

## **VICTORY OVER SIN – Romans 6:5-10 (Part-two of a sixteen-part study)**

In our previous segment we learned that one's conversion to Christ consists of not only a judicial transaction but an inner transformation. Paul repeatedly refers to it as a "baptism," in Romans 6:3-4. This is not a reference to water baptism but to a spiritual union between the believer and their Savior, performed by the Holy Spirit at the very moment of conversion. This connection is established for us by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:13, where we read the following –

**“For by one Spirit we were ALL (emphasis added) baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”**

As a result, we are individually members of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12; Romans 12:5). But the emphasis of the apostle in Romans 6:5-9, takes us deeper into our understanding of what it means to be a Christian. Our spiritual union with Christ transforms us from within. At the moment of our conversion, we are united with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection on our behalf (v5). And it is this transformative spiritual union with our Savior which creates the “*potential*” within each of us for experiencing victory over sin in our everyday lives. Paul elaborates on the *two factors* of the inner transformation which make this possible, in vv6-10 –

**“. . . knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.”**

You might be saying to yourself right now, “That is a difficult truth to embrace.” No kidding! But it is absolutely critical that we not only understand and embrace it, but apply it in our Christian life on a daily basis, if we are to experience genuine and meaningful victory over sin. So, the first component involves our union with Christ in His death on the Cross of Calvary. His death to sin in paying the penalty of sin becomes our death to sin in not only being set free from sin's penalty judicially, but also sin's power practically. The power of sin that kept us in bondage to sin has been broken, setting us free from that prior enslavement (vv6-7). How? The sin nature within each of us has been “done away with.” Not that it has been eradicated to the point of ceasing to exist. We know from personal experience that this isn't true. We are still capable of sinning against God, even after our salvation. We also know this from Paul's admonition in Galatians 5:16-17 –

**“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.”**

This statement by Paul confirms the ongoing existence of the sin nature within each of us; and the conflict which is created, as a result. Yet the “*potential*” for victory over sin exists, not only in our union with Christ in His death, but equally important, in our union with Him in His resurrection from the dead, which provides us with a new nature that enables us to live a life pleasing to God. The creation of this new nature is not explicitly stated in Romans 6:8-10 or Galatians 5:16-17, but is clearly taught elsewhere in passages such as Ephesians 4:22-24 and Colossians 3:9-11. This two-fold spiritual transformation produced in us, at the moment of conversion, in our union with Christ, becomes the redemptive foundation for the Christian's daily victory over sin.