

The Four Winners and The Four Laws

Chapter Eleven

Audio lesson: New Testament 41



Objective: To understand how the law of the spirit of life in Christ can help us to overcome sin and death.



Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

—Romans 5:1-2

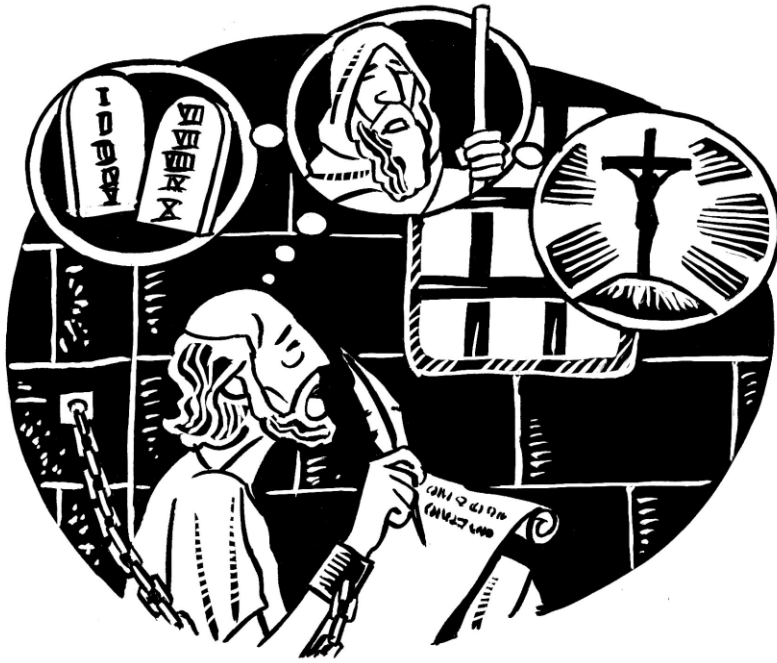
Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.

—Romans 8:5-6

After establishing the doctrine of justification in the first four chapters of Romans, emphasizing Abraham's righteousness for simply believing God, Paul goes on to explain in chapters 5-8 what it means to be victorious and live righteously. The key to being able to stand for Christ in a fallen world is living in God's grace.

Paul introduces four kings: sin, death, Jesus, and you. Sin enters our lives and reigns, resulting in death. But King Jesus overcomes sin and death, and if we have faith in Him, we can reign with Him over sin and death. Paul also introduces four spiritual laws: the law of God, the law of sin and death, the law of the spirit of life in Christ, and the law of the mindset. The law of God reveals the law of sin and death; but the law of the spirit of life in Christ overcomes the law of sin and death; and we can experience this if we practice the law of the mindset and set our minds on the Spirit rather than the flesh.

1. **True** or false? The first four chapters of Romans start off with bad news of our spiritual condition.
2. **True** or false? God is righteous, and we must be righteous in order to relate to Him.
3. **True** or false? On our own, we can never be righteous enough to save ourselves.
4. **True** or false? God wants us to believe that the righteousness of Jesus on our behalf is enough to save us.



Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. How does the plan of justification apply to us if we do not believe in it?
 - a. It saves us anyway, whether we believe it or not.
 - b. It benefits us in heaven but not on earth.
 - c. It forces us to choose God's alternate plan of salvation, which is becoming righteous on our own.
 - d. It does not benefit us if we do not believe in it.**

6. In the first four chapters of Romans, who does Paul describe as an illustration of righteous faith?
 - a. Moses
 - b. Abraham**
 - c. David
 - d. Himself

7. What do we need in order to stand for God in the world?
 - a. Grace**
 - b. Determination
 - c. Self-will
 - d. Good fortune

8. What two "kings" came into the world and conquered us?
 - a. David and Solomon
 - b. Politics and religion
 - c. Sin and death**
 - d. Karma and chance

9. What two “kings” can rescue us?
- a. Optimism and confidence
 - b. Hope and love
 - c. Tolerance and cooperation
 - d. Jesus and us**

10. What does the law of God reveal?
- a. The law of sin and death**
 - b. Life and freedom
 - c. The goodness of humanity
 - d. The rewards of obedience

11. What can set us free from the law of sin and death?
- a. Good works
 - b. The law of the spirit of life in Christ**
 - c. Meditation
 - d. The principle of karma

12. How can we apply the law of the spirit of life in Christ to overcome the law of sin and death?
- a. By setting our minds on the flesh
 - b. By setting our minds on the Spirit**
 - c. By denying that sin and death exist
 - d. By going to battle against sin and death



Do you find that your mind is more often set on the flesh or on the Spirit? How does your mindset affect your ability to experience the freedom of life in Christ? In what ways would you like to enjoy life in Christ more fully? According to God’s Word, how can you do that?



Thank God that He has overcome the law of sin and death and given us the spirit of life in Christ. Ask Him to help you experience the life of the Spirit more fully and deeply every day. As you set your mind on the Spirit, pray that He would make you more than a conqueror over everything that hinders your walk with Him.



Going Deeper

1. What are the four spiritual laws that are found from the middle of chapter seven to the middle of chapter eight in Paul's letter to the Romans? _____

2. In what ways does the law of God (the Word of God) function as a mirror and reveal laws like the law of sin and death? (Consider James 1: 22-25) _____

3. How do these four laws parallel the four conquerors in chapter five? _____

4. How can you compare the law of sin and death to gravity, and the law of the Spirit of life in Christ to aerodynamics? _____

5. In light of the fact that these laws have been in place since Paul wrote the letter to the Romans, why are so many believers today still being controlled by the law of sin and death? _____

6. Explain how the law of the mindset can make the difference between the law of sin and death and the law of the Spirit of life in Christ. _____

7. Describe how you are implementing all four of these spiritual laws in your journey of faith in Christ right now. _____
