

# Romans 6... 7... 8

DEVOTIONAL STUDIES FROM THE  
MEN'S MORNING FELLOWSHIP

**Romans 6:3** Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

**Romans 6:4** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**Romans 6:5** For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness of His* resurrection,

**Know** is perhaps the key word in this section. You see it here in verse one, then the word **knowing** in verses six and nine.

You must **know** what it means to be **in Jesus**. To begin with, you must realize that **in Jesus** God considers you as having **died to sin** (v2).

Now you are to **know** something else. But before we see what it is, let me say this. Paul is telling us spiritual truth from God's perspective. These are the facts. Knowing them is the basis for walking in victory.

Paul refers to being **baptized into Christ Jesus**. Baptism has both a literal and a figurative meaning in the Bible:

1. The literal meaning is to *dip* or *immerse*.
2. The figurative meaning is *to be identified with*.

Immersion under water is literal baptism. Literal water baptism by immersion is a figure of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. It's as if the person being baptized is acting out a silent drama for onlookers:

1. The water represents His death and burial.
2. Emerging from the water represents His resurrection.

Water baptism by immersion, by itself, accomplishes nothing. Since the gospel is all of grace, based on believing and not on behaving,

water baptism cannot ever in any way be seen as a condition for you to be truly saved. Water baptism by immersion is your testimony to the world that you are identifying with Jesus Christ, having been already justified by faith.

An example of the figurative meaning of baptism is found in 1Corinthians 10:2. Talking about the nation of Israel the Bible says, **and [they] were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea.** Moses did not literally baptize the children of Israel in water; they were *identified with* him as their leader when they crossed the Red Sea.

(We commonly use the word baptism figuratively. If someone faces a particular difficulty then we call it their 'baptism by fire.' *We don't mean they were literally immersed in fire!*).

It's a spiritual fact that you've been **baptized into Christ Jesus.** It is something that happens the moment you are saved. Whether you've been water baptized or not, you have been baptized into Christ Jesus. You are identified with Him.

What Paul wants you to know is that since you were baptized into Christ Jesus and therefore identified with Him, then you **were baptized in His [Jesus'] death.** It's a spiritual fact; a spiritual reality. Then, if you look at verse four, you see that you are also identified with Jesus in His resurrection.

**Romans 6:4** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

As far as God is concerned, when Jesus died, you died with Him. When Jesus rose, you rose with Him.

We might find it hard to get a handle on this but these are the facts.

Our identification with Jesus could be put in the category of spiritual imputation. **Impute** is a banking term. It means *to credit your account.* For example: When Adam sinned, because he represented

all of his future offspring, God *imputed* his sin to the entire human race. He *credited* it to our accounts!

Just so, when Jesus Christ came as God in human flesh He represented the entire human race. God can thus impute to those of us who believe in Jesus all the things that the Lord did for us. Jesus' death is your death. Jesus' resurrection is your resurrection.

Then Paul applied all this to our daily walk. **Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

**Glory** is a synonym for power. By the power of God the Father Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. If I am identified with Jesus in His resurrection then that same **glory of the Father**, that same power, is at work upon me. It's effect is that I **should walk in newness of life.**

The Greek word **newness** speaks of life that has a new or fresh quality. The resurrection of Jesus was not just a resuscitation; it was a new quality of life. In the same way the spiritual lives of believers in Jesus have a new quality of life.

**This work of God at salvation in identifying a believer with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection is the basis of the Holy Spirit's continuing work in sanctification. Knowing these facts, realizing the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is working upon me, I can say "No!" to sin.**

Paul illustrates these truths in verse five:

**Romans 6:5** For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of His resurrection,

A new metaphor is introduced. The word used here for **united** does not occur elsewhere in the New Testament. It means *sown or planted at the same time; what sprouts or springs up together*. It is applied to plants and trees that are planted at the same time and that sprout and grow together. The name would be given to a field of grain that was sown at the same time and where the grain sprung up and grew simultaneously.

But the picture is even more intense. In some instances two trees, for example, may touch and begin to overlap and begin to grow together. They become a single top growing from two separate trunks.

Or we may graft two plants or trees together so that they become one. It is reminiscent of Jesus telling us He is the vine and we are the branches.

The word could even be applied to the condition we call Siamese twins. It's that close a connection.

If (meaning *since*) Jesus and the believer are so **united together** they can be said to be one plant, one tree, one person.

This is true whether we realize it or not. The sooner we realize it is true, the sooner we will begin to walk in **newness** of life as we should.

We'll talk in later passages about the flesh and our continual struggles against it. The basis for our victory will be the realization of these truths of our identification with Jesus. God sees us as already on the resurrection side of the grave.

Conclusion

Warren Wiersbe likes sees an illustration of these truths in the resurrection of Lazarus. When Jesus arrived at Bethany, Lazarus had been in the tomb four days. There was no question about his death. By the power of His word Jesus raised His friend from the dead. But when Lazarus appeared at the door of the tomb, he was wrapped in graveclothes. So Jesus commanded, **Loose him, and let him go!** He had been raised to walk in **newness of life**.

Dead - raised from the dead - set free to walk in newness of life. All of these facts illustrate the spiritual truths of our identification with Christ.