

ALL THINGS ARE NEW



Gary Wilkerson March 23, 2015

As a pastor, I've noticed a common problem when most people sit down in my office for counseling. "I've failed God's standard," they say wearily. "My sin has cut me off from fellowship with the Lord." They think their sins cause the Holy Spirit to flitter away like a dove and then hover in the air until they get their hearts right.

These are all sincere believers, yet they could not be more mistaken about God. When we sin, that's when we need Christ's fellowship the most! Jesus doesn't abandon us in our sin. He intercedes for us, going to the Father and sending the Spirit to remind us of His grace—a grace based on His shed blood, not our performance.

Yes, the Bible and the Holy Spirit convict of sin. But we are not to be anxious about the outcome of our sin. God's grace is more powerful than any demon, our sinful nature, or any mountain of guilt. So the outcome of our sin is to rest in Him! We don't have to reestablish fellowship with Him, because He is already at work convicting, washing and cleansing us. He never leaves us; His godly work in us never stops, even when we stop being godly!

This means you are no longer under the law of sin, but are set free to walk in the Spirit by grace. Your old man is gone; all things have become new. You no longer have to say, "I can't do what I wish to do." Your motto now is, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Yes, you can—not in your own ability, but through Christ, who has cleansed you and called you to righteousness by His grace.

"For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do" (Romans 8:3). We can't strive our way to righteousness. God has established His righteousness in us through His Son, "in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit" (8:4).

Are you anxious? Haunted by your failures? Do you wonder, "Is there really such a thing as freedom for me? Does this Christian life even work?" Jesus answers, "You have been set free." This is the reality that God declares about you.

Pray this prayer: "God, I know You have done this for me, but I've lived as if You haven't. Settle it in my heart now. I can walk in the Spirit knowing You have done all to make me righteous. Amen!"

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