



Module : The Foundation Doctrines of Christ

Session 8 : Repentance - Part 7

Focus : Forsaking and Overcoming Sin by God's Word and the Holy Spirit

In this session we continue to provide more principles by which we may overcome or master sin. We give attention to the powerful duo and partnership of 'THE WORD OF GOD' and 'THE HOLY SPIRIT'.

GRACE IN GOD'S WORD SETS YOU FREE

The primary method by which Grace is imparted to you is through the medium of GOD'S WORD (See John 1:14-18; Acts 20:32; Psalm 45:1-2). The sheer power of the grace in the Word of God is what enables you to live victoriously over sin. Grace does not result in slavery to sin but mastery over sin. The Word of God and the grace conveyed through it, is the means by which we can overcome sin.

The Word of God is the nature of God¹.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

God and His Word are one. His Word is the primary means by which His nature and character are progressively imparted to us.

John 14:19-26

- 19 "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also.
- 20 "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
- 21 "He who **HAS MY COMMANDMENTS and KEEPS THEM** is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will **DISCLOSE Myself** to him."
- 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?"
- 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone **loves Me**, he will **KEEP MY WORD**; and My **Father will love him**, and **We will come to him and make Our abode with him.**

'Having' and 'keeping' the commandments of God positions you to access unique expressions of the love of the Father and Son (v.21), as well as being privy to certain disclosures of God of Himself to you.

Disclose = emphanizo = to manifest, exhibit to view; show one's self, come to view, appear, be manifest; to indicate, disclose, declare, make known²

Consider how God revealed Himself to Abraham as 'Jehovah Jireh' because of his obedience to the command of God to him to sacrifice his son Isaac – see Genesis 22. Every act of obedience has potential to unlock to you profound aspects of God's person and power to you. Your love for God is measured by your obedience to His word and as you consistently obey Him, He will His presence Himself authoritatively in your life (v.23) and progressively unveil and disclose more and more of Himself to you.

The phrase, 'precious and magnificent promises' in 2 Peter 1:4 quoted below refers to GOD'S WORDS. Bu His Word, we actually becoming partakers or shareholder in HIS DIVE NTAURE, and thereby ESCAPE the element of corruption and decay in the world.

2 Peter 1:4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent PROMISES, so that BY THEM you may become PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

Divine = **theios** = Divine, what is uniquely God's and proceeds from Him. Denotes an attribute of God such as His power ...³

Nature = **phusis** = figuratively **native disposition, constitution**⁴;
From 'phuo' = growth (by germination or expansion); to sprout; to blow up or to swell.
[Growth into His nature is not static but ongoing]

Partakers = **koinōnos**= a sharer, that is, *associate*: - companion, fellowship, partaker, partner⁵

Corruption = **phthora** = corruption, destruction, perishing, ruin; that which is subject to corruption, what is perishable⁶
In an **ethical sense, corruption, i.e. moral decay**⁷

INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS From the WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

2 Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

If you are completely and fully righteous in every aspect of your life outwardly in a practical sense, you would not need to be INSTRUCTED in righteousness.

Training = paideia = To instruct; Originally instruction of children. It evolved to mean chastening because all effectual instruction for the sinful children of men includes and implies chastening, correction⁸.

In the verse above, 'training or instruction' is prefixed by 'teaching/doctrine', 'reproof' and 'correction'. In training is included correction and discipline. This discipline is usually administrated by a spiritual leader/father representative of God the Father. He does so by teaching doctrine to the spiritual son, and where necessary personally confronting the son to correct aspects of the walk in Christ which may be out of alignment with God's standards. This discipline is part of the son's training, designed to result in outward fruits of righteousness, i.e. righteous attitudes and acts, by which the son becomes a partaker of the Divine holiness of God (Heb.12:10) and according to 2 Tim.3:16 above will then be ready to execute God's work and will in the earth.

Training in godliness through the Word is essential for our growth in Maturity and for our ability to distinguish between right and wrong, good and bad, purity and impurity, holy and profane.

The ongoing engagement with and practice of the WORD OF GOD trains or exercises our senses to discern between good and evil.

Heb. 5:13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

He who has received the gift of salvation by faith in Christ, now needs to be instructed in how to PRACTICE righteousness by receiving instruction from the 'Word of God, which is called the 'Word of Righteousness' in Heb. 5:13.

In the verse above, the position of immaturity is described as one who is 'not accustomed to' the Word of Righteousness'.

Not accustomed = apeiro = Inexperienced, Unskillful

Heb. 5:13 For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. (**NKJV**)

John 8:31,32 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you **continue in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

John 8:36 So if the **Son makes you free**, you will be **free indeed**.

John 8:37 "I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because **My word has no place in you.**

In the original Greek, the phrase, "My word has no place in you", literally reads as follows: **"My word finds no progress in you"**.

Place = choreo = To *pass, enter, to hold, admit, to make room, give place, yield, to go*⁹
forward, advance, proceed, succeed, to have space or room for receiving or
holding something¹⁰

Jesus laments the fact that although His hearers could be traced back naturally to Abraham as his descendants, yet their behaviour is far removed from that reality. They seek to kill Him – and this intended action is not in keeping with their claim to be Abraham's seed. Jesus appraises their erroneous, unacceptable and wicked intention of planning to kill HIM as the natural consequence of an important fact, viz. the Word of God had no place in them, or rather, the Word that He, Jesus, released had no abiding place within them. As indicated above, the Greek Word translated 'place' implies that the Word had no entry in them; no admittance within them. They could not 'hold' the Word.

All this was fundamentally a result of the fact that they could not accurately understand the identity of Christ as God's Son and as a result they gave the Word, which He spoke no priority nor place in their lives. There was no room in their hearts for the Word of God because there was not a true appraisal and reception of the one who spoke the Word to them.

More importantly, as the literal rendering of "My word has NO PLACE in you" suggests, the Word of God had no **progress or movement within them**. Many things crowd out the Word of God from our lives. Indeed, there are many things that crowd out the Word of God from our hearts. We need to esteem the Word highly – and give it proper accord and value in our lives. More importantly, we need to let the Word have its proper work in us.

Allowing His Word to have its proper place and progression within us will ensure that we do not develop mindsets and behaviours that are antagonistic to God and His purposes. The people sought to kill Jesus. We too could 'kill' God's messengers and message if we are not careful. Hold on to that form of teaching you received from true spiritual fathers. Walk in it. Obey and embody it. Let that Word have 'place' and 'progression' within you. Allow it to develop the nature of Christ fully within you. Teach this same pattern or form of doctrine to others, both by your lifestyle/behaviour as well as by the instruction of your mouth.

Here are some powerful verses, indicating the sheer power of God's Word to empower us to overcome sin.

Psalms 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. (NKJV)

Psalm 119:11 Your **word I have treasured in my heart**, That I may not **sin against You**.

1 John 2:13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, **young men, because you have overcome the evil one**. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.

1 John 2:14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, **young men, because you are strong, and the WORD OF GOD abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one**.

OVERCOMING SIN BY WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

The Scriptures contain many keys to overcoming our carnality. One of the primary ways is to co-operate with the Holy Spirit by 'walking in the Spirit', and by the power of the Spirit, mortify the deeds of the flesh. This is an extensive subject - and brief reference is made to it here.

Romans 8:12-13

So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if **by the Spirit** you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Galatians 5:16-26

- 16 But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will **not carry out the desire of the flesh**.
17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.
18 But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under the Law.
19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,
20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,
21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God**.
22 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have **crucified the flesh with its passions and desires**.
25 If we **live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit**.
26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another

You mortify the deeds of the flesh by the Spirit of God within you. Practically, this happens when your spirit is empowered by **words from God**, which are spirit and life (John 6:63). All you must do is give this Word strong prevalence in yourself, such that the soul and body are brought into

alignment with the Word. This is 'walking in the Spirit'. Grace imparted to one's spirit empowers you to walk obediently in that which the Word commands or expects of you. 'Walking in the Spirit' is 'Obeying God's Word'.

Walking in the Spirit = Obeying God's Word

The decision to OBEY is a determination to align your soul and body to your spirit, which is led by the Holy Spirit through the principles of God's Word. The soul is progressively purified through acts of consistent obedience (1 Pet. 1:22). One has got to richly feed one's spirit with principles from the Word until it becomes developed in incontestable strength, so that no protest from the soul or flesh will prevail against it.

A fleshly mind that fuels and accommodates carnality will give strength to the fleshly nature, which in turn brings torment, vexation and leanness to the soul - eroding its capacity to submit to the spirit. (Refer to my teaching series on my website, 'THE SPIRITUAL MAN', and 'THE PROSPERITY OF THE SOUL' for more explanation)¹¹.

'BY THE SPIRIT': Note again : Rom 8:12b : "if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live."

The 'works of the flesh' (KJV) – or 'deeds of the body' (NASB), are mortified (put to death) by the power of the Spirit in you. This requires co-operation between you and the Holy Spirit. The more you love God's Word and give it priority in you, the greater will be the Holy Spirit's empowerment in you to overcome sin. And then, the more you obey this Word empowered by the Spirit, the more you become empowered by the Spirit, and the more you are positioned to receive greater measures of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 5:32 And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.

THE POWERFUL DUO OF SPIRIT AND WORD.

Gen. 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

In the creation account in the book of Genesis, the Holy Spirit brooded or hovered over the waters. The waters are a symbolic depiction of God's Word. Where you have 'water' - THE WORD - you always have the Holy Spirit in attendance or brooding over and within you to do His work.

Jesus Christ, when He walked on this earth, was the 'Word made flesh' (John 1:1,14). His baptism into water (water being a symbol of the Word) was a bold act of obedience on His part, in His desire to 'fulfill ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS' (Matt. 3:15). As He came up out of the water, the Holy Spirit

descended upon Him. This would do two things: (1) validate His identity as God's Son and (2) empower and fuel His three and a half-year public ministry, characterised by total obedience to His Father's will. There can be no obedience without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Matt 3:15-17 But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him. After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

The Holy Spirit works with the Word of God. So when you and I love, read and meditate on God's Word, the Holy Spirit is present to empower everything, which that Word requires of us or seeks to effect in our lives. One of the ways to grow in the power of God, the Holy Spirit, is to grow in God's Word.

It is through the SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT in us that we are led and empowered by HIM to obey God's Word.

1 Peter 1:1,2 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those ... who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to OBEY Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

WHAT GOD EXPECTS OF YOU, HE WILL, BY HIS SPIRIT, EMPOWER YOU TO DO

Ezekiel 2:1,2 Then He said to me, Son of man, STAND on your feet that I MAY SPEAK with you! AS HE SPOKE to me THE SPIRIT ENTERED ME and SET ME ON MY FEET; and I heard Him speaking to me.

Note here, that **AS** God spoke, instructing Ezekiel to 'stand', in the process of the speaking of the Lord, the Spirit entered him and virtually empowered or capacitated him to stand. Note that Ezekiel is to be positioned in a standing position in order to receive the Word of God. Standing denotes readiness and vigilance. As the instruction to stand is released, the Spirit entered Ezekiel and actually positioned him on his feet – thus fulfilling the commandment of the Lord. **Every command of God is fulfilled through the enablement of the Holy Spirit activated within us, as we position ourselves within a posture of obedience.** This is a partnership between our willingness to obey and the Spirit energising us for the same.

The realm you feed or sow into will be the realm that predominates within you - either Spirit or flesh.

Gal. 6:8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life

Walking in the Spirit is nothing more than living out obediently what you have heard. Every time you obey, you empower your spirit into dominance over your soul and flesh more and more.

Become a bond-slave of obedience to God by the Spirit.

Rom 6:16-18

- 16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?
- 17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,
- 18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness

WHAT YOU YIELD TO, YOU EMPOWER TO MASTER YOU

When you master sin, you YIELD your members (spirit, soul and body) as **INSTRUMENTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

Rom. 6:12-23

- 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,
- 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as INSTRUMENTS of RIGHTEOUSNESS to God.

Instruments = Hoplon = An instrument, implement for preparing a thing, and in the plural, standing for weapons of warfare.
Metaphorically meaning **instruments with which something is effected or done.**¹²

Our spirits, souls and bodies must be presented as instruments of righteousness. We must YIELD these to be used for the purpose of righteousness. 'Righteousness' requires these three aspects of our persons as conduits or mediums through which righteousness can express itself in and through. This, as indicated by the Greek word for instruments, hoplon, is more than a means to exhibit righteousness, but it also indicates that these members, when yielded as instruments of righteousness, become **avenues through which tremendous spiritual power and warfare is released**. They will also be the arenas through which God's will is effected in and through.

The rest of the verse implores us to yield or submit the entirety of our lives to be used for righteousness and the expressions thereof, and not for unrighteousness. We are to become slaves to or to be enslaved to righteousness. Righteousness becomes our master. We must overcome unrighteousness. Whatever we yield to, we empower to master us. The more diligent we are in obeying God and His Word, we yield to righteousness, and so empower righteousness to be the

master, with the accompanying authority and power it comes with. I encourage you to meditatively read through the rest of Romans chapter 6 below.

Romans 6:14-23

- 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.
- 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!
- 16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are **slaves of the one whom you obey**, either of sin resulting in death, or of **obedience resulting in righteousness**?
- 17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that **form of teaching** to which you were committed,
- 18 and having been freed from sin, you became **slaves of righteousness**. I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh.
- 19 For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, **resulting in further lawlessness**, so now present **your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification**.
- 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.
- 21 Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.
- 22 But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.
- 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Cain was encouraged by God to master sin, which was intent on mastering him.

Gen. 4:6,7 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and **its desire is for you, but you must master it.**”

You and I can master sin. What you yield to, you willingly empower to master you. When you yield to obedience of God’s righteous principles, then righteousness rules you. Whatever you obey, you empower, either righteousness or unrighteousness. Sin shall not be your master. God is your Master through your obedience to His Word.

When you incline your heart to loving God by loving His word, hearing it, reading it, studying it, meditating thereon and ultimately obeying it, you are positioned for the reception of GREAT GRACE, designed to sustain your life of obedience to God and mastery over sin. The Holy Spirit will help you, because HE works with God’s WORD in you, giving victory to you over all forms of temptation to sin.

[To Be Continued]

Great Grace and Peace be multiplied to you,

Randolph Barnwell

See Next Page for links to: (1) YouTube Videos, (2) Website Audios and (3) Website PDF Study Notes

DOWNLOAD AND/OR SHARE THIS STUDY NOTE ALONG WITH THE AUDIO AND/OR VIDEO RECORDINGS WITH FRIENDS

This study note can be accessed and FREELY DOWNLOADED in PDF format from www.randolphbarnwell.com; Go to the **RESOURCES** Tab; Click **PDF Documents**; Scroll Down to and click '**REPENTANCE**'; Select the relevant document - for this study it is Repentance - Part 7. Here is a direct link to the specific page on the website: http://www.randolphbarnwell.com/pdf_topical.html

You may also **LISTEN to and/or VIEW** the video and audio recordings of this session taught at Gate Ministries Durban Central via the links below:

YouTube VIDEO Link: **Part 8 :** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9H4Gkc3SQI>

Part 9 : Coming Soon

AUDIO Link from my Website:

Part 8 : <http://www.randolphbarnwell.com/GSOM/Repentance/Repentance%20-%20Part%208%20-%20Mastering%20Sin%20by%20Walking%20in%20the%20Spirit.mp3>

Part 9 : Coming Soon

PDF Study Note Link: (Coming Soon)

STAY IN TOUCH VIA THE WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

'Follow' **Randolph Barnwell personally via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter** to receive regular inspirational and encouraging short posts and tweets highlighting key life principles from God's Word. You may also freely download notes and audio files of each session from www.randolphbarnwell.com. Additional materials on various topics are also available for download here. Visit and 'like' the '**GATE MINISTRIES Durban Central**' **Facebook and Instagram** page OR 'follow' Gate Ministries Durban Central on **Twitter** and keep informed as to themes that will be taught each week. To regularly receive our free bible study notes, ensure you are on our email distribution list – send a request to info@gatedc.co.za.

There are two **YouTube Channels** for video recordings of weekly teachings. You are encouraged to **SUBSCRIBE to BOTH** channels.

1. **Gate Ministries Durban Central Channel.** Weekly teachings are uploaded from each Sunday and Wednesday services. www.youtube.com/gateministriesdurbancentral

2. **Randolph Barnwell Channel** - this has teachings from my speaking at local and international conferences outside of our church, Gate Ministries DC. www.youtube.com/randolphbarnwell

Enquiries: randolph@gatedc.co.za

ENDNOTES

1. For a full treatment of this, see my teaching series, 'THE PRIMACY OF GOD'S WORD' available freely from my website. Here are direct links to the Study Notes and Audios
PDF Study Note : http://www.randolphbarnwell.com/pdf_topical.html
Audio: <http://www.randolphbarnwell.com/primacy.html>
2. Zodhiates, S. (2000, c1992, c1993). The Complete Word Study Dictionary : New Testament (electronic ed.), Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, #G1718
Strong, J. (1890). Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, S.T.D., LL.D., e-Sword X, Version 3.2 (11), Dictionary, #G1718
3. Zodhiates, S. (2000, c1992, c1993). The Complete Word Study Dictionary : New Testament (electronic ed.), Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, #G2304
4. Strong, J. (1890). Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, S.T.D., LL.D., e-Sword X, Version 3.2 (11), Dictionary, #G2304
5. Ibid., #G2844
6. Ibid., #G5356
7. Zodhiates, S. (2000, c1992, c1993). The Complete Word Study Dictionary : New Testament (electronic ed.), Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, #G5356
8. Ibid., #G3809
9. Strong, J. (1890). Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, S.T.D., LL.D., e-Sword X, Version 3.2 (11), Dictionary, #G5562
10. Zodhiates, S. (2000, c1992, c1993). The Complete Word Study Dictionary : New Testament (electronic ed.), Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, #G562
11. The Spiritual Man : Audios : <http://www.randolphbarnwell.com/spiritual-man.html> PDF Study Note: http://www.randolphbarnwell.com/pdf_topical.html
The Prosperity of the Soul : Audios : <http://www.randolphbarnwell.com/prosperity.html> ; PDF Study Notes : http://www.randolphbarnwell.com/pdf_topical.html
12. Ibid., #G3696