

*Yet, looking to the promise of God, he didn't waver through unbelief, but **grew strong through faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured** that what he had promised, **he was able** also to perform. Therefore it also was "reckoned to him for righteousness."*

*Now it was not written that it was accounted to him for his sake alone, but for our sake also, to whom it will be accounted, who **believe in him who raised Jesus**, our Lord, from the dead, who was delivered up for our trespasses, and was **raised for our justification**. Being therefore justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ; through whom we also have our **access by faith into this grace** in which we stand. We **rejoice in hope of the glory of God**. (Romans 4:20 – 5:2)*

*But **God commends his own love** toward us, in that **while we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)*

*For if, **while we were enemies**, we were **reconciled to God** through the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we will be **saved by his life**. Not only so, but we **also rejoice in God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have **now received the reconciliation**. (Romans 5:10-11)*

*We were **buried therefore with him** through **baptism to death**, that just **like Christ was raised** from the dead through the **glory of the Father**; so **we also** might walk in **newness of life**. For if we have become **united with him** in the likeness of his death, we will also be part of his resurrection; knowing this, that our **old man was crucified** with him, that the **body of sin might be done away** with, so that we would **no longer be in bondage to sin**. For he who has died **has been freed from sin**. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will **also live** with him; (Romans 6:4-8)*

*Thus **consider yourselves also to be dead to sin**, but **alive to God** in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:11)*

*But **thanks be to God**, that, whereas **you were bondservants of sin**, you became **obedient from the heart** to that form of teaching whereunto you were delivered. Being **made free from sin**, you became **bondservants of righteousness**. (Romans 6:17-18)*

*But now, **being made free from sin**, and having become servants of God, **you have your fruit of sanctification**, and the result of eternal life. (Romans 6:22)*

*For both **he who sanctifies** and those who are sanctified are **all from one**, for which cause he is not ashamed to **call them brothers**, saying, "I will **declare your name** to my brothers. In the midst of the congregation I will **sing your praise**." Again, "I will **put my trust in him**." Again, "Behold, **here I am with the children** whom God has given me."*

*Since then the **children have shared** in flesh and blood, he also himself in like manner partook of the same, that **through death he might bring to nothing him** who had the power of death, that is, the **devil**, and **might deliver all of them** who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (Hebrews 2:11-15)*

*For **you were called to freedom**, brothers and sisters; only **do not use your freedom as an opportunity** for self-indulgence, but **through love** become slaves to [serve] one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "**You shall love your neighbor as yourself**." (Galatians 5:13-14 NRSV)*

We are **free from the authority of sin** in our lives – now. Wrap your mind around this – **faith**.

*Don't be deceived, my beloved brothers. **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above**, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be **no variation**, nor turning shadow. **Of his own will he brought us forth** by the word of truth, that we should **be a kind of first fruits** of his creatures.* (James 1:16-18)

We must not miss this. **Everything good originates from God**; we cannot originate anything good. What **we must** do is to **identify with Jesus** who is the complete image of God, the true God as reflected by His only true Son. Thus **salvation is experienced** through our **choice of identification**.

*If then you were **raised together with Christ**, seek the things that are **above**, where **Christ is**, seated on the right hand of God. **Set your mind** on the things that are **above**, not on the things that are on the earth. For **you died**, and **your life is hidden with Christ in God**.* (Colossians 3:1-3)

Eternal life is not primarily about **length** of life but rather present **experience of life in Christ**.

***This is eternal life**, that they should **know you**, the **only true God**, and him whom you sent, Jesus Christ.* (John 17:3)

*There is therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus, who don't walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the **law of the Spirit of life** in Christ Jesus **made me free from the law of sin and of death**.* (Romans 8:1-2)

This is the very heart of why it is so important to confess **Jesus as Lord**, for this is the **true gospel**.

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings **good news**, who publishes **peace**, who brings **good news of good**, who publishes **salvation**, who says to Zion, **Your God reigns!*** (Isaiah 52:7)

*Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service. Don't be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may **prove what is the good**, well-pleasing, and perfect **will of God**.* (Romans 12:1-2)

*Now the Lord is the Spirit and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty**. But we all, with unveiled face **beholding** as in a mirror the **glory of the Lord**, are **transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, even as from the Lord, the Spirit.* (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)

*For the **love of Christ constrains us**; because we judge thus, that **one died for all**, therefore **all died**. He died for all, that those who live should **no longer live to themselves**, but **to him** who for their sakes died and rose again.*

*Therefore we know no one after the flesh from now on. Even though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now we know him so no more. Therefore if anyone is **in Christ**, he is **a new creation**. The old things have passed away. Behold, **all things have become new**.* (2 Corinthians 5:14-17)

*For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God**. (2 Corinthians 5:21)*

*We **know** and have **believed the love which God has for us**. God is love, and he who **remains in love** remains in God, and God remains in him. In this **love has been made perfect** among us, that **we may have boldness** in the day of judgment, because as he is, even so are we in this world. (1 John 4:16-17)*

Salvation is never about affecting God's thinking or disposition about us, but always about **transforming our thinking** about God. Believing Jesus, **confessing Him as Lord** means **giving Him our authority to define** what is **true**, both about His **Father** and about **ourselves**.

God wants access or **permission** to take up **residence in our heart**.

This involves our making a choice, and continuing to **choose to consent to let Jesus be Lord**.

Being in Christ is what **God did** for all humanity, without any permission required from anyone.

Christ living within us involves **our permission** through **confession**, for God never forces Himself on anyone.

*If you will **confess** with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord**, and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will **be saved**. (Romans 10:9)*

When we **align our will** with the **truth of God's words**, **power is released** that brings transformation.

We do **not have** to continue **to struggle against sin** all our lives or live **feeling defeated**.

*I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now is come the salvation, the power, and the Kingdom of our God, and the **authority of his Christ**; for the **accuser** of our brothers **has been thrown down**, who accuses them before our God day and night. **They overcame him** because of the **Lamb's blood**, and because of the **word of their testimony**. They didn't love their life, even to death. (Revelation 12:10-11)*

The **authority of Christ** is released through recognizing and confessing that **He is Lord** and believing what God says about Him is true, because **God's power** is what **raised Jesus** up from physical death.

*I have told you these things, that in me **you may have peace**. In the world you have oppression; but **cheer up! I have overcome the world**. (John 16:33)*

When I confess and believe with my heart that Jesus is Lord, I am **choosing to identify with His declarations** about who I am and that **He alone defines my identity** and worth – not anyone else.

*Therefore, putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, **receive with humility the implanted word**, which is **able to save your souls**. (James 1:21)*

*But **nobody can tame the tongue**. It is a **restless evil**, full of deadly poison. With it **we bless our God and Father**, and with it **we curse men**, who are **made in the image of God**. Out of the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things **ought not to be so**. (James 3:8-10)*

When I allow my imagination and my **words to agree with the accuser**, I am **cursing people** made in

the **image of God**. That **includes myself** as well. This is double-mindedness which brings **confusion** and **disables** me from being **able to receive** anything from God.

When I confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord, that means I need to also **confess that only what Jesus says is true about me**, and I can **stop rehearsing lies** over myself or others.