

Relating to the Grace of God—Jesus in Us!

Ro 8:2 For the **law of the Spirit of life** in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

By B. D. Tate

Once we have begun to realize that the law is veiling our eyes from seeing God's grace in Jesus (II Cor. 3:14), then we identify what that struggle or conflict looks like so we can dismiss it from our lives. More important however, is understanding that **by living to the law of the Spirit of life it frees us from the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:2)**. It is what we present ourselves to and live to, that is what determines how much grace is manifest in our lives (Rom. 6:16).

I need to understand and discern the difference between grace and the law there is no question about this but spending my days putting away the law will not be as effective as living to the Spirit will be. In a way it is like the adage, "nature abhors a vacuum." This means that it is not so much about making something go away as much as it is about making something become more alive. **It is about what I live to; not as much about what I don't live to.**

Therefore, we need to focus on God's love poured out into our hearts when He gave us the Holy Spirit at the new birth (Rom. 5:5). We need to focus on how we do relate to God's grace in Jesus more than putting away the things we don't want to live to.

How do we relate to the Spirit of life?

We relate to the Spirit of life **by faith**. In times past such a statement would seem vague or unclear. It would seem like a religious thing to do but not necessarily be practical in application. When I'd hear, "*the righteous shall live by faith*" it had a type of mystery element. What does living by faith mean? What does it look like? In times past it would just be a statement without much practical use. Now, under grace, under the teaching of grasping what God has already done, it begins to make a lot of practical sense.

Let me begin to list some of the characteristics of relating to the Spirit of life in us.

First, Jesus said, "My sheep know my voice and a stranger's voice they will not follow." This means that as a born again believer the word of truth says we know His voice. Our natural man will not relate to this as this verse testifies,

(I Cor. 2:14) "14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, **because they are spiritually discerned.**"

We must recognize that within our heart there is a battle for dominance from our natural man verses our spiritual man. **This conflict is over what we are going to live to, believe, and operate in.** When we make decisions based upon what we see, hear, sense, or experience in this life, we are operating as a

natural man. We are not just natural any more we have become sons and daughters of God by His Spirit that dwells in us.

Our natural man is going to respond by thinking or feeling, "But I don't see it; I don't feel it!" There are many things in life that our natural man cannot see or feel but they are real nevertheless such as radiation, ultra violet light, germs, dust particles, etc. What we need to do is make a decision to stop being governed in our heart by merely natural processes. There is far more to life than what we can see or feel. In fact, most of life is invisible, beyond the physical realm, such as consciousness, awareness, meditation, thinking, reasoning, etc. The natural mind is dominated by, "If I can see it; I'll believe it."

By Faith

When the scriptures teach us to live by faith we are entering another realm of existence by the decision to trust God's word instead of what we see naturally. Faith lives by, "I'll believe it; then I'll see it."

Faith must have something to base itself on and that is God's word. Faith comes by hearing God's word and knowing His will. When we know God's word and will on any matter and are convinced that it is the truth—that is faith. Faith responds to what God's word says and makes decisions based upon the truth of it.

As we approach relating to God's grace in Jesus, *we do so strictly through faith.* We take the word of God and decide to operate according to what it says. Jesus said, "My sheep know my voice." Many of us have said or felt like God doesn't speak to us like He did to those in scripture. Why doesn't God speak to me like He did to David or Samuel or Elijah? Many of us have felt lost or in the dark about God's voice waiting to hear something externally with our ears. This is the natural man reasoning about hearing God's voice.

What we need to do is begin to acknowledge the truth that Jesus said over what we have been believing or experiencing. When I began to say to myself and agree with what Jesus said, then things began to change in my life. I began to say, "I know Jesus' voice; I am a sheep of His pasture and I know His voice!" This confession took me from unbelief and standing in doubt to standing in faith in His grace. I kept repeating this to myself even over the objections of my flesh that thought I was being foolish. In a short period of time, I began to realize that Jesus' spirit in me was prompting me, inspiring me, and leading me. My faith action took me from darkness to light; it took me from not knowing or recognizing His voice to knowing and identifying it.

This is living by faith! This is responding to God's grace and truth in Jesus as we should.

A second characteristic of relating to God's grace in Jesus is peace. This is such a major aspect and indicator of God's life in us. We are to be led by God's peace in Jesus. Peace is comforting, peace is settling, peace is powerful, and peace is the life of Jesus manifesting in our hearts.

Php 4:7 and **the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding**, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Col 3:15 And **let the peace of God rule in your hearts**, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

This is a major truth in our lives—the peace of Christ. When we are in turmoil, frustration, anxiety, and fear, it is because we are not resting in His word. We are not trusting God’s will. First, we must know God’s will through His word and remove any doubts about it (James 1:5-8). Second, we need to recognize the lack of peace as our heart’s struggling between naturalism and the law of Spirit in life. **Peace is God’s answer to us and His provision for us.** Peace is power and is the miracle of God’s supply. Often in times past, we would resign ourselves to whatever would be would be. This is not the peace of God it is surrender to the issues of life. This surrender provides a temporary relief from the battle; but resignation is not operating in the authority of Jesus’ name. In a way it is like giving up instead of standing in God’s promises and grace. In times past we were taught that since God is sovereign and Almighty that all things were in His control and will work out for our good. Again, this is not faith this is surrender to some vague sense of whatever will be, will be. The peace of God is not based on surrendering to the enemy, to the flesh, or to life’s circumstances, but surrendering or submitting to God and resisting the devil. We stand in peace because we know God’s will and the authority He has given us to use the name of Jesus against the wiles of the enemy. We stand in peace knowing that God’s grace has been given to us pertaining to life and godliness. Peace comes when we know God’s will and stand in it by His grace.

We relate to the law of the Spirit of life in Jesus as Jesus did while He walked the earth. He was not afraid but understood the authority of God in His life. Jesus said, “Pray God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven” this admonition, governs our understanding of what peace is based upon. Peace is based upon God’s word and will. God is good; His will is good, it His blessing, it is life, health, and peace!

Peace abides in us when we believe the Word of God and trust His grace. Peace is the by-product of standing in His will. We want God’s will because it is good and free of the curse. We want God’s will because it is free of sin, deceit, evil, and destruction.

John 10: 10 “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. **I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**

11 “**I am the good shepherd.** The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

A third characteristic of relating the Spirit of life in Jesus is the Holy Spirit bearing witness with our spirit. The Spirit of truth bears witness in agreement with our spirit when we agree with the truth and grace found in Jesus. When we became born again it was the Spirit that bore witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Ro 8:16 **The Spirit Himself bears witness** with our spirit that we are children of God,

Likewise, the Spirit also bears witness with our conscious in the things of right and wrong. God’s peace and witness manifest in us as “green” or “red” lights. When there is no peace, no witness but an uncomfortable sense of warning we need to pay attention. Our conscience has been purged by the Holy Spirit from a consciousness of sin to a consciousness of righteousness in God!

Ro 9:1 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, **my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit,**

Heb 9:14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience** from dead works to serve the living God?

When our mind is renewed and in agreement with God's word and will **our conscience also bears witness by the Holy Spirit to the truth!** The ministry of the Spirit is to lead us into all truth...

Joh 16:13 "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.

A fourth characteristic I've just mentioned, that is that we renew our minds in agreement with God's word by faith. We accept and acknowledge God's word over all things. We relate to the things of God by becoming familiar, referencing, and meditating upon His Word.

Rom. 12: 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

We must be convinced that God wants us to know His word and therefore, know His will! This happens as we renew our mind to think, act, and speak the language of the Spirit of life in Jesus—the language of faith. When we speak in agreement with the truth of God's word then we'll see results. The problem has been that we often speak what we have instead of speaking what God's word says. When we start thinking God's thoughts after Him, we'll start relating to Him in the inner man more and more.

Col 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask **that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;**

God wants us to reason, think, and speak spiritually and not just as mere men. We've become saints of God and the supernatural Spirit of God dwells in us. This Spirit quickens our mortal bodies; it inspires and reveals the Word of truth to our hearts. We relate to God's grace through revelation knowledge that comes from the Spirit of God!

A fifth Characteristic we employ is worship, praise, and thanksgiving. When we worship it is our response to who God is and His revelations of who He is to us. When we praise God we are recognizing all the good things given to us and poured out for us in His love. When we give daily thanksgiving we are practicing a spiritual discipline that keeps us from falling back into old habits of ingratitude. These habits blind us to the truth and make our hearts grow cold towards God. To relate to God begins with Worship, Praise and Thanksgiving...

1Th 5:18 in **everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

Giving thanks to God is a spiritual activity because *it has nothing to do with our physical senses.* We are practicing faith in God's being. **Worship is a spiritual effort that comes from faith.**

Joh 4:23 "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.**

Joh 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship **Him must worship in spirit and truth."**

A sixth characteristic of relating to the Spirit of life in Jesus Christ is testimonies. We testify to what God has done in our lives and through the atonement. We acknowledge everything that is good that dwells in us in Christ Jesus (Philemon 1:6). We exercise our faith and it becomes effective by sharing it with others of like kindred spirit.

Re 12:11 "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb **and by the word of their testimony**, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Philemon 1: 6 **that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.**

Praise causes us to have a new perspective and see God in all things...it brings us comfort to acknowledge all that He has done and is doing.

Ps 7:17 **I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness**, And will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.

Ps 9:1 **I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.**

Coupled with Worship, Praise and Thanksgiving **is being filled with the Spirit**. The scriptures teach us how this happens; listen to this passage:

Eph. 5: 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; **but be filled with the Spirit,**
19 **speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,**
20 **giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

A seventh characteristic is feeding on His faithfulness which includes remembering His promises and standing in His Grace! We are commanded to remain focused on the things God has done in our lives. We are commanded to remember His promises and keep them before our eyes. And it is God's will that we understand all that has been accomplished in Christ on our behalf. This means understanding who Christ is in us. **It's about meditating upon what God has made us in Jesus.**

Ps 37:3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, **and feed on His faithfulness.**

Jude 1:17 But you, beloved, **remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:**

2Co 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory**, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

II Pet. 1:1 **Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,**
3 **as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, **that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

With the law no longer judging and condemning us because in Christ all judgment is fulfilled, we can take away this veil and see the Lord in greater glory. As we see Him in His glory and grace He sees us in faith. This relationship is greater in glory and power than the law ever could be to us. We are transformed simply by His presence, by believing the right things, and by the Spirit's law of life. His love, His peace, His leading, His revelations, His faith, His life in us are all powerful manifestations of the power of His resurrection in us!

Php 3:10 **that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings**, being conformed to His death,

While we are living to the Law of the Spirit of life in Jesus Christ in us we are also at the same time considering our old life as good as dead! We stop putting such value in our old ways and place great value in newness of life in Jesus. We are being conformed to His death on the cross by not living to the law nor living to the natural man. This means we do not give place or power to our sins and old habits but with thanksgiving and determination accept the gift of righteousness in Jesus.

Ro 6:2 How shall **we who died to sin** live any longer in it?

Ro 6:7 **For he who has died has been freed from sin.**

Ro 6:8 **Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,**

Ro 6:10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, **He lives to God.**

Ro 7:6 **But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by**, so that we should serve in the **newness of the Spirit** and not in the oldness of the letter.

We Died to Sin

This means that although our flesh is very much alive in this world, we don't live to it as in giving it authority over us. Even though we sin we do not let it rule over us (Rom. 6:14). We live to the new life in Jesus and to the glory of His truth and grace. We consider our old life as good as dead. The only way we can do this is by faith in His grace—the word. We choose to accept His power and favor of forgiveness forever in the cross of Christ. When we sin, we are sorry for it; but then we give thanks for all of our sins as already forgiven. What gives us the right to do this? The Word of God!

Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, **having forgiven you all trespasses**,

1Jo 2:12 I write to you, little children, **Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.**

2Pe 1:9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, **and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.**

Heb 10:14 For **by one offering He has perfected forever** those who are being sanctified.

Conclusion:

In regards to the old ways, sin nature, and the flesh, we don't relate to them any longer. In truth, we don't fear them, submit to it, or present our members to sin nature but to righteousness (Rom.6:16). We don't fear the curse of the law (Gal 3:13). We don't fear judgment, punishment, vengeance, or condemnation (Rom. 8:1 & I John 4:18). We don't fear sickness and disease, violence, lack, insanity, war, or all of the things of the curse that sin nature subjected us to. How or why is this so? It is because we live to Jesus who is **Lord of all and our savior**. We are no longer under law but under grace (Rom. 6:14). He is greater in us than he that is in the world (I John 4:4). He is greater in us than sin nature has ever been. This is a decision we agree with and by faith live in His grace. Where sin abounded grace much more abounds (Rom. 5:20)!

We live to a new law, a greater law, a more powerful law, the law of the Spirit of life! When we choose to use these types of characteristics or tools to get in touch with and stay in touch with (abide) this is resurrection life manifesting in us. We need to change our understanding and what we believe about which is more powerful in our lives. We have been under the law and the curse so long we tend to believe that the power of new life in Jesus is for the others side—heaven. This is not so; the provision of salvation and His grace is now and then. We need to renew our minds to think that Jesus is greater than sin in as much as His sacrifice took upon His body ALL the sin of the world. When He did, He died; yet, His sacrifice was far greater than the payment. His sacrifice did not get burned up and consumed with fire as all the other sacrifices of the priesthood under Moses. **His sacrifice paid for sin; yet He was not consumed and rose again in absolute victory.** God's mercy triumphed over judgment. Jesus' new life as pure as pure can be had completely done away with sin. This means that the greater power has overcome the lesser one.

When resurrection power is born into us at salvation we have within us the greater power. We may not feel it, we may not even believe it, but by faith and understanding, we can come to know the truth. The truth and grace in Jesus is far greater than sin and the curse. The law of the Spirit of Life in Jesus is far greater than the law of sin and death. Unfortunately, we have not had a great example of this from the church. Unfortunately, the enemy has robbed us of this truth. The teaching has been far short; however, now we have revelation in line with the scripture that was given nearly two thousand years ago. We need to be convinced and begin to stand in this great truth over against what we have known or experience. In a way, we are being saved from the wrong understanding and belief to walk in the light of God's awesome and amazing love for us now.

Simply: **God's law of the Spirit of life in Jesus is far greater than the law of sin and death.** Wouldn't you be disappointed if it were any other way? Wouldn't you and I be troubled if sin and death ruled over us while being sons and daughters of God? This has been what we have seen but it is false...

Ro 8:2 For the **law of the Spirit of life** in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.