

O WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM...

14/9/25

There is a focus point that all Christians should build their life on. None of us can attain perfection within our own right... nor with the natural skills or abilities within us. Our dependence on God's mercy and forgiveness is far greater than we think and far more effective than we may find comfortable. Paul's personal testimony of his life reveals how he moved from being a murderer of the saints, to a super spiritual person. Once he was nothing more than a natural person (like most 'Christians'): transformed into a spiritually successful person.

Paul went from a natural man with the breath of life, to a spiritual man with the spirit of life. The Holy Spirit = Blameless, Pneuma Breath.

Keen and eager to serve God... naturally motivated. GAL 1:13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that **beyond measure** (enthusiastically) I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: **14** And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly **zealous** of the traditions of my fathers.

Kept himself disciplined and blameless under the law, natural strength... but his zeal was based in ignorance.

PHI 3:6 Concerning **zeal**, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, **blameless**.

Paul was guilty of blasphemy and murder and the terrorizing of the saints. He was a total Spiritual failure despite his zeal and strong beliefs.

ACT 26:10 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. **11** And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad (ragged) against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.

1TIM 1:13 Who was before a **blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious**: but **I obtained mercy**, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. **14** And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

Paul completely changes once he is born again... receiving the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. He is a different man altogether.

Sees himself as the lowest of all men and unworthy as a spirit filled man. His zeal is now based on God's miraculous power, not on religious doctrines and powerless beliefs. Paul's conversion (Acts 9:1-31).

1COR 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, **because I persecuted the church of God**. Sadly, there are many 'Christian' groups doing exactly the same thing.

As Paul grew in confidence and power, his natural mind was interfering with his calling.

Thorn in the flesh... pride (natural glorying). 2COR 12:6 For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me. **7** And lest I should be **exalted above measure** (pride) through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a **thorn in the flesh**, the **messenger of Satan** (opposition) to buffet me, lest I should be **exalted above measure**. **8** For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. **9** And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Paul's wisdom and ability to verbalise his understanding is still maturing... Romans was written a couple of years after 2 Corinthians.

Spiritual humility and spiritual appreciation are now being detailed in a remarkable way.

ROM 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual (present tense): but I am **carnal** (p/t), sold under sin. **15** For that which I **do** (p/t) I **allow** not (know not... (p/t)): for what I **would**, (p/t), that **do I** not (p/t); but what I **hate** (p/t), that **do I** (p/t). **16** If then I **do** (p/t) that which I **would** not (p/t), I **consent** (p/t) unto the law that it is good. **17** Now then it is no more I that **do it** (p/t), but sin that **dwelleth** in me (p/t). **18** For I know that in me (that is (p/t), in my flesh,) **dwelleth** (p/t) no good thing: for to **will** (p/t) is present with me; but how to **perform** (p/t) that which is good I **find** not (p/t). **19** For the good that I **would** (p/t) I **do not** (p/t): but the evil which I **would** not (p/t), that I **do** (p/t). **20** Now if I **do** (p/t) that I **would** not (p/t), it is no more I that do it, but sin that **dwelleth** in me (p/t). **21** I find **then** (p/t) a law, that, when I **would** do good, (p/t) evil is **present** with me (p/t). **22** For I **delight** (p/t) in the law of God after the inward man: **23** But I **see** (p/t) another law in my members, **warring** (p/t) against the law of my mind, and bringing me into **captivity** (p/t) to the law of sin which is in my members (p/t). **24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death** (flesh... the thorn)?

25 I thank (p/t) God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself **serve** (p/t) the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. **35 of these above words are written in the present tense... in present time.**

ROM 8:1 **There is therefore** now no **condemnation** (no shortness of breath) to them which are in Christ Jesus, who **walk** (p/t) not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. **2 For** the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. **3 For** what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: **4 That** the **righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us**, who **walk** (p/t) not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Being human and weak is no excuse to fail or live in sin. Paul summarises it perfectly in these above verses. The Lord gives us the power to overcome, despite us being wretched creatures... it is our faith and willingness to use the spirit that counts.