

New Life in Christ

Romans 6 – 8

by Don Falkos

copyright 2018 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

In baptism we have been united with Christ in his death. And just as he was raised from the dead to new life, so we now live new lives in the freedom of God's grace – not freedom to sin, but freedom *from* sin. Our beast-like nature no longer has any power over us except what we give it. Don't let it control the way you live. Instead, give yourselves completely to God.

When you were slaves of your animal appetites, you did things you're now ashamed of. As slaves of God, you do things that make you holy, set apart for God, and the end result is eternal life. What your animal appetites earn you is death; but eternal life is a gift from God, offered through the sacrifice of Christ Jesus our Lord.

God's Law made us aware of our sin. But now, through Christ, we are free to serve God, not by obeying the Law, but by living in the Spirit. Don't get me wrong! The Law is concerned with the spiritual; our own beast-like nature is the problem.

My behavior baffles me. I want to do what's right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. That is my beast-like nature at work. There is a battle going on inside me between right and wrong. Thank God, Jesus Christ our Lord frees me from my animal appetites.

God, who raised Jesus from the dead, sent the Holy Spirit to live in us, to give us victory and life. We are adopted by the Father, children of God, heirs of God, and co-heirs with Christ. God has chosen us, rescued us, died for us. Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God.