

To Be or Not To Be

By
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(*Emphasis added*)

*What God wants for us is **to be at rest** in Him. In order to enter His **rest**, we must submit to His will and give up our own will and desires. We must decrease so He can increase. We must walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh.*

Romans 8:1-17 -

¹There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. ¹¹But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

¹²Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴**For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.** ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together. ¹

*In order to enter His **rest**, we must come to God with humble and repentant hearts, not hardened hearts. If we are in rebellion and have hardened hearts, then we will die in the wilderness as the Israelites did. Out of more than a million people, only 2 men, (Joshua and Caleb), entered the Promised Land. Most of the Israelites died in the wilderness because of **grumbling and complaining**. Even the report from 10 of the 12 spies who went ahead of the Israelites into the Promised Land was called **evil**. What they gave was a **negative report**, (see Numbers 13:32 KJV).*

Numbers 13:30-33 – 14:1-39 -

³⁰Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.” ³¹But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they *are* stronger than we.” ³²And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies *is* a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it *are* men of *great* stature. ³³“There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

Chapter 14

¹So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. ²And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! ³“Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” ⁴So they said to one another, “Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.” ⁵Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

⁶But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *who were* among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; ⁷and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: “The land we passed through to spy out *is* an exceedingly good land. ⁸“If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, ‘a land which flows with milk and honey.’ ⁹“Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they *are* our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD *is* with us. Do not fear them.” ¹⁰And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.

¹¹Then the LORD said to Moses: “How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? ¹²“I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they.”

¹³And Moses said to the LORD: “Then the Egyptians will hear *it*, for by Your might You brought these people up from among them, ¹⁴“and they will tell *it* to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, LORD, *are* among these people; that You, LORD, are seen face to face and Your cloud stands above them, and You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. ¹⁵“Now *if* You kill these people as one man, then the nations which have heard of Your fame will speak, saying, ¹⁶“Because the LORD was not able to bring this people to the land which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness.” ¹⁷“And now, I pray, let the power of my LORD be great, just as You have spoken, saying, ¹⁸“The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth *generation*.” ¹⁹“Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.”

²⁰Then the LORD said: “I have pardoned, according to your word; ²¹“but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD— ²²“because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, ²³“they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it. ²⁴“But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it. ²⁵“Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valley; tomorrow turn and move out into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea.”

²⁶And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, ²⁷“How long *shall I bear with this* evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. ²⁸“Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the LORD, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: ²⁹“The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. ³⁰“Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. ³¹“But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised. ³²“But *as for* you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness. ³³“And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness. ³⁴“According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, *namely* forty years, and you shall know My rejection. ³⁵“I the LORD have spoken this; I will surely do so to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.’ ” ³⁶Now the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation complain against him by bringing a bad report of the land, ³⁷those very men who brought the evil report about the land, died by the plague before the LORD. ³⁸But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive, of the men who went to spy out the land.

³⁹Then Moses told these words to all the children of Israel, and the people mourned greatly.²

So we must not make the same mistake that the Israelites did. We must watch what we say and not give a negative report, speak out of pride, selfishness, anger, foolishness or anything other than what comes from the Spirit of God.

Hebrews Chapters 3 & 4 –

¹Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, ²who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house. ³For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. ⁴For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God. ⁵And Moses indeed *was faithful* in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken

afterward, ⁶but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

⁷Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:

“Today, if you will hear His voice,
⁸ Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,
 In the day of trial in the wilderness,
⁹ Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me,
 And saw My works forty years.
¹⁰ Therefore I was angry with that generation,
 And said, ‘They always go astray in *their* heart,
 And they have not known My ways.’
¹¹ So I swore in My wrath,
 ‘They shall not enter My rest.’ ”

¹²Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; ¹³but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, ¹⁵while it is said:

“Today, if you will hear His voice,
 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

¹⁶For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, *was it* not all who came out of Egypt, *led* by Moses? ¹⁷Now with whom was He angry forty years? *Was it* not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?

¹⁹So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Chapter 4 -

¹Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ²For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*. ³For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said:

“So I swore in My wrath,
 ‘They shall not enter My rest,’ ”

although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh *day* in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”; ⁵and again in this *place*: “They shall not enter My rest.” ⁶Since therefore it remains that some *must* enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, ⁷again He designates a certain day, saying in David, “Today,” after such a long time, as it has been said:

“Today, if you will hear His voice,
 Do not harden your hearts.”

⁸For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. ⁹There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. ¹⁰For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His.

¹¹Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. ¹²For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

¹⁴Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.³

Proverbs 18:20 & 21 –

²⁰ A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth,
From the produce of his lips he shall be filled.
²¹ Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue,
 And those who love it will eat its fruit.⁴

Proverbs 6:16 –

¹⁶ These six *things* the LORD hates,
 Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him:
¹⁷ A proud look,
 A lying tongue,
 Hands that shed innocent blood,
¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans,
 Feet that are swift in running to evil,
¹⁹ A false witness *who* speaks lies,
 And one who sows discord among brethren.⁵

*If we **watch our tongues**, stay **humbly** submitted to the Lord, and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, then we can enter the **rest** of God. When we enter the **rest** of the Lord, then we can cease from our own **works** and do as God instructs. Then He will be in charge and our lives will become much more peaceful as we enter the 'promised land'.*

*We must learn that it is not God's intent that we do, do, do, but that we are just **to be**. We must give up our religious activity and **be** like Jesus.*

Acts 1:8 –

³The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁴The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁵The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁸“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall **be** witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”⁶, (emphasis added).

1 Timothy 4:12 –

¹²Let no one despise your youth, but **be** an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.⁷, (emphasis added).

*We are under the **grace** of God that the Israelites did not have. We must not take that for granted. Not only is the **grace** of God unmerited favor, but it is also what gives us the ability to accomplish what God sets before us to do. **Grace is POWER!** If we have the **grace** of God on us, then it is no longer our power, but God’s power at work in us. This allows us to rest from our own works and operate by the power of God, which is much easier.*

*If we have **grace** on us, then we will have **peace**. If we are doing our own **works**, then we have **frustration**. So if you are frustrated, ask God for **grace**. If you do not get the **grace** you need, then you may need to re-think what you are doing and if it is either something God does not want you to do, or it is out of God’s timing.*

GRACE = PEACE

WORKS = FRUSTRATION

Romans 11:5-6 –

⁵Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. ⁶And if by grace, then *it is* no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if *it is* of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work. ⁸

*We must no longer concern ourselves with the needs and desires of the flesh, and move into the Spirit. Paul says that the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but **righteousness, peace and joy** in the Holy Ghost, (Romans 14:17, KJV).*

*We achieve **righteousness** through Christ –*

Romans 3:21-31, 4:1-25 –

²¹But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²²even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His

⁶The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁷The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁸The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. ²⁹Or *is He* the God of the Jews only? *Is He* not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, ³⁰since *there is* one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

Chapter 4 -

¹What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has *something* to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” ⁴Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

⁵But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, ⁶just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:

⁷ “Blessed *are those* whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
And whose sins are covered;
⁸ Blessed *is the* man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.”

⁹*Does* this blessedness then *come* upon the circumcised *only*, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. ¹⁰How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. ¹¹And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which *he had while still* uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, ¹²and the father of circumcision to those who not only *are* of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham *had while still* uncircumcised.

¹³For the promise that he would be the heir of the world *was* not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if those who are of the law *are* heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, ¹⁵because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law *there is* no transgression. ¹⁶Therefore *it is* of faith that *it might be* according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all ¹⁷(as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; ¹⁸who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, “So shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. ²²And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.” ²³Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, ²⁴but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up

Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.⁹

*Since we receive **righteousness** through Christ, then we also obtain **peace** with God through Jesus Christ and can therefore **rejoice**, (have **joy**) in the Lord. This IS the kingdom of God that is within us as Christ lives in us! See also Philippians 4:6-7 and John 14:23-29.*

Romans 5:1-11 –

¹Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

⁶For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.¹⁰

*We should seek to be **perfect in love** as Jesus instructs us to be –*

Matthew 5:43-48 –

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵“that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶“For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷“And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.¹¹

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 –

¹Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ²And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³And though I bestow all my goods to

⁹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

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feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. ⁴Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. ¹³And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.¹²

*God wants us to seek **perfection** and James tells us one of the best ways to achieve this –*

James 3:2 –

²For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.¹³

*So let us be careful of what we **say**, let us learn **to be** like Jesus and then we may then enter the **rest** of God. **To be** or **not to be**, that is the question. We can choose. God wants us to choose life! (See Deuteronomy 30:15-20). Amen.*

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¹²*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

¹³*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.