part - just put the word in. God's word has the power in itself to change our hearts. Again, "let":

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;
Colossians 3:16a [KJV]*

*Thy word have I hid in mine heart,
that I might not sin against thee.
Psalms 119:11 [KJV]*

Letting God's word "dwell in you richly" and hiding it in your heart is not rote memorization - repeating verses until you remember them. David said:

*Oh, how I love Your law!
It is my meditation all the day.
Psalms 119:97 [NKJV]*

It is the word that transforms us into Christ's image. It is perfect for it. So, fill up with it "all the day." Love God's word! At first, I had to say it deliberately. "Oh, how I love your law!" **Hear** yourself say it!

*So, then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
Romans 10:17 [NKJV]*

Slowly, think about what you are reading. That is what the word "Selah" means in the Psalms. Slow down, you have eternity! I do not know anywhere in the gospels where it says, "Jesus ran." Since God knows the end from the beginning³, he does not need to rush. He has time to teach us, because we are part of his eternal Kingdom, so let him have the time to perfect you.

² Matthew 12: 34

³ Isaiah 46: 10

As you take the time to meditate on God's word, and you allow the Holy Spirit to teach you, you will notice that you remember. What CHANGES you, STAYS with you.

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.
John 16:13 [NKJV]

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.
John 14:26 [KJV]

Jesus says that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth, and teach us all things, and cause us to remember all things.

SONGS OF

**What CHANGES you,
STAYS with you.**

Here we go again! He does it **all**! And he is thorough!

It is the spirit that makes it all work –
John 14: 26, 16: 13.

DELIVERANCE

READ

Jeremiah 31: 31- 34, Ezekiel 11: 19, 20, 36: 26- 28

It really is simple, but what a perfect plan!

•We inherited sin in our blood from Adam; like a leukemia⁴.

•We are born with a dead spirit. That is what God meant when he told Adam, “**In the day you eat**

thereof you shall surely die⁵.” The eternal part of Adam - his spirit - dropped dead of food poisoning.

- Jesus substitute death brought the cure for our blood disease⁶.
- The moment we place our faith in Jesus, our spirit is made alive, and God puts his spirit in us⁷. God says that he will put a new spirit in us, **and** that he will put **his** spirit in us.
- Now, his spirit can teach our spirit. John 4: 24 says:

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.
John 4:24

Isn't it handy that God's spirit in us will teach our spirit and guide us into **all** truth? His spirit speaks to our spirit, teaching us as we are ready to learn⁸. So, by faith, our mind is renewed as we allow the Holy Spirit to put his law in our inward parts, and write it on our hearts⁹, and cause us to walk in it¹⁰.

It is received by faith – Ephesians 2: 8- 10.

⁴ Romans 5: 12

⁵ genesis 2: 16, 17

⁶ Romans 5: 8, 2 Corinthians 5: 21, 1 John 1: 7, 2: 2

⁷ Romans 8: 9- 11, Ephesians 2: one- 10, Colossians 2: 13, 14 (* note: “quicken” means “bring to life again”) 1 John 3: 24b

⁸ John 16: 12

⁹ Jeremiah 31: 33

¹⁰ Ezekiel 36: 27

Grace is God's unmerited favor. Favor is God causing our efforts to produce. That is what Romans 8:28 means; "all things work together for good" - favor. Notice, verse 29 confirms, " 'all things' are of God..." So it is from God that we receive all those things that work for our good. Grace comes from God by faith¹¹; not only for salvation, but also to walk in him¹².

So, as Peter said, "Humble yourselves under God's mighty hand by, once for all, putting your cares anxieties and worries on him¹³."

Let this mind be in you. **Let** him restore your soul. **Let** the peace of God rule in your heart. **Let** not your heart be troubled.

What will he do?

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.***

1 Thessalonians 5:23,24 [NKJV]

He will do it all!

Think on these things...



1. Paul said that in his (and our) flesh "dwells no good thing." So, how will God preserve our bodies blameless? (Hint: Galatians 5:16-25) _____

2. So, would that be the same for our soul (mind, will, and emotions)? _____

3. What battles of your mind do you need to allow the spirit to help you win? _____

How do you "let" him in those areas? _____

4. Do you ever feel that the moment God shows you something, you must be perfect in it? _____

Do you think that is God? (Hint: Hebrews 5: 8, 9, 2 Peter 3: 18, Romans 8: 1) _____

5. Meditate on Psalm 23: 3. Thoughts: _____

¹¹ Ephesians 2: 8, 9

¹² Colossians 2: 6a

¹³ 1 Peter 5: 6, 7 paraphrased