

The Wretched Man Syndrome

by Lewis Gregory

The Wretched Man Syndrome is a condition where Christians struggle to live a holy life, despite their knowledge of God's Word and their desire to do what is right.

Duration: 42:31

Scripture: Matthew 23:24, Romans 7:7-8, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 6:7, Revelation 3:17

Topics: "Sinful Nature"

Description

The video titled 'Falling Down' tells the story of a frustrated man who becomes increasingly disillusioned with the injustices and indifference he sees in society. His frustration leads him to act out in ways that eventually result in his arrest. The video emphasizes the limitations of knowledge and education, stating that they can only provide information and not true understanding. The apostle Paul's experience in Romans 7 is referenced, highlighting the need for deliverance through Jesus Christ.

Transcript

we've been singing out of the hymns and I was thinking specifically about amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me you girls recognize that that phrase amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me John Newton penned those words and he became acutely aware of what a wretch was after he realized the horrible hideous way he had conducted his life in such a cruel and vicious way of just marketing of humanity and selling and as a ship captain and all the things that he did just the brutality and the human injustice and and I mean just and he was just devastated by it and as he encountered the Lord and came to grips with the truth of God's Word he realized what it meant to be a wretch there is a saying you've got to get a person lost before you can get them

saved the idea being that if we don't see our need we're definitely not going to seek a supply or a source or a solution the same thing holds true for us in our Christian life and I believe that's what Paul is referring to in Romans chapter 7 as he uses this very same word so in Romans 7 verse 24 we hear the cry of a desperate man this is the Apostle Paul describing a time in his life and this is what he said a wretched man that I am who should deliver me from the body of this death Oh wretched man and when we read that passage and we think of the word wretched the problem that most of us as Christians have with it is we perceive that to be John Newton some horrible monster a person maybe like the one that shot up all these people recently that's been on the news that kill killed several

including the little girl and and wounded the state representative but we think now that's a wretched person I mean man look at that guy or you know the Oklahoma bomber or the 9-11 terrorist now these are wretched people saw a flash on the newscreen last night somebody had had abducted some some young girl those are people they rape and mutilate they murder they torture I mean these are wretched people but then again Paul says a wretched man that I am a wretched man that I am that's what Paul says but I don't see any description in his life whatsoever about anything like what we perceive to be a wretched person and that was the shocker for the Apostle Paul when he had to come to grips with the fact that he too was a wretched man you know at one point in his life he told Timothy I am the

chief among sinners and what he was saying even at that point in his life that was at the point of his conversion he was saying you know here I thought I was the best of the best Pharisee of the Pharisees you know as touching the law blameless he say man I had my act together I did what the law said do I did not what do what it said don't do I was on track or so he thought and that's where many of us are in our Christian life and walk and this is where I found the struggle to be in so many Christians they come for counseling or I talk to them after I preach somewhere and they've got something going on they think well it's not all that bad I just didn't need a little tweaking or tune-up but what they don't see is that they are the wretched man and I would venture to say that 99% of

Christians are in that wretched man mode so there's this wretched man syndrome that takes place in the body of Christ that keeps us stifled so that what happens is we take one step forward and two backwards but we don't even realize it we don't even realize it what I mean by that is this when when I was when I when I in my early years as a Christian I I went through the hoops I learned the ropes and I understood what God's Word said and I man I I studied the Word of God I was taught the Word of God I went to church and I heard teachings I memorized scripture I knew God's Word I prayed and and and so when I went off in the Navy I look great in fact I was the best of the best of the Navy because I just wasn't anybody that was even close then when I got back went to college all my Christian

friends in the college I was way beyond them in my in my church when we would sit down I knew the Bible better than most and so I thought this is as good as it gets and this is really the best that's expected the the the mindset is that God has this wonderful goal that we're to shoot for you know well whatever we want to call it you know becoming more like Jesus or however you want to describe it but we have this goal the standard this perception the standard let's say the Word of God and so that's the goal but of course God knows none of us are going to get there none of us can achieve it so he really doesn't expect that of us it's just about try as hard as you can do the best you can so growing up there is a young boy in the church the song that stood out to me was called our best and

it means give you the best the Lord do the best you can for the Lord and that's good enough but you see the problem with that is even our righteousness the best that we can do is still filthy rags to the Lord even as much after we're saved as before we were saved because human righteousness our self-effort to serve and please God fall short and so the Apostle Paul in saying about himself he's a wretched man what's he telling us and how did he come to that conclusion well if we go back in Romans 7 he says here going back to well I want to let me let me do it in reverse all right let's verse 7 he says what should we say then is the law sin God forbid no I had not known sin but by the law now this is the phrase I want to get to after that he says I had not known lust except the law had said

you shall not covet now that let this last phrase of verse 7 so here look at again I had not known lust except the law had said you shall not covet okay now let's get some terminology clear the word lust

doesn't mean just the sexual immoral perversion that has been defined primarily in our culture the word lust there means desire and can be either good or evil in nature depending on the context that has paused referring to it here he's talking about it in the context of that which is evil or ungodly now he's not talking about just in the immoral sense he's talking about lust in the general sense for the word lust means desire and Paul is saying now look I had to realize that even as a new believer in Christ I was still experiencing a pull and I was still responding to the appeals and

things of this world not just the gross immoral things we might classify but that my desires and my appetites were still unbridled and misguided see my desires and appetites were unbridled and misguided so that like we find ourselves overeating we find ourselves overcompensating you know we get all consumed up with sports or our hobbies and we just overindulge we're over indulging this is a society of overindulgers and most anything and everything just it doesn't matter what it is we go to seed on it we get too much into it and Paul is saying the word covet is that same idea it means that you're coveting and so but look at he says except the law has said you shall not covet now there he's referring to the Ten Commandments so if we look there at Exodus or yeah Exodus chapter 20 verse 17

then he's going to show us there what the law says and the Ten Commandments were just the most basic minimum daily requirement but they included all the essentials of practical daily living that God intended for his people not just so he could make sure they were on the right path but because that was the right way to live and God knows the right way to live and so he was simply telling the people which is grace in itself he's saying look if you want to live right this is how you do it these are Ten Commandments ten rules ten guidelines really for living and and you follow these and and you'll be good with me and you'll be good with your fellow men so and he goes through these ten and every one of them has to do with external conduct your actions what we do or don't do and most of us even

as Christians today we gauge our life and how well we're doing by how it looks on the outside you know as long as we're saying the right thing and doing the right thing externally as long as we learn how to keep appearances up or we wear the right mask and say the right Jesus words like hallelujah and praise the Lord at the appropriate moment and we know how to pray the right kind of prayers then we think everything's okay and all is well with the world I mean we memorized our scriptures we read our Bible daily and we're on track but all that is but externals what Paul would call to Timothy a form of godliness it's only a form it's only the external so when he gets to this Tenth Commandment Exodus chapter 20 verse 17 he says you shall not covet now covet has to do with an attitude which

is why when Jesus came on the scene what did he focus on attitude he said you've got it all together on the outside your whitewash sepulchers that is you cleaned up your life on the outside you look good on the outside but what you don't realize is as Paul would say there Oh wretched man that I am you're a walking dead man you're a whitewash sepulcher you're a tomb you're a death you're a death trap your body is a death trap and you're still walking around as a dead man walking see that's what you but you don't realize that see that's why Jesus had to be so clear and to the point and had to sometimes seemingly hit people between the eyes he was saying it's it's all about understanding the real essence of holiness the real essence of purity and righteousness and godliness and so he says

there you shall not covet and then he goes down the list your neighbor's house wife his possessions his animals you know his his servants whatever he's got but then and so we look at that we go on our look and we make the list we say well okay first of all I don't even like my neighbor and I hate his house it's the ugliest color I've ever seen so who would ever want a house like that and and so you eliminate that and

you say in his wife well she's kind of a hag and and she's definitely not my type and you know and and so you rule her out and and so you go down the list and he doesn't have any servants so I'm there's not even an issue there and the next thing you're saying is wait a minute he doesn't have animals and so and except that one dog and he's a barking dog and quite an annoyance

to say the least and so I definitely don't want him and so you rule it all out and then and then he says here or anything else of your neighbors and let's expand that because see in in the story when Jesus was telling them love your neighbor the thing they were trying to get out of and that story was well wait a minute we're good to our neighbors and Jesus wanted them to see your neighbor is anybody so he gave them the story he gave them the story of the Good Samaritan they said look your neighbor is anybody happens to cross paths with you anywhere on planet earth that's a neighbor it's someone else that you're that you share this planet with is a neighbor and it's just a matter of you how you interact with them but he's saying that we're not to covet now covet is that evil desire to want

what is not yours and to want to take it from them it's entirely different than seeing that somebody is driving a car that you like or somebody has a house that you like and you admire that for what it is and you recognize well that's I didn't even realize that kind of car was available but now that I see it I realize that's a good car I'd like a car like that car but I don't want their car I'm not begrudging them of having it and yet what does the Lord say he says rejoice with those who rejoice but weep with those who weep so we can kind of have compassion and weep with those who weep but what about when somebody has occasion for rejoicing you know what about when they get the new car or what about when when when when you find out that they got healed but you didn't get healed or when

they got blessed but you didn't get blessed it's a little more difficult see because you want what they've got and if you're not careful you'll cross that fine line in the coveting and you'll become jealous of them and you'll become covetous of them and and you won't be able to be content in who you are in Christ and what you've got in him he says and having food arraignment food and clothing that is let's therewith be content be content with such things as you have he says to us now that's not to say we can't want other things but there's a vast difference in in just winning it in that broader sense of desire and that evil kind of desire that causes us to crave it to be consumed by it to be driven by it and to be overcome by it I mean we can get blown all out of proportion about stuff

and what he's saying is here don't let stuff rule your life because that stuff becomes your God that's what you live for how many a person has slaved to buy certain products in life certain material possessions or been devastated when it was lost or stolen and so he's saying guard against being caught up in that realm of things don't covet but Paul says but wait a minute I was doing pretty good until one day the Holy Spirit I believe caused him to reassess what the Word of God really says because he knew it he knew it up here and his desire was to do what was right so here's a man who by by by his knowledge of the law and his firm conviction to live according to the law and his deep desire and devotion to honor the Lord Jesus in his life as a new creation but still we find him struggling

and that's why when he's saying he's a wretched man that I am because for instance in he talks a lot about what he knows in regard to the law he says in verse 12 for instance he says the law is holy the commandment is holy it is just as good he says this is what I know he says these are the things I know about God and His Word and and then he he talks all about what he knows here and then he says for instance he says there in verse 25 he says so then with the mind I myself serve the law of God he says hey I'm in agreement according to my knowledge of the law and my mind that's what I know to be right and

that's what I agree is right and then he says but with my flesh the law of sin so what we have here is a man who has tried the two basic resources that God has given to all humanity let's

let's go back to verse 18 he says I know that in me dwells no good thing and then he says for to will is present with me see he's saying to will is present with me and then he asked the question how to perform that which is good I find not so he's saying now my problem is not that I don't know what's right I know he's saying my problem is not that I don't know the truth of God's Word or that I don't concur that it's right or valid and furthermore he says I want what God wants he says I have a will to do what is right and true according to God's Word so what he's told us here is the two main elements that we as humans have that we operate according to is mind control and willpower so how many times have you heard your parent perhaps or someone else say just put your mind to it you can do

it just put your mind to it if you want it bad enough just you know it's got to be a matter of will control you gotta have some discipline here just make the right choices and what are we teaching them we're teaching them how to live on the human plane using knowledge the intellect the mind and the will and what Paul has really done for us in Romans 7 that brings him to the place of the wretched man is as this new man in Christ he's trying to do the same way he did when he was the Pharisee of the Pharisees he as a Pharisee of the Pharisees he put his mind to work and as a brilliant mind gifted of God he learned everything there was to learn about God and His Word then he further discipline himself by willpower and by making the right choices so that he was doing all the right things

externally that's why when Jesus comes to address the different religious leaders and specifically targets the Pharisees he's not putting them down they were the best of the good guys they did the best they could with what they knew they were meticulous to a fault and it was at that point of to a fault that Jesus was trying to say but you've made that the sum total of what God is all about and that's you've missed God you've been straining at the net and you've swallowed the camel and you've missed the essence of God and who he is and what he's about he said you've been busy about keeping the letter of the law but the letter of the law kills only the Spirit of God only the Spirit of law can give life so now Paul is really just showing us here that he's a wretched man because he has tried

the things that he thought would make him good and right now let me just give this to you a little different way let's jump over to Revelation chapter three and let's look at it here in verse 17 we're going to find the same word showing up again the word wretched Revelation 3 17 is addressing the church at Laodicea Laodicea which was one of the cities there in the region and it was a Gentile city and and there were these believers gathered there this is where they live both Jew and Gentile now born-again believers in Christ they're living in this this very prosperous city and so he addresses them by saying this you say I am rich you say I am increased with goods you say I have need of nothing but what you don't know he says what you don't know you think you know but you don't know and

this is what you don't know he said you don't know that you are wretched see there's our word you are wretched that is you are hopeless you are helpless you you are really in this deplorable state but because you appear to be rich and you have increased with goods and you think you don't have need of anything you think you're okay because you look above average this is what you don't realize is you're wretched you're miserable you're poor blind and naked now there's no doubt that at that time the Laodiceans were people that were fortunate enough to live in a region that was prosperous at that time but that's somewhat beside the point because what he's really addressing here is the fact that they were thinking about this in spiritual terms now we can look at it one or two ways first of all

it would be like if you begin to be blessed materially and and and you begin to to see some of your prayers answered and so your assumption then is well I I'm rich and I'm prosperous and I don't need anything because look I've got his blessing me and I've got all these material possessions and so you begin to assume well that must mean I'm okay that must mean I'm really doing good here because God is sanctioning my life because look he's blessing me and see that was the misnomer that Jesus came to try to counteract that was going on under the old covenant the misnomer that prosperity equated God's sanction on your life and and that was erroneous for instance let's think of the Israelite nation they're under slavery and bondage in Egypt and God came along in his mercy and grace at the

appropriate time sent Moses Moses shows up on the scene as a man of faith believes God steps out by faith goes up against the Pharaoh this amazing humongous miracle none like it ever has occurred since the whole nation bows down to this man named Moses the whole nation subjects themselves so all of a sudden these people who are over here murmuring and complaining wanting to stone Moses and kill him or at least get rid of him now are amazed that all of a sudden they've rolled out the red carpet and here these people are lavish with wealth because as they were allowed freedom from their slavery and allowed to leave they didn't just have to kind of slink out the back door they sent them out in regal style because they blessed them with all the wealth they gave them all this jewelry and gold

and they had all this good stuff they blessed them with so these people now are going out prosperous and wealthy assuming wow we must be something special we are really God's chosen people and look look at the result I mean and after all our fathers Abraham Isaac and Jacob and that makes us really quality people here and let's don't let's don't look too far away because the attitude was constantly murmuring and complaining every time some little obstacle came up they got down on Moses they got down well you know we don't have any water you've sent us out here to die in the wilderness you know we don't have any food to eat we're tired of this man it didn't matter what it was they murmured and complained about everything and yet they were blessed and even their shoes did not wear out as

they journeyed through this wilderness one in the 40 years and they were protected every step of the way blessed none of the diseases of Egypt I mean and here today in the church as believers if we get those kind of things going on my life we immediately think well man we must be doing pretty good but that's the misnomer that he says here in Revelation you Laodiceans have got it together and you've experienced God's blessing and prosperity and you therefore assume that must mean you're on track and you can talk about all your stuff you have as a new creation and here let me we're changing over to the new creation now so we move from old covenant to new and so now as Christians what do we do well we're blessed in a day where there's a lot of good teaching about the new covenant okay so we

get all these teachings so we have for instance there are many different forms of so-called new creation confessions and these are a list of various things that the Bible says that are now true about you as a new creation what would be some of them let's do some examples anybody think of one what Oh coming and going okay but but but but as a new creation what are some things are you forgiven so you're forgiven you're accepted you're loved this is a new creation you're a saint Wow no no more sinner now you're saying you're righteous all these things are true about you so this is your new creation status and so what we do is we go around making these positive confessions I am this and I am that and 100% correct except except where's the fruit except show me the money put up or shut up he

says you don't realize you're really poor you're really still impoverished because while you're saying all these things and they are true you are not living up to that it's not working in your life it's not manifesting

there's no real fruit of it oh yes sporadically occasionally here and there now you can show all the prosperous blessings and say all these things you have and how that God has done for you and he's yes all that's true but that doesn't make you who you are nor is a sign or a signal that God somehow sanctions your life because as Jesus said let's look at the attitude here let's check out what's really going on not to negate anything that God has made available to us as a new creation it's all true but the real issue is always about the walk in the life and so he's simply

saying here as new creations yes you you you are in fact rich you are increased with goods it is true you don't need anything as a new creation you have everything you need but be that as it may are you living from your new creation self or are you still living from the outer man trying to imitate and emulate rather than allowing that life which is in you to be manifest through you the Apostle Paul made an interesting comment to the Corinthian Church the Corinthian Church in a lot of ways parallels the Laodicean Church for instance in the first chapter of 1st Corinthians he tells us something about these people quite an eye-opener in fact he says that the church at Corinth verse 2 they are the Church of God at Corinth they are sanctified then he goes on down and he says now grace be unto

you but then he goes to verse 4 the grace of God given you by Christ that in everything now verse 5 now this is exactly what we're talking about in the Laodiceans in everything you are enriched in all utterance in all knowledge even the you know the very testimony of Christ has confirmed that that's the truth that's what God did for you in Christ as a new creation you have been enriched and such that he says in verse 7 you come behind in no gift and he says that's that's all the case that you're sons of God your daughters of God you're the children of God you're redeemed born-again okay that all that now over here though he gets a little further into this just in chapter 4 he says in verse 8 now you are full okay now you're full now you're rich you have reigned as kings without us so

that's another thing we are as a new creation under the new covenant we're kings and priests so he says you have reigned with kings without us you're full and you're rich but then he says but I would be glad that you did reign he said no look all that's true about you and you're going around talking a good game I mean everybody can talk a good game Monday morning quarterbacks there's plenty of them there's a lot of things we could say about what the Falcons could have should have done okay we could all do that but he's saying you tasted of something and you walked in a measure of it but he says we're walking on here we're going on with God and we are walking as kings and priests in the earth he says we are living out of our new creation self but you have somehow missed it you've got

you got just enough you know why so what we say you know enough to be dangerous you've got a glimpse of this and a taste of it but you didn't really see the essence of it so all you can do is talk about it and knowledge only puffs up so what we have is a very educated Christian community and thank God for that but it's got to go beyond education because all education can do all knowledge can do is give you information and the Apostle Paul was saying about his own life look he says I was well-informed let's go back to Romans 7 he says I was well-informed and I knew all the right stuff so in verse 24 Oh wretched man that I am 7:24 who should deliver me from the body of this death and he moves quickly Romans 25 verse 25 and he tells us the who I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord now we

all would say well he should have known that well he did know that he knew it but he didn't really know it that's why when he goes back here and says I didn't know what it meant to lust until I saw the commandment said thou shalt not covet and then I knew so he said I knew about it I knew about it in understanding intellectually but then there was a knowing where I came to experientially cover the

realization of what that means and not just what it means out there somewhere but what it means in my life and suddenly the dawn Oh wretched man that I am there was a movie a number of years ago the title of the movie was called falling down the story was about a man who was just a good hard-working middle-class or average citizen or whatever you want to put him businessman but little by little

he began to be perturbed and put out and frustrated with the system at every level whether it was at home or work with the boss or the government it was just one big mess as far as he could see it have been justice and indifference and the heightened frustration finally called him to start acting out in ways that that caused him to react to all this and little by little he kept pushing the envelope until all of a sudden one day the authorities came the police and they showed up and they surrounded him and he found himself being arrested and in shocked amazement he said what you mean I'm the bad guy I'm the bad guy how can this be all these other people have ripped me off I mean I've had people steal from me I've had people you know do treacherous things and these are the criminals and yet

why am I the one who's getting arrested here of course he had crossed the line too but it was so subtle and gradual and in his mind justified that it made it seem right in reality he was the bad guy in that sense in terms of his conduct and that's what Paul is saying about the wretched man he's not saying that he himself is wretched when he describes wretched man he's talking about the state he's in of misery of disgust at the fact that knowing what I know he says having a heart for God as I do how could I still continue to say and do things or at least have an attitude a thought a disposition inward feelings to the contrary how could I still be in this other realm which I hate so so intently and yet here it is consuming me on the inside now looking good on the outside but on the inside

and I can remember in my own life being in that same situation and talking to a friend about it who seemed to have the secret best I could tell he lived in this amazing simplicity in Christ joy the Lord talk about love Jesus it was just obvious he did now I love the Lord too that was that was the mix for me how could I loving God as I do still be thinking saying and even doing things that I know are not of God and in fact are displeasing to God and I was crushed and grieved by that and yet I would see this other guy and I would say well he seems to be so joyful and he's obviously victorious and and I had to come to grips with the fact I was defeated and and I was miserable I was not the good guy I thought I was as a Christian I was the chiefest of sinners in the sense of I was the

chiefest of the wretched man or woman or boy or girl okay but I was the chiefest in my eyes suddenly and that's where it has to come to you know we were in a day and age where Christianity is sort of a smorgasbord take it or leave it in the way most of its presented and boy most of us approach it and so I'm saying that's a dangerous place to get to because we lose sight of God's holiness and his greatness and his majesty and the awesomeness of his glory such that we just sort of take him as one of the guys now no doubt there's a truth to that no doubt Jesus was a friend of sinners he hung out with the disciples he prepared a meal for him on the Sea of Galilee he washed their feet but let us never ever forget he is the Lord of glory high and lifted up the great and mighty God as a young

man in seminary we went through an exercise in one of the classes and they wanted us to try to see what different ways we might illustrate to the teenagers it was a youth class how can you portray God and so they had a chair and one person said now not being sacrilegious but I'll take the role of God and so he the professor actually he sat down the chair and he said okay so let's assume I'm God how you gonna relate to me how you approach me and so different ones of us were all required to go up and do our thing and so it was interesting how it all transpired so so some would come and they would raise hands and some

would come and they would kneel and some would come and lay on their face and there were different ways in which we bodily expressed ourselves and some would use words and some

would sing songs and then one guy got up and sat in his lap and hugged him and that really touched me but here's where we've come to in our culture we see him only at the buddy level okay however the only way you get to that level is you humble yourself and then he lifts you up but humbling yourself is to recognize Lord I am nothing and you are everything I am nothing and apart from you can do nothing but you on the other hand are the Almighty and nothing is too hard for you and that takes care of the wretched man problem oh wretched man who shall deliver me I thank God through Jesus Christ my Lord he already has he's already delivered us we're already free indeed in him but we need to stop trying to get free and get focused on the source of our freedom all these riches all this abundance

of wealth everything that is in us everything in the new covenant which is true about us is all it says in Christ in him and I tell you what I get on that as he goes on to say if we forget about these chapter divisions he's moving through a thought here and he shifts back to summarize in verse 25 with the mind I serve the law of God with the flesh the law of sin he's saying I'm trapped I know what I should do and yet I'm still doing the wrong thing because my humanity is still causing me to sin but why because I'm living after the flesh and we reap what we sow so if we've been sowing to the flesh we're going to reap the sin even if it's at the attitude level it's still just as evil and wrong and ungodly but then he quickly says but wait verse 181 no condemnation to them which are in

Christ Jesus see he's saying everything about you as a new creation hinges on this one reality of being in Christ and because you're in Christ all he is in you you are now in him and you can never ever say that all you all these things about you as if saying the confession is going to happen this one lady was saying you know all my confessions are meaningless all my confessions are for nothing because I confess I confess I confess all these things to be true about me but it never happens in me well the reason is we haven't seen the whole basis of those confessions is because of being in Christ Jesus and because we're in him everything he is in us now is true about us in him and because of him I can now do all things through him but it's always by means of him Christ Jesus the Lord is our

life our source our strength our all every bit of that is true in me as a new creation but only because I am in him only so then verse 2 for the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death he's saying now you've moved into an entirely new dimension there was in fact the law that was established in Genesis chapter 2 what verse 17 or something he says if you eat of this you will surely die if you eat of this forbidden tree you will surely die now that's the law if you sin so later it's summed up like this the soul that sins shall surely die so sin leads to death that's why he's talking about there the law of sin and death yeah Genesis 2 17 but that law is in place so we had then this law of sin and death he comes back to it in Romans 6 23 for the

wages of sin is death because why because the law of sin is death when sin occurs you experience death and in fact on the other side of that when sin occurs you know one thing death is operating in you because the source of that sin is Satan and Satan is dead even as Christ is life now if Christ was operating in us we would experience his life but when he's not operating in and through us by the power of his spirit then we get the other side of that law which is the law of sin and death but he's going to show us the resurrection side that's why he says the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus so again in Christ Jesus the law of the spirit of life so when I'm in Christ the spirit of life supersedes the law of sin and death because it is first of all made me free from the law of sin

and death made me free so he didn't just set me free he made me free from the law of sin and death I am free indeed free indeed totally completely fully free but then if I'm free we must pose the question but still again why is it I keep doing and acting and saying these other things that are foreign to me because I don't know the true law of the spirit of life in Christ you know I fly on the airplanes quite a bit and my mission travels as I'm flying around on those planes it's pretty high up and if you're down it looks pretty dangerous I remember my grandson when he was first going to fly and he was a little leery about that and and lose mother late in life finally for the first time flew because that's high up and what if it falls what if it falls but you see the beauty of an airplane

is you don't have to be concerned about the law of gravity which is the law of sin and death because you've got a higher law the law of aerodynamics and the law of aerodynamics supersedes the law of gravity and carries you over and above the law of sin and death and so the law of the spirit of life in Christ ensures that you can walk godly in Christ Jesus by the spirit because you are in him so because you're in him you're born of his spirit that's how he made you new and now you have this new life in you in Christ so that's there are your riches so you yes you're in need of nothing because you have all things in Christ yes you're in need of nothing because you can do all things through Christ so you are full if you're full of him and you are full of him on the inside because of his

fullness of all we receive John chapter 1 verse 16 but it's do we allow him to fill us with all the fullness of God that's why in Ephesians Paul is saying this is my prayer that you would be filled with all the fullness of God but we've got to lay him out so that the spirit of life in Christ can be released through us and we can live out of our vital union in Christ and begin to walk godly in Christ Jesus what a victory and that's our life we go out of the wretched man syndrome and we begin to just enjoy life and what Paul called the simplicity that is in Christ just simple childlike trust in him and that's the trust that allows us to soar like an eagle instead of being consumed by that law of gravity and crashing and burning all right so let's pray well thanks that you have made

provision for everything and we don't have to fret or trust we're not trying to figure it out I don't even understand it we just can gladly accept it gratefully receive it and thank you that because of Jesus Christ all he is all he's done and all he's come to do in us that we're free to be ourself and you and we're free from the law of sin and death and we can soar like an eagle because the spirit of life in Christ has made us free from the law of sin and death

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