

# Romans 6:11 Commentary

PREVIOUS

NEXT

CLICK VERSE

To go directly to that verse

- [Romans 6:1](#)
- [Romans 6:2](#)
- [Romans 6:3](#)
- [Romans 6:4](#)
- [Romans 6:5](#)
- [Romans 6:6](#)
- [Romans 6:7](#)
- [Romans 6:8](#)
- [Romans 6:9](#)
- [Romans 6:10](#)
- [Romans 6:11](#)
- [Romans 6:12](#)
- [Romans 6:13](#)
- [Romans 6:14](#)
- [Romans 6:15](#)
- [Romans 6:16](#)
- [Romans 6:17](#)
- [Romans 6:18](#)
- [Romans 6:19](#)
- [Romans 6:20](#)
- [Romans 6:21](#)
- [Romans 6:22](#)
- [Romans 6:23](#)

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 Chart from recommended resource [Jensen's Survey of the NT](#) - used by permission  
[Romans Overview Chart](#) - Charles Swindoll

Source: Dr David Cooper  
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ROMANS ROAD to RIGHTEOUSNESS				
Romans 1:18-3:20	Romans 3:21-5:21	Romans 6:1-8:39	Romans 9:1-11:36	Romans 12:1-16:27
SIN	SALVATION	SANCTIFICATION	SOVEREIGNTY	SERVICE
NEED FOR SALVATION	WAY OF SALVATION	LIFE OF SALVATION	SCOPE OF SALVATION	SERVICE OF SALVATION
God's Holiness In Condemning Sin	God's Grace In Justifying Sinners	God's Power In Sanctifying Believers	God's Sovereignty In Saving Jew and Gentile	Gods Glory The Object of Service
Deadline of Sin	Design of Grace	Demonstration of Salvation		
		Power Given	Promises Fulfilled	Paths Pursued
Righteousness Needed	Righteousness Credited	Righteousness Demonstrated	Righteousness Restored to Israel	Righteousness Applied

God's Righteousness IN LAW	God's Righteousness IMPUTED	God's Righteousness OBEYED	God's Righteousness IN ELECTION	God's Righteousness DISPLAYED
Slaves to Sin	Slaves to God			Slaves Serving God
Doctrine				Duty
Life by Faith				Service by Faith
Modified from Irving L. Jensen's chart above				

- R **Ruin** (Romans 1:17 – 3:20) – The utter sinfulness of humanity
- O **Offer** (Romans 3:21-31) – God's offer of justification by grace
- M **Model** (Romans 4:1-25) – Abraham as a model for saving faith
- A **Access** (Romans 5:1-11) – The benefits of justification
- N **New Adam** (Romans 5:12-21) – We are children of two "Adams"
- S **Struggle w/ Sin** (Romans 6:1-8:39) Struggle, sanctification, and victory

Romans 6:11 **Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (NASB: Lockman)**

**Greek:** [houtos kai humeis logizesthe \( 2PPMM \) heautous \[einai\] \(PAN\) nekrous men te hamartia zontas \(PAPMPA\) de to theo en Christo Iesou.](#)

**Amplified:** Even so consider yourselves also dead to sin and your relation to it broken, but alive to God [living in unbroken fellowship with Him] in Christ Jesus. ([Amplified Bible - Lockman](#))

**ESV:** So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. ([ESV](#))

**NLT:** So you should consider yourselves dead to sin and able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus. ([NLT - Tyndale House](#))

**Moffat:** So you must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Phillips:** In the same way look upon yourselves as dead to the appeal and power of sin but alive and sensitive to the call of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ([Phillips: Touchstone](#))

**Weymouth:** In the same way you also must regard yourselves as dead in relation to sin, but as alive in relation to God, because you are in Christ Jesus.

**Wuest:** Thus, also, as for you, you be constantly counting upon the fact that, on the one hand, you are those who have been separated from the sinful nature, and, on the other, that you are living ones with respect to God in Christ Jesus. (Eerdmans)

**Young's Literal:** so also ye, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to the sin, and living to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The secret of daily victory over our fallen flesh is found in practicing three Biblical truths: **Know, reckon, and yield.**

1. **KNOW THE FACTS** (Romans 6:1-10)
2. **CONSIDER** or **RECKON daily the FACTS as TRUE** (Romans 6:11<sub>±</sub>)
3. **YIELD** or **OFFER YOUR BODY daily to GOD** (Romans 6:12, 13, 14<sub>±</sub>)

**This is to the Christian's...**

## **EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION!**

### **GOD GRANT US ALL TO WALK IN THIS TRUTH! AMEN!**

**One Caveat** - Do not undertake the preceding "Steps" mechanically (or legalistically)! The **ONLY** way to undertake these steps is NOT by relying on our [fallen flesh](#), BUT by continually, [wholly](#) relying on the Holy Spirit to give us the supernatural desire and power to do so (see Php 2:13NLT<sub>±</sub>). Spiritual truth is spiritually discerned (cf 1 Cor 2:10-14<sub>±</sub>) and to be successfully practiced calls for us to continually be **filled with the Spirit** (Eph 5:18<sub>±</sub>, making sure we confess and repent so we do not grieve or quench the Spirit - Eph 4:30<sub>±</sub>, 1 Th 5:19<sub>±</sub>), so that we are enabled to continually **walk by the Spirit** (Gal 5:16+, Gal 5:18+, Gal 5:25+). As we learn to rely

on God's Spirit more and more each day, we will progressively experience more and more of the Emancipation [in Christ](#) which God has proclaimed and promised in His Word (cf Ro 8:37, 38, [39+](#))!

**Spurgeon** has these introductory remarks...

The connection of this passage will help us to understand its meaning. Near the close of the previous chapter Paul had said,

The law entered that the offence might abound; but where sin abounded, grace did much more abound, that as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness, unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord.

He speaks here of sin as being a reigning principle or monarch, and of grace also as reigning. Then, in chapter 6., he proceeds

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You observe here that Paul speaks of the man, the old sinner, as being crucified with Christ, so destroyed by the moral power of the Cross that he who was once a sinner shall no longer serve sin. When he speaks of our being planted or buried with Christ, we must of course understand him as employing figures of speech to teach the great truth that the Gospel redeems the soul from sin. As Christ died for sin, so by a general analogy we die to sin; while, on the other hand, as He rose to a new and infinitely glorious life, so the convert rises to a new and blessed life of purity and holiness.

But recurring particularly to our text, let me say—The language used in our translation would seem to denote that our death to sin is precisely analogous to Christ's death for sin; but this is not the case. We are dead to sin in the sense that it is no longer to be our master, implying that it has been in power over us. But sin never was in power over Jesus Christ—never was His master. Christ died to abolish its power over us—not to abolish any power of sin over Himself, for it had none. The analogy between Christ's death in relation to sin and our dying to sin, goes to this extent and no farther: He died for the sake of making an atonement for sin and of creating a moral power that should be effective to kill the love of sin in all hearts; but the Christian dies unto sin in the sense of being divorced from all sympathy with sin and emancipated from its control. (Romans 6:11 Death To Sin Through Christ)

#### **EVEN SO: houtos kai:**

**So** ([3779](#)) (**houto**) means in this manner, thus (because of this or that), referring to what precedes and in context refers to everything Paul had taught about the believer's position in Christ as the result of their union and identification with Him in His death, burial and resurrection. It could be translated...

"with reference to what precedes"

A basic principle in the Word of God is that people must first **know** what is true before they can **obey** God. The thrust of **'even so'** therefore is that

"You must know and fully believe what I have just said, or else what I am about to say will make no sense. The truth that you are spiritually dead to sin, and the reality that you are spiritually alive to Christ are not abstract concepts for your finite minds to attempt to verify. They are divinely-revealed, foundational axioms behind Christian living, apart from which you can never hope to live the holy lives your new Lord demands."

Realizing the importance of the truths he presents in Ro 6:1-10 (see notes Romans 6:1-3, Romans 6:4-5, Romans 6:6-7, Romans 6:8-10), Paul uses forms of **know** and **believe** 4 times in this great doctrinal section (v3, 6, 8, 9), and in other places he implies that his readers **know** about certain other truths (see, e.g., 6:2, 6:5, 6:7). These observations illustrate the believer's need to understand his or her position in Christ so that they can then live as they should.

The critical importance of **knowing** before **doing** is seen in Hosea where God said

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children." ([Hos 4:6](#))

Israel's problem was that the people did not **know** (because they had made the choice actively to push it away as the Lxx suggests)

and the consequence were that they could not function as God's priest to the nations.

**Spurgeon** in his notes on Romans 6:11 writes...

How intimately the believer's duties are interwoven with his privileges! Because he is alive unto God, he is to renounce sin, since that corrupt thing belongs to his estate of death. How intimately both his duties and his privileges are bound up with Christ Jesus his Lord! How thoughtful ought we to be upon these matters, reckoning what is right and fit and carrying out that reckoning to its practical issues.

1. We are dead with Christ to sin by having borne the punishment in him. In Christ we have endured the death penalty and are regarded as dead by the law (see notes Romans 6:6; 6:7).
2. We are risen with him into a justified condition and have reached a new life (see note Romans 6:8).
3. We can no more come under sin again than he can (see note Romans 6:9).
4. We are therefore forever dead to its guilt and reigning power: "Sin shall not have dominion over you" (see notes Romans 6:12; 13; 14).

This reckoning is based on truth, or we should not be exhorted to it.

To reckon yourself to be dead to sin so that you boast that you do not sin at all would be a reckoning based on falsehood and would be exceedingly mischievous. "There is no man that sinneth not" (1 Kings 8:46; 1 John 1:8). None are so provoking to God as sinners who boast their own fancied perfection.

The reckoning that we do not sin must either go upon the Antinomian theory that sin in the believer is no sin, which is a shocking notion.

Or else our conscience must tell us that we do sin in many ways: in omission or commission, in transgression or shortcoming, in temper or in spirit (James 3:2; Eccles. 7:20; see note Romans 3:23).

To reckon yourself dead to sin in the scriptural sense is full of benefit both to heart and life. Be a ready reckoner in this fashion. (Romans 6:11-12 Dead But Alive - Notes)

In short, the believer's **practice** is founded upon his **position** in Christ.

**Duty** follows and is founded upon **doctrine**.

Scriptural **exhortation** (Romans 6:11ff) must always be based upon sound **doctrine** (Romans 6:1-10).

The **Believer's Study Bible** sums up Romans 6:1-13 noting that there are "Three essential elements of the sanctification process are given:

1. **Know** what salvation means (Ro 6:3);
2. **Reckon** or consider yourself to be dead to sin (Ro 6:11 - present imperative);
3. **Present** yourself and the parts of your body to God as instruments of righteousness (present imperative, Ro 6:13).

We are called to live experientially what we are positionally... sanctification requires our active involvement is clearly evident." ([Believer's Study Bible](#))

## **CONSIDER YOURSELVES: humeis logizesthe (2PPMM) heautos:**

- Ro 8:18

make a mental calculation

Similarly let us consider ourselves as actually dead to sin (Berkley)

In the same way, you must see yourselves as being dead to sin (NJB)

**Hendriksen** notes that

At this point **doctrine** makes way for **exhortation**. What has been established, namely, that believers are in principle dead to sin

and alive to Christ, must become the abiding conviction of their hearts and minds, the take-off point for all their thinking, planning, rejoicing, speaking, doing. They must constantly bear in mind that they are no longer what they used to be. Their lives from day to day must show that they have not forgotten this. ([Hendriksen, W., & Kistemaker, S. J. New Testament Commentary Set. 12 Volumes. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House](#)) (Bolding added)

Paul gives us an excellent parallel commentary on our being **dead to sin** writing to the saints at Colossae that in light of the doctrinal truth that

you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, Who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. (see **notes** Colossians 3:1, 3:2, 3:3-4, 3:5)

**John MacArthur** comments that...

If the believer is to fully live out his new life in Christ, he must begin by knowing he is not what he used to be. Once the believer knows the foundational truths about his death, burial, and resurrection with Christ, and his victory over the penalty and power of sin, he is well on his way to victory in the Christian life. Doubts and fears become less and less because he knows he is dealing with a vanquished foe, a monarch who has been dethroned. The believer has been resurrected to new life and therefore has the confidence to strip away his grave clothes and live victoriously! ([Dying to Live - Pt 3](#))

**F B Meyer** writes that believers must...

Reckon that you have died, and whenever sin arises, to menace or allure you, point back to the grave, and argue that since you died in Christ, you have passed altogether beyond its jurisdiction, for you have yielded your members as weapons of righteousness unto God. And having been crucified with Christ, you now no longer live, but Christ liveth in you (see note Galatians 2:20). Let it become your daily habit to place the grave of Jesus between yourself and all allurements of the world, the flesh, and the devil. (Our Daily Homily)

**Satterthwaite** exhorts us to...

Trust God in the face of every sin. Believe Him, that He died for your sin, to put your sin away, and to give you victory over sin. As a result of this, He says in the latter part of this chapter here (see notes Romans 6:12, 13), that we ought not to yield out members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin. (Satterthwaite, D. For Believers Only: Encouragement for Spiritual Living)

**Spurgeon** asks...

**What is it to reckon ourselves dead indeed unto Him?** The word rendered **reckon** is sometimes rendered account. Abraham's faith was accounted unto him for righteousness. So, in this passage, **reckon** must mean believe, esteem yourselves dead indeed unto sin. Account this to be the case. Regard this as truly your relation to sin; you are entirely dead to it; it shall have no more dominion over you. A careful examination of the passages where this original word is used will show that this is its usual and natural sense. And this gives us the true idea of Gospel faith—embracing personally the salvation which is by faith in Jesus Christ. But more of this hereafter.

**What is meant by reckoning yourselves alive indeed unto God through Jesus Christ?** Plainly this: that you are to expect to be saved by Jesus Christ and to calculate on this salvation as your own. You are to esteem yourself as wholly dead to sin and as consequently brought into life and peace in Christ Jesus.

**What is implied in the exhortation of our text?** That there is an adequate provision for this expectation, and for realizing these blessings in fact. For if there were no ground for realization this, the injunction would be most absurd. A precept requiring us to account ourselves dead indeed unto **Sin** and alive unto God, would be utterly untenable if there were no probability of the thing—if no provision were made for our coming into such relations to **Sin** on the one hand and to God through Christ on the other. For if these blessings could not be reasonably expected, there could be no rational ground for the expectation. If it were not reasonable to expect it, then to enjoin us to expect it would be palpably unreasonable. Who does not see that the very injunction implies that there is a foundation laid and adequate provision made for the state required?

**What is implied in complying with this injunction?**

**1. Believing such a thing to be possible.** Believing it possible that through Christ we may live in the required manner, that we may avoid sin—desist from sinning—give it up and abandon it altogether, and put it forever

away. There can be no such thing as an intelligent compliance with this precept, except as there shall underlie it this belief in its practicability. A state actually made practicable by adequate grace, adapted to the laws of mind and to the actual moral condition of lost men.

**2. That we cease from all expectation of attaining this state of ourselves, and by our own independent, unaided efforts.** There is no beginning to receive by grace till we renounce all expectation of attaining by natural works. It is only when empty of self that we begin to be filled of Christ (Ed: cp John 3:30).

**3. A present willingness to be saved from sin** We must actually renounce all sin as such—that is, renounce sin because it is sin, and for what it is. This position the mind must take: I can have nothing more to do with sinning—for God hates sin, and I am to henceforth and for ever to please and glorify Him. My soul is committed with its utmost strength of purpose to this pleasing of God and doing His will.

**4. It implies also an entire committal of your whole case to Jesus Christ, not only for present, but for all future salvation from sin.** This is absolutely essential. It must always be the vital step—the cardinal act in this great work of salvation from sin.

**5. It implies also the foreclosing of the mind against temptation, in such a sense that the mind truly expects to live a life purely devoted to God.** This is the same sort of foreclosing of the mind as takes place under a faithful marriage contract. The Bible everywhere keeps this figure prominent. Christians are represented as the bride of Christ. They stand in a relation to Him which is closely analogous to that of a bride to her husband. Hence when they commit their whole hearts to Him, reposing their affections in Him, and trusting Him for all good, their hearts are strongly foreclosed against temptation. The principle here involved, we see illustrated in the merely human relation. When parties are solemnly betrothed in mutual honest fidelity, there is no longer any thought of letting the eye rove or the heart go abroad for a fresh object of interest and love. The heart is fixed—willingly and by plighted faith fixed, and this fact shuts out the power of temptation almost entirely. It renders it comparatively an easy matter to keep the heart safely above the influence of temptation to apostasy. Before the sacred vows are taken, individuals may be excused for looking round and making any observations or inquiries: but never after the solemn vow is made. After the parties have become one by vow of marriage, never to be broken, there is to be no more question as to a better choice—no further thought about changing the relation or withdrawing the heart's affections. No wavering is admissible now; the pledge is made for everlasting faithfulness, settled once and forever! This is God's own illustration, and surely none need be more apt or more forcible. It shows how the Christian should look upon sin and upon all temptation to sin. He must say, Away from my heart for ever! I am married to Jesus Christ; how then can I look after other lovers? My mind is forever settled. It rests in the deep repose of one whose affections are plighted and fixed—to rove no more! Sin? I can think of yielding to its seductions no longer. I cannot entertain the question for a moment. I can have nothing to do with sinning. My mind is settled—the question forever foreclosed, and I can no more admit the temptation to small sins than to great sins—no more consent to give my heart to worldly idols than to commit murder! I did not enter upon religion as upon an experiment, to see how I might like it—no more, than a wife or husband take on themselves the marriage vow as an experiment. No; my whole soul has committed itself to Jesus Christ with as much expectation of being faithful forever as the most faithful husband and wife have of fulfilling their vows in all fidelity till death shall part them.

**Christians in this state of mind no more expect to commit small sins than great sins** Hating all sin for its own sake and for its hatefulness to Christ, any sin, however small, is to them as murder. Hence if the heart is ever afterwards seduced and overcome by temptation, it is altogether contrary to their expectation and purpose; it was not embraced in their plan by any means, but was distinctly excluded; it was not deliberately indulged aforesaid, but broke on them unexpectedly through the vantage ground of old habits or associations.

Again, the state of mind in question implies that the Christian knows where his great strength lies. He knows it does not lie in works of fasting, giving alms, making prayers, doing public duties or private duties—nothing of this sort; not even in resolutions or any self-originated efforts, but only in Christ received by faith. He no more expects spiritual life of himself apart from Christ, than a man in his senses would expect to fly by swinging his arms in the air. Deep in his soul lies the conviction that his whole strength lies in Christ alone.

When men are so enlightened as truly to apprehend this subject, then to expect less than this from Jesus Christ as the result of committing the whole soul to Him for full salvation, is virtually to reject Him as a revealed Saviour. It does not honour Him for what He is; it does not honour the revelations He has made of Himself in His word by accepting Him as there presented. For consider, what is the first element of this salvation? Not being saved from hell, but being saved from sin. Salvation from punishment is quite a secondary thing, in every sense. It is only a result of being saved from sin, and not the prime element in the Gospel salvation.

Why was the infant Messiah to be called Jesus? Because He should save His people from their sins. And does the Bible anywhere teach any other or different view from this? (**See additional lengthy discussion** Romans 6:11 Death To Sin Through Christ)

**Consider** (3049) (**logizomai** from **lógos** = reason, word, account) means to reckon, compute, calculate, to take into account, to deliberate, and to weigh. **Logizomai** refers to a process of careful study or reasoning which results in the arriving at a conclusion. **Logizomai** conveys the idea of calculating or estimating.

**Logizomai** was a term frequently used in the business community of Paul's day and meant to impute (put to one's account) or credit to one's account.

**Logizomai** is related to our English term **logic** (which deals with the methods of valid thinking, reveals how to draw proper conclusions from premises and is a prerequisite of all thought).

**Logizomai** is used 40 times in the NT in the NASB ([Mk](#); [Lu](#); [Jn](#); [Acts](#); [Romans](#) 19x [11x in Ro4!]; [1Co](#) 3x; [2Co](#) 7x; [Gal](#); [Phil](#) 2x; [2Ti](#); [Heb](#); [Js](#); [1P](#)) and is translated: consider, 6; considered, 2; counted, 1; counting, 1; credit, 1; credited, 9; credits, 1; dwell, 1; maintain, 1; numbered, 2; propose, 1; reason, 1; reckoned, 2; regard, 4; regarded, 3; suppose, 1; take into account, 3; thinks, 1.

**Logizomai** is used some 120 times in the **Septuagint (LXX)** (Ge 15:6; 31:15; Lev 7:18; 17:4; 25:31; 27:23; Num 18:27, 30; Deut 2:11, 20; 3:13; 1Sa 1:13; 18:25; 2 Sam 4:2; 14:13f; 19:43; 1Ki 10:21; 2 Chr 5:6; 9:20; Neh 6:2, 6; 13:13; Job 31:28; 34:37; 41:29, 32; Ps 32:2; 35:4; 41:7; 44:22; 52:2; 106:31; 119:119; 140:2, 4; 144:3; Pr 15:29; 16:30; 17:28; 24:8; Eccl 10:3; Isa 5:28; 10:7; 13:17; 29:16f; 32:15; 33:8; 40:15, 17; 44:19; 53:3f, 12; Jer 11:19; 18:8, 11, 18; 23:27; 26:3; 29:11; 36:3; 48:2; 49:20, 30; 50:45; Lam 4:2; Ezek 11:2; 38:10; Dan 4:35; 11:24f; Hos 7:15; 8:12; Amos 6:5; Mic 2:1, 3; Nah 1:9, 11; Zech 8:17; Luke 22:37; John 11:50; Acts 19:27; Rom 2:3, 26; 3:28; 4:3ff, 8ff, 22ff; 6:11; 8:18, 36; 9:8; 14:14; 1 Cor 4:1; 13:5, 11; 2 Cor 3:5; 5:19; 10:2, 7, 11; 11:5; 12:6; Gal 3:6; Phil 3:13; 4:8; 2 Tim 4:16; Heb 11:19; Jas 2:23; 1 Pet 5:12).

Paul makes use of the **LXX** translation of the following two theologically significant verses in his arguments in Romans 4 that righteousness is obtained by faith not works...

In the first **LXX** use of **logizomai** in **Genesis 15:6** Moses records...

Then he (Abram/Abraham) believed in the LORD; and He **reckoned** (**logizomai**) it to him as righteousness.  
(see **note** Romans 4:3)

In **Psalm 32:2** David records...

How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not **impute** (**LXX** = **logizomai**) iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit! (see **note** Romans 4:8)

Note the concentrated use of **logizomai** in Romans. It follows that one will have considerable difficulty understanding this great letter if he does not understand the meaning and nuances of **logizomai**.

Paul is telling his readers and us to reflect on our position in Christ and to place two things into our spiritual bank account: (1) We are "dead to sin" and (2) we are "alive to God in Christ Jesus."

We each must take time to consider these facts and make this exercise habitual, not just giving it an occasional casual thought! These are profound truths. As someone has well said such meditative accounting will make for good "**preventive theology**". Too often we tend to focus on "**corrective theology**" emphasizing truths (which are valid and important) like

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1Jn 1:9)

Paul in Romans 6:11 is calling for us to make it our practice to reflect upon our union and identification with our Lord Jesus Christ, because he knows that a thorough digestion and assimilation of this truth will serve to **curb sins** so we don't have to **confess sins** as frequently.

Note also that **Consider** in Romans 6:11 is **present imperative** (this is Paul's first major command after building his sound doctrinal case for 5 chapters!) so we need to **consider** these truths carefully and continuously. This is a strong charge calling for a firm conviction regarding the truths he had just expounded.

**Reckoning** means to **continually count** on the fact that God has actually done what he said he would do. Keep on counting yourselves to be what God says you are! **Continually count** on the fact that if God said it, he meant it, and therefore he did it. It means to live on the basis of the fact that God wasn't kidding when he said he would do this, therefore he did it, and therefore you can **continually count** on it. **Reckoning** is not claiming a promise but acting upon a fact. It's not make-believe. It's not getting yourself into an emotional tizzy, or pretending something is true that you know is not true. It's believing that what God has said he

would do, he really did do, therefore it really is true, therefore you can depend upon it, therefore you can stake your life upon it, therefore it's an actual fact. What is in view is not a fictitious or "pretend" or "merely symbolical" event, but a settled determination to live in the light of Christ's death and in the strength of a power which has already defeated sin's reign in His death and your death with Him.

**Warren Wiersbe** adds that...

**Reckoning** is simply that step of faith that says,

"What God says about me in the Bible is now true in my life. I am crucified with Christ."

**Reckoning** is faith in action, resting on the Word of God in spite of circumstances or feelings. God does not tell us to crucify ourselves, but rather to believe that we have been crucified and that "the **old man**" has been put to death. Crucifixion is one death you cannot inflict on yourself; you must be crucified by another.

**Reckoning** is that step of faith that believes God's Word and acts upon it." [Wiersbe, W. W. Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament. Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books](#)) (Bolding added)

Paul uses **logizomai** in Romans 2 addressing "religious" readers (Jew and otherwise) who looked down upon the pagans in Romans 1, asking

"do you **suppose** (logizomai - do you reason thus) this, O man, when you pass judgment upon those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God?" (see **note** Romans 2:3)

Paul's point is that the moralist falsely **calculates** and comes to the wrong conclusion regarding his own sinfulness and guilt.

**Logizomai** means to think about something in a detailed and logical manner, reason about it, pondering it and finally drawing conclusions through the use of reason. For example, Paul writes that

"When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, **reason** (logizomai) as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things." (1Cor 13:11)

**Logizomai** means to put together with one's mind. It means to regard as being, to count as true, or to occupy oneself with reckonings or calculations.

**Logizomai** was used in early secular documents as follows -- "put to one's account," "let my revenues be placed on deposit at the storehouse", "I now give orders generally with regard to all payments actually made or credited to the government."

**Logizomai** was a secular bookkeeping term which meant to make an entry in the account book or to put to one's account. It carried the economic and legal meaning of crediting something to another's account. It means to calculate or reckon, as when figuring an entry in a ledger. The purpose of the entry is to make a permanent record that can be consulted whenever needed. It means to credit money to a particular account. It means that when you deposit \$1000, the bank credits your account with \$1000. Therefore when you write a check for \$500, you don't worry about it because you are reckoning on the fact that money is actually in your account.

As alluded to above, probably the most notable use of **logizomai** with this meaning is when

"Abraham believed God, and it was **reckoned** (logizomai - credited to his account) to him as righteousness." (see **note** Romans 4:3)

Abraham believed God, and his act of faith was placed to his account in value as righteousness. He believed God and his act of faith was credited to him for righteousness. He believed God and his act of faith was computed as to its value, and there was placed to his account, righteousness. However, Abraham's act of faith was not looked upon as a meritorious action deserving of reward. What his faith did do was provide a channel through which God worked His redeeming grace. Faith is a convicted heart reaching out to receive God's free and unmerited gift of salvation.

**Logizomai** is translated as "**imputed**" only once in the NASB (see **note** Romans 5:13) but nine times in the KJV ([Click](#) for the 9 verses). In Ro 4:8 (see **note**), the KJV reads "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." In other words the man is called blessed, **to whose account** no sin is **charged**. At the Cross, his sin was **charged to the account** of the Lord Jesus. In Ro 4:6 (see **note**), the man to whose account righteousness is put, is called blessed

"just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God **imputes** righteousness apart from works"). (NKJV)

This is **imputation**, the **act of putting something to someone's account**. In the case of the Lord Jesus, the sin of the human race

was charged to Him. In the case of the believing sinner, the righteousness of God, Christ Jesus Himself, is put to his account.

To reiterate, here in Romans 6:11, **logizomai** is used with the meaning of adding up a column (as in accounting) and coming up with the sum total, in the case of [Romans 6:1-10](#), that total (the truth in those verses) being "in the black" so to speak, and providing each believer an inexhaustible, divine 'checking account', based upon the riches procured by the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As **John Gregory Mantle** has written

"There is a great difference between realizing, 'On that Cross He was crucified for me,' and 'On that Cross I am crucified with Him.' The one aspect brings us deliverance from sin's condemnation, the other from sin's power."

And so to "**Consider**" means to take all of the truths Paul has stated in (Ro 6:1-10 and the preceding chapters) and put them in the "calculator" of your mind. Think about them and come to a conclusion and let that conclusion affect the way you live. The hymn [I Surrender All](#) says it well...

**[I Surrender All](#)**

by **Judson W Van De Venter**

All to Jesus, I surrender;  
All to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him,  
In His presence daily live.

**Refrain**

***I surrender all, I surrender all,  
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,  
I surrender all.***

All to Jesus I surrender;  
Humbly at His feet I bow,  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken;  
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

**Refrain**

All to Jesus, I surrender;  
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;  
Let me feel the Holy Spirit,  
Truly know that Thou art mine.

**Refrain**

All to Jesus, I surrender;  
Lord, I give myself to Thee;  
Fill me with Thy love and power;  
Let Thy blessing fall on me.

**Refrain**

All to Jesus I surrender;  
Now I feel the sacred flame.  
O the joy of full salvation!  
Glory, glory, to His Name!

**Refrain**

**Wayne Barber** asks

"What facts are we to consider?"

Verse 2: We are dead to the sin of Adam.

Verse 3: We were baptized into Christ Jesus and into His life.

Verse 4: We are raised with Him into newness of life.

Verse 5: We are intertwined into His life and death; forever identified with Him.

Verse 6: Our old man, what we used to be in Adam, is dead.

Verse 7: We have been justified from the sin of Adam, declared righteous because of what Christ did.

Verse 8: We are believing daily that His life is ours now.

Verse 9: We experientially know that since the death does not reign over Christ, it does not reign over us.

Verse 10: He has died to the sin once and for all. He ended its penalty and its power to those who have put their faith into Him, and now as He lives unto God, so we do because His life is in us."

**Kenneth Wuest** has an extended but well reasoned note explaining that what Paul is doing using **logizomai** is to exhort

"the saints that in their endeavor to live a life in accordance with the Word of God, they should take into account the fact that they are dead to sin, that they have been disengaged from the evil nature, that it has no power over them anymore, that they are set free from it and can say a point blank "NO" to it, also to take into account the fact that they are alive to God, that is, that the divine nature has been imparted with the result that that nature gives them both the desire and the power to regulate their lives in accordance with the Word of God. Now, reckoning one's self dead to sin and alive to God does not make one so. God constituted the saint so when He saved him. But the act of reckoning brings into better operation with beneficial results, the working of this inner spiritual machinery.

For instance, there is a game in which a blindfolded person is brought into the room, and made to stand on a table board which rests on some books on the floor. Two young men lift the board about a foot, and warn the young man not to bump his head against the ceiling. Thinking that he is near the ceiling, he loses his balance and falls off. He lost his balance and fell because he reckoned himself where he was not. Just so, a Christian who fails to count upon the fact that the power of the sinful nature is broken in his life, fails to get consistent victory over it, with the result that he lives a mediocre Christian life. He reckoned himself where he was not. Another young man is blindfolded and stood on the board. He knows the game. When the board is lifted and he is warned not to bump his head against the ceiling, he remains perfectly straight and maintains his equilibrium, because he reckoned himself where he was.

And so it is with a Christian who counts upon the fact that the power of the sinful nature is broken. He knows that he does not have to obey it, and that he has the power to say "NO" to it, and he turns his back on it and does what is right. The Christian who does not count upon the fact that the divine nature is implanted in his inner being, goes on living his Christian life as best he can more or less in the energy of his own strength, with the result that he exhibits a mediocre Christian experience. But the believer who counts upon the fact that he is a possessor of the divine nature, ceases from his own struggles at living a Christian life, and avails himself of the life of God supplied in the divine nature. So the first adjustment the Christian should make is that of counting upon the fact that the power of the indwelling sinful nature is broken and the divine nature imparted, and order his life on that principle." ([Wuest, K. S. Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: Studies in the Vocabulary of the Greek New Testament: Grand Rapids: Eerdmans](#))

James uses **logizomai** (James 1:2-note) exhorting his readers "to **count** it all joy", to look at the trials they were going through and add in the truth that they had learned concerning that God would do for them and in them through the trials and finally come to a settled conclusion. Then proceed to live based on this reasoned conclusion. What and how we think about our identification and union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection and our new relationship to the power of SIN (previously we were powerless but now we are able to say "no" to sin), will affect the way we live and how we respond to temptations from the flesh, the world and the devil. Paul is saying that since you now know something, you must "**consider**" it and put it into practice in your life.

**Ruth Paxson** explains that consider or **reckon** (logizomai) means...

believing what God says in Romans 6:6 (note) (knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin) and knowing it as a fact in one's own personal salvation. This demands a definite act of faith, which results in a fixed attitude toward "the old man." We will see him where God sees him—on the Cross, put to death with Christ. Faith will operate continuously to keep him where grace placed him. This involves us very deeply, for it means that our hearty consent has been given to God's condemnation of and judgment upon that old "I" as altogether unworthy to live and as wholly stripped of any further claims upon us. The first step in a walk of practical holiness is this reckoning upon the crucifixion of "the old man." ([Paxson, Ruth: The Wealth, Walk, and Warfare of the Christian](#))

As has been stated above, the believer needs to accept what God says about him or her as true and then to live in the light of that

truth, independent of one's feelings

**John Wesley** said it this way...

*Frames and feelings fluctuate:  
These can ne'er thy saviour be!  
Learn thyself in Christ to see:  
Then, be feelings what they will,  
Jesus is thy Saviour still!*

><> ><> ><>

An illustration - **37 Years in the Jungle**

In 1982 an unusual thing happened on the island of Guam [Click](#) to read a very similar illustration of another Japanese soldier who remained in the Philippine jungle for 30 years!)

A Japanese soldier came out of the jungle. He had been living in the jungle for 37 years, since the end of world war II. Why? Because when the news came at the end of the war, he couldn't believe that Japan had surrendered and the war was over. So for 37 years he lived in the jungle. During those 37 years was he free? Sure. At any time from 1945 until 1982, he was completely free to come out of the jungle. It's not like General MacArthur was coming in to get him. He was free. He could come out in 1950 or 1955 or 1969. He was completely free on a theoretical basis. But because he didn't believe it--because he didn't **reckon** the fact of his freedom to be true--he lived in self-imposed bondage in the jungle for 37 years. Was he free? Yes. Was he free? No, because he chose to stay in bondage, in hiding, in fear in the jungle.

Many Christians are still living in the jungle of sin. The war is over, Christ has won, but they refuse to believe it. They live in self-imposed bondage to sin. They are still in the jungle spiritually because they refuse to believe that Christ has set them free.

Michael Andrus agrees adding...

Are you aware that there are countless Christians still doing hand-to-hand combat with their sin nature, unable to enjoy the peace that is available in Jesus Christ, because somehow they are appallingly ignorant of the fact that their Commander-in-chief has won a great victory and has called them out of the jungle of sin to a life of holiness. Oh, to be sure there are inevitable struggles and some failures ahead so long as we are in this world, but there is no need for us to live as though the final outcome of the war is still hanging in the balance.

#### **TO BE DEAD TO SIN : einai (PAN) nekrous men te hamartia:**

- Ro 6:2 Ro 6:7 Ro 6:10, Gal 2:19 Gal 5:24 Gal 6:14 Col 2:20 Col 3:3 1Pe 2:24 Titus 2:14)

Read this passage in several different translations to help understand the meaning...

Look upon yourselves as dead to the appeal and power of sin. (Phillips)

Be constantly counting upon the fact that, on the one hand, you are those who have been separated from the sinful nature (Wuest)

Consider yourselves also dead to sin and your relation to it broken (Amplified)

You too must continually consider yourselves dead as far as sin is concerned. (International Standard Version)

You should see yourselves as being dead to the power of sin (NCV)

**To be (1510) (eimi)** means to be and the present tense indicates continuous action (consider yourself to be continually dead to sin's power). To be or not to be (dead to sin), that is the question and the answer is that it is now possible for a believer because of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. The present tense in fact identifies this as what is to be continually true for the believer.

**Dead (3498)(nekros** from **nékus** = a corpse, root of our English words necropsy, necrophobia, etc) means destitute of life, one who is now a corpse or has breathed one's last. The opposite of living.

**Spurgeon** writes that...

Being dead **to** sin must obviously be the opposite of being dead **in** sin. The latter must undeniably be a state of entire sinfulness—a state in which the soul is dead to all good through the power of **sin** over it. But right over against this, to be dead to sin, must be to be indifferent to its attractions—beyond the reach of its influence—as fully removed from its influences as the dead are from the objects of sense in this world. As he who is dead in the natural sense has nothing more to do with earthly things, so he who is dead to sin has nothing to do any more with sin's attractions or with sinning itself.

**Sin** (266) (**hamartia** from the verb **hamartano** = miss the mark and so not share in the prize, to err, offend, sin, to act contrary to the will and law of God and so miss the mark in relation to God) in the present context does not refer to the sins we commit (missing the mark) but is personified by Paul as the evil nature still resident in the believer. **Sin** in this verse refers to **Sin** as a controlling power and as an enslaving tyrant. Paul's point is that believers have died in relation to the power of sin as their master and this truth leads to his exhortation in the next section (Romans 6:12ff) not to let sin reign and not to yield to its power.

**Sin is harsh taskmaster** as illustrated by this little poem...

Sin will take you farther than you ever thought you'd stray  
Sin will leave you so lost, you think you'll never find your way  
Sin will keep you longer than you ever thought you'd stay  
Sin will cost you more than you ever thought you'd pay

**Puritan John Bunyan** (of Pilgrim's Progress fame) wrote that

"Sin is the dare of God's justice, the rape of His mercy, the jeer of His patience, the slight of His power and the contempt of His love."

In light of Paul's exhortation for us to consider ourselves **dead to sin**", Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary has some interesting definitions of "**dead**" describing it as

"lacking power to move, feel, or respond, incapable of being stirred emotionally or intellectually, unresponsive, inanimate, no longer functioning, lacking power or effect, no longer have interest, relevance or significance, no longer active, completely out of touch with."

Now substitute some of those definitions in Paul's phrase "           to sin" and meditate upon this simple but great truth. Again we may not feel like this is true in light of your ongoing struggle with sin, but it is true.

God does not command us to become dead to sin (Click a for an in depth discussion of what it means to be "**dead to sin**" in Romans 6:2). God tells us that because of our union and identification with Christ's death, believers are dead to sin and alive to God. This reckoning is the "mental preparation" for his subsequent command to act in accordance with this truth (see Romans 6:12ff). Doctrine always precedes duty. God's enablement always accompanies His commands. However, even if we do not act upon this truth of our deadness to sin's power, the fact is still true. Counting ourselves dead to sin is not a feeling to feel, a promise to claim or a work to be done. It's a truth to be received and believed. It's a transaction which has already been carried out by Christ. We are not told to try to die to sin's power, but rather to realize that, in Christ and because of our identification and union with Him, we have died to sin. This truth is potentially one of the greatest incentives to motivate godly living.

What does it look like when one considers themselves dead to sin? In one sense, we consider ourselves *to be dead to sin* when we respond to temptation as a *dead* man would. This practice is illustrated by the story of Augustine who was accosted by a woman who had been his mistress before his conversion. When he turned and walked away quickly, she called after him,

"Augustine, it's me! it's me!"

Quickening his pace, he called back over his shoulder,

"Yes, I know, but it's no longer me!"

What Augustine had told her in other words was that because he was now in union with Christ, he was dead to sin and alive to God. Death means separation and a dead man has nothing to do with immorality, lying, cheating, gossiping, etc.

**Mounce** has a pithy comment stating that...

"For the Christian to choose to sin is the spiritual equivalent of digging up a corpse for fellowship. A genuine death to sin means that the entire perspective of the believer has been radically altered." (Bolding added) ([Mounce, R. H. Romans: The New American Commentary. Broadman & Holman Publishers](#) )

**Ray Stedman** provides a practical illustration of continually counting one's self dead to sin...

"This means we must learn to recognize the sign of the old life within us, and refuse to let live what God has declared has no right to live. We must not presume to find good in that which God says is totally evil. In other words... stop protecting the self life! stop excusing it, and justifying it! This is the key point. Stop pampering yourself in these matters and making excuses for what God says is wrong, and, thus, letting live what God says is dead. There are many excuses: "Oh, I've got a hot temper, but it is just because I am Irish, you know. My whole family has this trouble, so there is nothing I can do about it." Or, "I am troubled with lust, but that is because I am a Latin." Or, "I am young." Or, "I am hot blooded." Or, "I am cold blooded." Or, "I am red blooded." Or, "I am strongly sexed." Or, we are loveless and we say it is our circumstances that make us this way. Or, it is the other people with whom we work. Thus, we are continually excusing ourselves, and giving the flesh reason to live. Every time you, as a Christian, let enter your thought life any of these things that God has said are the old Adam in you, you are presuming to let live what God declares has no right to live. The only life that God recognizes as having the right to live in you is the risen life of Jesus Christ. But you cannot appropriate that life until you give up trying to make the old life suitable. That is when the death of Christ becomes fully effective to you.

"Well," you say, "does this happen in one great crisis?" Sometimes, yes. But I rather think that it is a result of a series of smaller crises, if I may put it that way. The Spirit of God knows that this thing within us, the flesh, this self-centered life, is what is destroying us. He takes the manifestations of it, one at a time, and makes us face up to them. Any failure to face up to one of these things, as the Lord brings it to our attention, means no further progress until we stop clinging to the specific thing that he is talking about. Whenever we put into action, even in little ways, what God declares to be a fact, nothing can stop us from the third and greatest step, which is yielding to, or appropriating, the life of Christ." (excerpt from [The Day I Died](#))

Paul is not speaking of a psychological mind game, by which we keep affirming something over and over until we are convinced against our better judgment or even against reality that it is true. **We know we are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus because God's Word declares it is so.** In other words, those are truths of faith and they must be affirmed in faith.

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A devotional from **Our Daily Bread** entitled **Learning To See** -

In his book *An Anthropologist on Mars*, Oliver Sacks tells about a man named Virgil. Blind from early childhood, Virgil underwent surgery decades later and regained the ability to see. But at first, like the blind man healed by Jesus outside Bethsaida ([Mk. 8:22-26](#)), Virgil had difficulty seeing. Although he could discern movement and color, he couldn't put images together to make sense of them. For a time, his behavior was still the same as when he was sightless. Sacks comments, "One must die as a blind person to be born again as a seeing person. It is the interim, the limbo ... that is so terrible."

That comment echoes Paul's teaching about burying our old, dead selves to walk in newness of life (Ro 6:4). It is a dramatic spiritual change that may bring a time of difficult adjustment. Ingrained habits and attitudes may hang on like withered leaves in autumn. To overcome sin, we must remember that it is no longer our master (Ro 6:11), and we are to refuse to let it reign in our lives (Ro 6:12). Instead, we are to offer ourselves to God as "alive from the dead" (Ro 6:13). As we take these steps, our spiritual blindness will become a thing of the past, and we will learn to see Jesus more clearly. --VCG ([Our Daily Bread, Copyright RBC Ministries, Grand Rapids, MI. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved](#))

[Amazing grace!](#) How sweet the sound--

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost but now am found,

Was blind but now I see. --Newton

**Sin blinds--but God's grace restores sight.**

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Until a believer accepts the truth that Christ has broken the power of sin in their life, they cannot live victoriously, because in their innermost being they do not really believe it is possible.

**Ray Pritchard** writes that to be "**dead to sin**" means that...

"You are separated forever from the dominating ruling power of sin. It's like watching a lion roar at the zoo. You may get a thrill from listening to the lion roar in his cage. But as long as the lion is behind bars, you're safe. The lion can roar all it wants but it can't do anything to you unless you do something stupid like crawl into the cage. Then you have problems. Sin is like a roaring lion. As long as you understand that the power of sin is broken, sin cannot dominate your life unless you choose to let it dominate your life." ([Three Steps to Victory](#);

[Ro 6:8-14](#))

Here are several practical aspects of **knowing one is dead to sin**

We can have confidence in the midst of temptation, knowing that with sin's tyranny broken we can successfully resist it in God's power. (1Co 10:13).

We have confidence that we cannot sin our way out of God's grace. Just as we have been saved by God's power alone, we are kept by His power alone. (Jn 10:27-29).

We have confidence in the face of death. (Jn 11:25,26; see **note** Ro 8:1, [Heb 2:14](#)).

We know that, regardless of what happens to us in this life, no matter how disastrous it may be, God will use it not only for His glory but also for our good. (see note Romans 8:28).

**John Gill** writes that "**to be dead indeed unto sin**" is a call for saints to

"believe their discharge from it, and not fear condemnation and death on account of it; and that it shall not be imputed to them, or have any damning power over them, since Christ has died unto it, or for it; and therefore should have no fellowship with it, nothing to do with it, as being dead unto it, and that to them."

**John MacArthur** adds that...

"The Christian's biography has been written in two volumes. Volume one is our old nature before salvation. Volume two is our new nature. Volume one ends with our death in Christ, and volume two begins with our resurrection in Christ. It is both impossible and inconceivable to relive volume one because we are dead to it." (MacArthur, J: [Dying to Live--Pt 3](#))

**The KJV Bible commentary** has an excellent note writing that...

"This '**reckoning**' is no vain experience but one which is morally fruitful, because the Holy Spirit has come to make effective in believers what Christ has done for them, and to enable them to become in daily experience, as far as may be in the present conditions of mortality, what they already are 'in Christ' and what they will fully be in the resurrection life" (F. F. Bruce, The Epistle of Paul to the Romans, p139). When we daily count ourselves to be dead to the penalty of sin and alive unto God, there will be no temptation to continue in sin for we will refuse that temptation out of thankfulness to God for counting us." ([Dobson, E G, Charles Feinberg, E Hindson, Woodrow Kroll, H L. Wilmington: KJV Bible Commentary: Nelson](#))

**Matthew Henry** writes that

"The strongest motives against sin, and to enforce holiness, are here stated. Being made free from the reign of sin, alive unto God, and having the prospect of eternal life, it becomes believers to be greatly concerned to advance thereto. But, as unholy lusts are not quite rooted out in this life, it must be the care of the Christian to resist their motions, earnestly striving, that, through Divine grace, they may not prevail in this mortal state. Let the thought that this state will soon be at an end, encourage the true Christian, as to the motions of lusts, which so often perplex and distress him." (Matthew Henry's Commentary)

#### **BUT ALIVE TO GOD IN CHRIST JESUS: zontas (PAPMPA) de to theo en Christo lesou:**

- Ro 6:13; 1Cor 6:20; Gal 2:19,20; Col 3:3-5
- Ro 6:23; 5:1; 16:27; Jn 20:31; Eph 2:7; Phil 1:11; 4:7; Col 3:17; 1Pet 2:5; 1Pet 4:11)

It should be noted that the Greek text emphasizes the contrast between the two exhortative clauses more than can be readily appreciated or easily expressed in English. The death to sin is only one side of the equation. The old man is gone, but the new man continually lives.

**Alive** ([2198](#)) (**zao**) means to be alive physically and refers to existence as opposed to death or nonexistence. It means to enjoy real life or to have true life, as God meant it to be lived. **Zao** is **present tense** speaking of continuous activity.

**Spurgeon** writes that...

To be full of life for Him—to be altogether active and on the alert to do His will; to make our whole lives a perpetual offering to Him, constantly delivering up ourselves to Him and His service that we may glorify His

name and subserve His interests.

**Alive to God** reflects the believer's new relation to God in Christ, a spiritual reality which is a complete reversal of the relationship we had with God when we were in Adam. To be alive to God means to converse with Him, to have a regard for Him, to delight in Him and to have a concern for His glory. The love of God reigning in the heart is the life of the soul towards God. It is to have the affections and desires alive toward God.

**Wuest** adds that that "**alive to God**" means that

"the divine nature has been imparted with the result that that nature gives them both the desire and the power to regulate their lives in accordance with the Word of God." ([Wuest, K. S. Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: Studies in the Vocabulary of the Greek New Testament: Grand Rapids: Eerdmans](#))

**In Christ Jesus** ([Click](#) for Paul's 26 uses of the specific phrase "[in Christ Jesus](#)" - make a list of what you discover from your observations) is one the great truths taught by Paul and here is the key to a believer's now being **alive** with respect to **God**. "In Christ Jesus" also expresses the believer's intimate, eternally secure **position** because of union and identification with Christ. Just as a human being cannot live their physical life unless they are **in** the air and the air is **in** them, one cannot live the supernatural, spiritual life of God unless he or she is **in** Christ, and Christ is **in** them. Christ is our spiritual life. There is no living to God but through Him -- through Christ as the Head from Whom we receive vital influence; through Christ as the Root by which we derive sap and nourishment, and so life.

John spoke of **life in Christ** in his summary of the purpose of his gospel, stating that

"these (things) have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing **you may have life** (zoe) **in His name** (in Christ)." ([Jn 20:31](#))

**Matthew Poole** commenting on Ro 6:11 writes that

"believers are alive unto God in Jesus Christ, receiving from Him that virtue whereby their spiritual life is begun, maintained, and perfected." (Matthew Poole's Commentary on the New Testament)

**Note** how various translations express our new relationship to God...

"alive to God [living in unbroken fellowship with Him] in Christ Jesus." (Amplified)

"able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus." (NLT)

"but living a godly life through Christ" (People's NT Commentary)

"alive and sensitive to the call of God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Phillips)

"alive to God, alert to Him, through Jesus Christ our Lord" (TLB)

"alive in relation to God, because you are in Christ Jesus" (Weymouth)

".you are living ones with respect to God in Christ Jesus." (Wuest)

**Ray Stedman** (in [True Baptism Of The Spirit](#)) has a wonderful way of making these profound Pauline passages prolifically practical...

"When you feel temptation in your body or your mind, then there are two things you are to do: First, remember that you don't have to obey sin. You just don't have to. You are free to refuse it. You are free to say, "No, you don't have the right to use that part of my body for a sinful purpose." And, second, remember his power is in you to enable you to offer that same part of your body to God, to be used for his purposes. Now, that may mean a struggle, because the strength of sin is very strong. When we start to turn away from evil in our bodies, the habits of our lives are so deeply engrained that oftentimes it is very difficult, and we struggle. But we have the power not to sin because we have God himself within us -- the living God... There will be a struggle; it is not always easy, but we have the strength to do it and we have the right to do it. We have the freedom not to sin and the desire not to sin. That is what God has brought to us in Christ... Paul is describing the two steps that we are to repeat over and over again, in dealing with evil in our lives."

**Oswald Chambers** writes that...

Eternal life was the life which Jesus Christ exhibited on the human plane, and it is the same life, not a copy of it, which is manifested in our mortal flesh when we are born of God. Eternal life is not a gift from God, eternal life is the gift of God. The energy and the power which were manifested in Jesus will be manifested in us by the sheer sovereign grace of God when once we have made the moral decision about sin.

"Ye shall receive the power of the Holy Ghost"—not power as a gift from the Holy Ghost; the power is the Holy Ghost, not something which He imparts. The life that was in Jesus is made ours by means of his Cross when once we make the decision to be identified with Him. If it is difficult to get right with God, it is because we will not decide definitely about sin. Immediately we do decide, the full life of God comes in. Jesus came to give us endless supplies of life: "that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." Eternal Life has nothing to do with Time, it is the life which Jesus lived when He was down here. The only source of Life is the Lord Jesus Christ.

The weakest saint can experience the power of the Deity of the Son of God if once he is willing to 'let go.' Any strand of our own energy in ourselves will blur the life of Jesus. We have to keep letting go, and slowly and surely the great full life of God will invade us in every part, and men will take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus.

**A J Gordon** in his book **The Ministry of the Spirit** has the following thought provoking discussion on **Death to sin**

"Even so reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus." (Rom. 6:11, R. V.).

This is the condition of making true (Ed: experientially) in ourselves what is already true for us in Christ, of rendering **practical** what is now **judicial**; in other words, of being dead to the power of sin in ourselves, as we are already dead to the penalty of sin through Jesus Christ.

As it is written in the Epistle to the Colossians:

"For ye died," judicially in Christ, "mortify " -- make dead practically -- "therefore your members which are upon the earth." (see **notes** Colossians 3:2; 3:5).

It is this condition which the Holy Spirit is constantly effecting in us if we will have it so.

"If ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body ye shall live." (see **note** Romans 8:13).

This is not self-deadening, as the Revised Version seems to suggest by its decapitalizing of the word "Spirit." **Self** is not powerful enough to conquer **self**, the human spirit to get the victory over the human flesh. That were like a drowning man with his right hand laying hold on his left hand, only that both may sink beneath the waves.

"Old Adam is too strong for young Melancthon," said the Reformer.

It is the Spirit of God overcoming our fleshly nature by His indwelling life, on Whom is our sole dependence. Our principal care therefore must be to "walk in the Spirit" (see **notes** beginning Galatians 5:16) and "be filled with the Spirit," (see **note** Ephesians 5:18) and all the rest will come spontaneously and inevitably. As the ascending sap in the tree crowds off the dead leaves which in spite of storm and frost cling to the branches all winter long, so does the Holy Ghost within us, when allowed full sway, subdue and expel the remnants of our sinful nature. (Ed: This describes a continual process, one which will not attain absolute perfection in this life, but indeed will attain such perfection in the eternal life to come when we are glorified and finally, fully free from not only the presence of sin but the pleasure of sin! Hallelujah!)

One cannot fail to see that asceticism (Ed: This can be very subtle - listen to **Ray Stedman's** Mp3 on [Legalism which gives an excellent warning on how not to walk by the Spirit](#)) is an absolute inversion of the Divine order, since it seeks life through death instead of finding death through life.

**No degree of mortification can ever bring us to sanctification.** We are to "put off the old man with his deeds." But how?

By "putting on the new man who is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." (see note Colossians 3:10)

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death," (see note Romans 8:2), writes Paul.

It is a pointed statement of the case which one makes in describing the transition from the old to the new in his own experience, from the former life of perpetual defeat to the present life of victory through Christ.

"Once it was a constant breaking off, now it is a daily bringing in," he says.

That is, the former striving was directed to being rid of the inveterate habits and evil tendencies of the old nature -- its selfishness, its pride, its lust, and its vanity.

Now the effort is to bring in the Spirit, to drink in His divine presence, to breathe, as a holy atmosphere, His supernatural life. The indwelling of the Spirit can alone effect the exclusion of sin. This will appear if we consider what has been called "[The Expulsive Power of a New Affection](#)"

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world," says the Scripture.

But all experience proves that LOVING-NOT IS ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH LOVING, the worldly affection being overcome by the heavenly.

And we find this method clearly exhibited in the word. "The love of the Spirit," (see note Romans 15:30) is given us for overcoming the world. The divine life is the source of the divine love. Therefore, "the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." (see note Romans 5:5) Because we are by nature so wholly without heavenly affection, God, through the indwelling Spirit, gives us His own love with which to love Himself. Herein is the highest credential of discipleship:

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another ." (John 13:35).

As Christ manifested to the world the love of the Father, so are we to manifest the love of Christ -- a manifestation, however, which is only possible because of our possession of a common life. As one has truly said concerning our Savior's command to his disciples to love one another: "It is a command which would be utterly idle and futile were it not that he, the ever-loving One, is willing to put His own love within me. The command is really no more than to be a branch of the true vine.

I AM TO CEASE FROM MY OWN LIVING AND LOVING,  
AND YIELD MYSELF TO THE EXPRESSION OF CHRIST'S LOVE.

And what is true of the love of Christ is true of the likeness of Christ. How is the likeness acquired? Through contemplation and imitation? So some have taught. And it is true, if only the indwelling Spirit is behind all, beneath all, and effectually operative in all. As it is written:

"But we all with unveiled face, reflecting as a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord, the Spirit ." (2 Cor. 3:18, R. V.).

It is only the Spirit of the Lord dwelling within us that can fashion us to the image of the Lord set before us. Who is sufficient by external imitation of Christ to become conformed to the likeness of Christ? Imagine one without genius and devoid of the artist's training sitting down before Raphael's famous picture of the Transfiguration and attempting to reproduce it. How crude and mechanical and lifeless his work would be! But if such a thing were possible that the spirit of Raphael should enter into the man and obtain the mastery of his mind and eye and hand, it would be entirely possible that he should paint this masterpiece; for it would simply be Raphael reproducing Raphael.

And this in a mystery is what is true of the disciple filled with the Holy Ghost. Christ, who is "the image of the invisible God," is set before him as his divine pattern, and Christ, by the Spirit, dwells within him as a divine life, and CHRIST IS ABLE TO IMAGE FORTH CHRIST FROM THE INTERIOR LIFE TO THE OUTWARD EXAMPLE.

Of course LIKENESS TO CHRIST IS BUT ANOTHER NAME FOR HOLINESS, and when, at the resurrection, we awake satisfied with his likeness (Ps. 17:15), we shall be perfected in holiness.

**This is simply saying that sanctification is progressive and not, like conversion, instantaneous** And yet we must admit the force of what a devout and thoughtful writer says as to the danger of regarding it as only a gradual growth. If a Christian looks upon himself as "a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season," he judges rightly. But to conclude therefore that his growth will be as irresistible as that of the tree, coming as a matter of course simply because he has by regeneration been planted in Christ, is a grave mistake.

The disciple is required to be consciously and intelligently active in his own growth (Ed: see note Philippians 2:12), as a tree is not, "to give all diligence to make his calling and election sure." (see note 2 Peter 1:10)

And when we say "active" we do not mean self-active merely, for "which of you by being anxious can add one cubit unto his stature?" asks Jesus. (Matthew 6:27, R. V.). But we must surrender ourselves to the divine action (Ed: compare note [Romans 12:1](#)) by living in the Spirit and praying in the Spirit and walking in the Spirit (see notes Galatians 5:16, Galatians 5:25, cp *led by the Spirit* - note Galatians 5:18), all of which conditions are as essential to our development in holiness, as the rain and the sunshine are to the growth of the oak. It is

possible that through a neglect (**Ed**: cp note 1Thessalonians 4:8) and grieving of the Spirit (see note Ephesians 4:30) a Christian may be of smaller stature in his age than he was in his spiritual infancy, his progress being a retrogression rather than an advance (**Ed**: An interesting thought but be a Berean! - see note Acts 17:11). Therefore in saying that sanctification is progressive let us beware of concluding that it is inevitable. (**Ed**: Although as a good Berean you should compare notes Philippians 1:6, 1Thessalonians 5:24). What Gordon is doing, I believe, is giving a caution or admonition that to grow in spiritual maturity is not as some have said to simply "Let go and let God". The balance is nicely seen Philippians 2:12, Philippians 2:13)

Moreover, as candid inquirers, we must ask what of truth and of error there may be in the doctrine of "instantaneous sanctification," which many devout persons teach and profess to have proved. If the conception is that of a state of sinless perfection into which the believer has been suddenly lifted and of deliverance from a sinful nature which has been suddenly eradicated, we must consider this doctrine as dangerously untrue (**Ed**: Amen!).

But we do consider it possible that one may experience a great crisis in his spiritual life, in which there is such a total self-surrender to God and such an in-filling of the Holy Spirit, that he is freed from the bondage of sinful appetites and habits, and enabled to have constant victory over self, instead of suffering constant defeat. In saying this, what more do we affirm than is taught in that scripture:

"Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." (see note Galatians 5:16).

Divine truth as revealed in Scripture seems often to lie between two extremes. It is emphatically so in regard to this question. What a paradox it is that side by side in the Epistle of John we should have the strongest affirmation of the Christian's sinfulness:

"If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us";

and the strongest affirmation of his sinlessness:

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin, for his seed remaineth in him, and he cannot sin because he is born of God." (1 John 1:8; 3:9).

Now 'heresy' means a dividing or choosing, and almost all of the gravest errors have arisen from adopting some extreme statement of Scripture to the rejection of the other extreme. If we regard the doctrine of sinless perfection as a heresy, we regard contentment with sinful imperfection as a greater heresy. And we gravely fear that many Christians make the apostle's words, "If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves," the unconscious justification for a low standard of Christian living. It were almost better for one to overstate the possibilities of sanctification in his eager grasp after holiness, than to understate them in his complacent satisfaction with a traditional unholiness. Certainly it is not an edifying spectacle to see a Christian worldling throwing stones at a Christian perfectionist.

What then would be a true statement of the doctrine which we are considering, one which would embrace both extremes of statement as they appear in the Epistle of John? Sinful in self, sinless in Christ -- is our answer:

"In Him is no sin; whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not." (1 John 3:5, 6).

If, through the communication of the Holy Spirit, the life of Christ is constantly imparted to us, THAT LIFE WILL PREVAIL WITHIN US. That life is absolutely sinless, as incapable of defilement as the sunbeam which has its fount and origin in the sun.

IN PROPORTION TO THE CLOSENESS OF OUR ABIDING IN HIM  
WILL BE THE COMPLETENESS  
OF OUR DELIVERANCE FROM SINNING.

And we doubt not that there are Christians who have yielded themselves to God in such absolute surrender, and who through the upholding power of the Spirit have been so kept in that condition of surrender, that sin has not had dominion over them. If in them the war between the flesh and the spirit has not been forever ended, there has been present victory in which troublesome sins have ceased from their assaults, and "the peace of God" has ruled in the heart.

But sinning is one thing and a sinful nature is another; and we see no evidence in Scripture that the latter (see study of flesh) is ever eradicated completely while we are in the body (See also Chart contrasting in the flesh vs in the Spirit).

If we could see ourselves with God's eye, we should doubtless discover sinfulness lying beneath our most

joyful moments of unsinning conduct, and the stain of our old and fallen nature so discolored our whitest actions as to convince us that we are not yet faultless in his presence (Ed: As Paul progressed in sanctification, so too did His assessment of his sinfulness - near the end of his life he called himself the "chief" or "foremost" of sinners!).

**Only let us gladly emphasize this fact, that as we inherit from Adam a nature incapable of sinlessness, we inherit from Christ a nature incapable of sinfulness.**

Therefore, it is written:

"Whosoever is born of God cannot sin, for his seed remaineth in him." (1 John 3:9)

It is not the nature of the new nature to sin; it is not the "the law of the Spirit of life" (see note Romans 8:2) to transgress.

For the newborn man to do evil is to transgress the law of his nature as before it was to obey it. In a word,

BEFORE OUR REGENERATION  
WE LIVED IN SIN AND LOVED IT;  
SINCE OUR REGENERATION  
WE MAY LAPSE INTO SIN BUT WE LOATHE IT.

(A. J. Gordon. The Ministry of the Spirit)

**Andrew Murray** in his devotional **The Secret of the Cross...**

#### DEAD WITH CHRIST

**"If we died with Christ,  
we believe that we shall also live with Him." --Romans 6:8 (note)**

The reason that God's children live so little in the power of the resurrection life of Christ is because they have so little understanding of or faith in their death with Christ. How clearly this appears from what Paul says: "If we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him"; it is the knowledge and experience that gives us the assurance of the power of His resurrection in us. "Christ died unto sin once; but the life that He liveth, He liveth unto God" (see **note** Romans 6:10). It is only because and as we know that we are dead with Him, that we can live with Him.

On the strength of this, Paul now appeals to his readers. "Even so reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus" (see **note** [Romans 6:11](#)). The words "even so reckon yourselves" are a call to an act of bold and confident faith. Reckon yourselves to be indeed dead unto sin, as much as Christ is, and alive to God in Christ Jesus. The word gives us a divine assurance of what we actually are and have in Christ. And this not as a truth that our minds can master and appropriate, but a reality which the Holy Spirit will reveal within us. In His power we accept our death with Christ on the cross as the power of our daily life.

Then we are able to accept and obey the command: "Let not sin reign in your mortal body; but present yourselves unto God, as alive from the dead; for sin shall not have dominion over you" (see **note** Romans 6:12, 13, 14). "Being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness; present your members as servants to righteousness unto sanctification. Being now made free from sin, ye have your fruit unto sanctification" (see **note** Romans 6:18, 19, 23).

The whole chapter is a wonderful revelation of the deep meaning of its opening words:

"How shall we, WHO DIED TO SIN, live any more therein?"

(see note Romans 6:2)

Everything depends upon our acceptance of the divine assurance: If we died with Christ, as He died, and now lives to God, we too have the assurance that in Him we have the power to live unto God.

## "SIN" AND "SINS" Romans 6:11

**F. B. Meyer** in chapter 4 of his book **Christian Living** addresses the truths of Romans 6:11...

Reckon ye yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. --Romans 6:11.

THE nearer we live to God, the more sensitive we become to the presence of sin. Increasing light means increasing self-judgment; and things which were allowed in the twilight of the dawn, become abhorrent as the noontide light reveals their true character. You may gauge your growth in grace, and your increasing reception of the Holy Spirit, by the tenderness of your conscience with respect to sins which you once permitted without remorse, and almost without remark. In proportion as you comprehend the full beauty of Christ your Lord, you will find imperfections in your best moments, and discern blemishes in your holiest deeds. When we hear of God, we are self-satisfied; but when we see Him, we abhor ourselves, and repent in dust and ashes.

In view of these facts it is impossible for any true child of God to be contented with himself. He cannot speak of himself as having attained, or as being already perfect. He is ever following after to apprehend or attain; and as he does so, he, who once described himself as the least of all saints, comes to call himself the chief of sinners. He is conscious of forgiveness; he knows that he is accepted in the Beloved; but, in proportion as he walks in the growing light, he feels his growing need of the precious blood, which cleanseth from all sin.

It is true that many claim to have attained to a condition of sinless perfectness; but they surely fail to discriminate between things which differ widely as the poles. They do not distinguish between the believer's standing in Christ Jesus, in the sight of God, and the practical realization and appropriation of that standing, which can only be in proportion to his faith. According to our faith, so it is to us; and, as faith is ever growing towards perfect vision, is it not clear that there must also be a growth towards the perfect appreciation and enjoyment of our standing in Christ Jesus?

And is there not this also, that there is a whole world of difference between freedom from conscious sin and the attainment of the perfect glory of the stature of Christ? The one is negative; the other is positive. The one is according to the dim light of human consciousness; the other is according to the Divine standard of infinite excellence. The one is within the reach of the young disciple, and ranks among the elements of Christ; the other is still in advance of the holiest saint among the ranks of the redeemed, and always will be. When we come short, we sin.

As soon as we put ourselves in the true relation to the Spirit of God, we may expect to be kept from conscious sin; but surely this is a very different thing from the perfection of the New Testament, which is the maturity of the fully developed man. Even if we have passed from the adolescence to the manhood of Christian development, there is still an infinite chasm between our uttermost attainment, and the surpassing loveliness of the One Perfect Man.

Who of us has not also had some such experience as this--that we condemn things which passed muster years ago? Is not this the law of growing excellence in all art, in all knowledge? Does not the singer, the painter, the writer, the poet, detect blemishes and flaws where once the judgment rested with entire acquiescence and content?

And then, too, must not this be always so, as long as there is progress in any direction along which the energies of the soul may work? And if this be so, is it not almost certain that we permit and harbor things to-day which we shall be the first to condemn when years have passed; just as we condemn things to-day which, for want of fuller light, seemed harmless enough in the days of our ignorance? But, under such circumstances, how can we say that we are perfect? How can we speak of ourselves as sinless? How can we ever get beyond the need of humbly confessing that we are sinners? How can we do without the constant washing in the laver of priests?

There are three matters which must be considered in connection with the believer's inner experience of evil :--

### **I. The Tempter.**

"Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour : whom resist." (see notes 1 Peter 5:8; 5:9)

It is not necessary to suppose that the prince of the power of the air is the author of temptation to every believer, the world over; for that would go near to investing him with the attributes of omniscience and omnipresence. But he is surrounded by legions of inferior spirits, the wicked spirits in heavenly places, as malignant in their hate as he is; and who are ever waiting to carry out his plans : and any one of these is sufficient to master the soul that has not learnt the secret of victory through faith in the Stronger than the strong man armed.

It is a commonplace in Christian ethics and yet it may not be realized by every reader of these lines--that temptation does not become sin to us, until the will assents to the suggestion of the Tempter. So long as the will is resolute, exclaiming with Joseph, "How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" there is no sin. Sin is the act of the perverted will. That temptation is not sin is proved by the fact that the Lord Jesus was tempted in all points, though without sin. Of course, there is a vast difference between Him and us : because there was nothing in Him, as there is in us, responsive to the tempter's suggestions. It is difficult for us to listen to the suggestion of sin without contracting any stain; but still it may be accepted as broadly true that the fact of our being tempted does not necessarily involve us in sin.

There is only one way by which the Tempter can be met. He laughs at our good resolutions and ridicules the pledges with which we fortify ourselves. He has been dealing with these for sixty centuries, and well knows how to find their weakest point, and to sweep them away, as the tide does the child's barricade of sand. There is only One whom he fears; One who in the hour of greatest weakness conquered him; and who has been raised far above all principality and power, that He may succor and deliver all frail and tempted souls. He conquered the prince of this world in the days of His flesh; and He is prepared to do as much again, and yet again, in each one of us, if only we will truly surrender ourselves to His gracious and mighty indwelling.

In the days of knightly chivalry it was supposed to be enough for the true soldier of the cross to make the sacred sign upon his person; and instantly the foul spirits that had gathered in the murky gloom to do him harm, fell back, and let him through. It was not all legend and myth. But there is a truth beneath the mediaeval setting. And that truth is ours to-day--that the best resource for the hardly-beset soldier of Jesus is to appeal, not to the cross, but to Him who on that cross bruised the serpent's head, not for Himself only, but for us.

There are many forms in which that appeal may be made. Some utter the name of the tempted-- the succoring--High Priest : "Jesus! Jesus!" Some cry in the triumphant assurance of victory, "Jesus saves me." Some do better still, and claim that grace in Him, the lack of which is hurrying them into sin; so that temptation becomes a positive means of grace to them, by showing their deficiency, and leading them to strengthen the things which remain, but which may be languishing to death.

But whichever method you adopt, reader, be sure you do it in one way or another. Swift as the chick to the shelter of the mother's wing, so do you betake yourself to the ever-offered protection of Jesus Christ whenever menaced by the Tempter. The Lord God is not only a sun, but a shield. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it and is safe." He will "cover thy head in the day of battle." (Psalm 84:11; Pr 18:10 ; Ps. 140:7)

It may be that you have tried to do this, and have failed. You have entered upon the day's life, fully intending to make Jesus your shield of faith, and to hide in Him when threatened by the Tempter. Yet you have found to your dismay, that you have been overcome before you have bethought yourself of your refuge and deliverer. But there is an easy remedy for this, in the aid of the Holy Spirit. He is the Divine remembrancer. It is his office to maintain the spirit in a state of holy recollectedness; and, if the attack be as a thunderclap, He will be as the premonitory lightning flash, crying, "Beware! Beware! ' turn you to your stronghold, O prisoner of hope." (Zech. 10:12.)

Be sure of this, that Satan cannot tempt you beyond what you have power to sustain or resist. Powerless in yourself, you can do all things in Christ that strengtheneth you. The Lord Jesus hath bought you; and you must trust him to keep you. "The Lord is thy keeper." " He will not suffer thy foot to be moved." "Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler." (see notes Psalm 121:5; [Psalm 91:3](#))

## **II. The Sinful Tendency Within.**

Regeneration is not the eradication of the principle of the old life, but the insertion beside it of the principle of a new life, the Christ life. And these two exist side by side; as the house of Saul and the house of David in the rent and distracted kingdom of Israel : but the one is destined to get weaker and weaker, whilst the other waxes stronger and stronger.

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh," and can never be anything else than flesh. It can never be improved into spirit. It can never be anything but abhorrent in the eye of the Holy God. So that "they that are in the flesh cannot please God;" and the flesh which is in us can never please God. The only thing to be done is to deny it; and to reckon it as a dead thing, which has no place in the Home of Life. "Bury thy dead out of thy sight."

SELF is the anagram of FLESH (see note flesh). The flesh-principle is the self-principle, which so insidiously creeps into everything from which it is not rigorously excluded by the race of God. Before we are converted self is the sole motive-power of our lives : our kindest and best actions originate in this root. And after we are converted, it strives to insinuate itself into our religious life. Satan will not prohibit us from being religious--if only "self" is the mainspring of our devotion. Hence it is that Jesus Christ is so unrelenting in His demand for self-denial. And it has been the axiom of saintship in all ages--" Wheresoever thou findest thyself, deny thyself." Sword in hand, we must pursue this evil thing--this self-hood--through all the disguises beneath which it hides itself. We must allow it no quarter. We must believe that it is never more near or more dangerous than when it causes a rumor to be set on foot that it is no more. In the self-congratulation which arises on the receipt of this happy intelligence, there is a new and striking evidence of its continued and vigorous existence.

It is to this evil principle, which is very susceptible to the least suggestion from without, that the Tempter appeals. His attacks would be less formidable if it were not for this traitor within the citadel of the soul. But, we may well fear the bombshells thrown in from without, when we remember the magazines of gunpowder within, awaiting the spark that shall hurry them into explosion, and shatter the rest of the soul.

There is no evidence, then, that the flesh shall ever be eradicated, because it is OURSELVES; and the Apostle clearly tells us that "the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh." And in those who most earnestly asseverate its eradication in their own experience, there are frequent indications of its presence still. (see note Galatians 5:17)

But THIS is possible. The Holy Spirit is the deadly antagonist of, and all-sufficient antidote to, the self-life. When He dwells in blessed fulness within the surrendered heart, He sets it free from the law of sin and death : He annihilates the power of the self-life; as an antiseptic cancels the death-dealing germs which proceed from the body of a patient who is stricken by an infectious disease.

When the Holy Spirit resides in power in the heart, He keeps the self-life so utterly in the place of death that temptation has no fascination, no power. The appeals of hell are flung against the ear of death : there is no response, no motion of obedience. Try it, reader : be not content to have the Holy Spirit within thee; see that He fills thee; and thou wilt experience that blessed condition in which the sparks of temptation shall seem to be quenched in an ocean of water, as they touch thy heart.

But remember the evil thing is there still; not eradicated, not destroyed, only kept in the place of death by the Spirit of life. And if ever thou shalt quench or limit His gracious operation, so that He relaxes His restraining power, that accursed principle will arise with all its pristine force, join hands with the tempter, and hurry thee into sin. Watch and pray, therefore; keep in with the Holy Ghost; walk warily; that thou mayest never have to retrace thy steps, shedding tears of blood.

### III. Sins.

Through neglect of watching and prayer --or by reason of carelessness in the walk and conversation--it is quite possible to break that holy connection between ourselves and heaven which is the secret of deliverance, and the talisman of victory. There is always a Delilah ready to sheer off the locks of our strength, if we allow ourselves to sleep in her lap. And our strength may be gone ere we know it.

"He wist not that the Lord had departed from him." (see note Judges 16:20.)

And when we put ourselves outside those sacred influences which are intended to deliver us from the power of evil, there is no alternative but that we should break out again into acts of sin. But there is a difference. They are not now the normal state of the soul. They are committed in opposition to the judgment and the conscience. They are the sins of a child for which it will be chastened, until it gets back into the old blessedness again. An old divine says :

"A sheep and a sow may each fall into the same quagmire; but the sow will wallow in it, whilst the sheep will bleat piteously, until she is extricated and cleansed."

Such is the difference between the ungodly and the children of God.

"Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not"; that is, sin can never become his normal and habitual state. (1 John 3:6.)

If ever this should be your unhappy lot, do not despair. The true test of Christian character does not consist in the inability to fall, but in the quick agony of repentance, and in the immediate restoration to the ways which had been left.

Directly you are conscious of sin, turn at once to your compassionate Lord. Do not wait for the fever of passion to subside, or for the agony of your shame to die down; but, there and then, in the crowd or the street, lift up your heart, and ask Him to touch you with that finger before which uncleanness cannot abide: ask Him to wash you as he did the feet of His disciples, soiled by jealousy and strife for mastery: ask Him to restore your soul to the place it occupied before you fell.

You may not be able to forgive yourself: but He will forgive you instantly; the stain will be at once extracted from the spirit's robes; the foulness will immediately flee from the blemished dress; and the forgiven one shall occupy again the place which for a moment had been vacated, the place in the heavenlies, side by side with its Redeemer. Oh, do not doubt the Saviour's willingness, or the Saviour's power, to forgive; or the efficacy of His blood to wash out each stain, as it may become manifest to the quickened conscience. Remember that His blood ever cleanseth from all sin, as the stream is ever flowing over the pebble, and as the tear-water is ever removing from the eye the motes that alight for a moment upon its surface.

It is not an easy world for any of us to traverse; it is no friend to grace: but it is possible to walk through it with clean and stainless robes. Sin may assail; but it will be as the waves that beat outside the goodly ship without finding admittance within its walls. And out of the pure and guileless heart shall spring all the loveliness of unselfish and helpful deeds, such as shall make this sad world happier, and dark hearts bright with the light of heaven.

O souls, weary and sin-sick, hand yourselves over to the tender mercies of the Good Physician, sure that He will undertake the most desperate case; and

" give beauty for ashes,

the oil of joy for mourning,  
the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."  
(Isaiah 61:3)

## THE SECRET OF VICTORY OVER SIN

### **F. B. Meyer. Light on Life's Duties**

The longer I live, and learn the experience of most Christian people, the more I long to help them and unfold glimpses of that Life of Peace, and Power, and Victory over sin, which our heavenly Father has made possible for us. There are blessed secrets in the Bible, hidden from the wise and prudent, but revealed to babes; things which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, but which God reveals by His Spirit to them that love Him; and if these were once understood and accepted, they would wipe away many a tear, and shed sunshine on many a darkened pathway.

The bitterest experience with most believers is the presence and power of Sin. They long to walk through this grimy world with pure hearts and stainless garments, but when they would do good, evil is present with them. They consent to God's law that it is good; they approve it; they even delight in it after the inward man; they endeavor to keep it; but, notwithstanding all, they seem as helpless to perform it as a man whose brain has been smitten with paralysis, to walk straight. What rivers of briny tears have fallen upon the open pages of the Penitents Psalm 51, shed by those who could repeat it every word from heart! And what regiments of weary feet have trodden the Bridge of Sighs, if we may so call Romans 8, which sets forth, in vivid force, the experience of a man who has not learnt God's secret!

Surely our God must have provided for all this. It would not have been like Him to fill us with hatred to sin, and longings for holiness, if there were no escape from the tyranny of the one, and no possibility of attaining the other. It would be a small matter to save us from sinning on the other side of the pearly gate; we want to be saved from sinning now, and in this dark world. We want it for the sake of the world, that it may be attracted and convinced. We want it for our own peace, which can not be perfected whilst we groan under a worse than Egyptian bondage. We want it for the Glory of God, which would be then reflected from us, with un-dimming brightness, as sunshine from burnished metal.

### **WHAT, THEN, DOES THE WORD OF GOD LEAD US TO EXPECT?**

Before Abraham arose to walk through the land of Promise in its length and breadth, God bade Him " lift up his eyes and look." And before we can enter into the enjoyment of our privileges in Jesus Christ, we must know what they are, in something of their length and breadth, and depth and height.

#### **I. WE MUST NOT EXPECT TO BE FREE FROM TEMPTATION.**

Our adversary, the devil, is always going about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. He tempted our Lord, he will tempt us. He will entice us to do wrong by every avenue of sense, and will pour his evil suggestions through eye, and ear, and touch, and mouth, and mind. If he does not attack us himself, he can set on us any one of his myriad agents who will get behind us and step softly up to us and whisperingly suggest many grievous blasphemies which we shall think have proceeded from our own mind.

But temptation is not sin. A man may ask me to share the spoils of a burglary, but no one can accuse me of receiving stolen property if I indignantly refuse, and keep my doors close shut against him. Our Lord was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin. You might go through hell itself, teeming with all manner of awful suggestions, and yet not sin. God would not allow Satan to tempt us if temptation necessarily led to sin; but temptation does not do so. There is no sin, so long as the will refuses to consent to the solicitation, or catch at the bait.

Temptation may even be a blessing to a man when it reveals to him his weakness and drives him to the Almighty Saviour. Do not be surprised, then, dear child of God, if you are tempted at every step of your earthly journey, and almost beyond endurance. You will not be tempted beyond what you are able to bear, and with every temptation there will be a way of escape.

#### **II. WE MUST NOT EXPECT TO LOSE OUR SINFUL NATURE.**

When we are born again, a new life, the life of God, is put into us by the Holy Spirit. But the old self-life, which is called in Scripture THE FLESH, is not taken away. The two may coexist in the same heart. " The flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh." The presence of this old self-life within our heart may be detected by its risings, rufflings, chaffing, and movings toward

sin, when temptation calls to it from without. It may be as still as death before the increasing power of the new life, but it will still be present in the depths of our nature, as a Samson in the dark dungeons of Philistia; and there will be always a possibility and a fear of its strength growing again to our shame and hurt.

Do not ignore the presence of a sinful nature within you, with its tendencies and possibilities for sin. Many souls have been betrayed into negligence and unwatchfulness by the idea that the root of sin had been plucked from their hearts, and that therefore they could not sin again; and in the face of some sudden uprising of their old nature they have been filled with agony and shame, even if they have not dropped for a moment back into a sea of ink. " If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

There is a difference between Sin, and sins. Sin is the root-principle of evil, the flesh, the old self-life, the bias and tendency to sin, which may be kept down by the grace of God, but which will remain in us, though in diminishing power, till we leave this world. Sins are the outcome of this; the manifestations in act of the sinful nature within. From these we may be daily saved, through the grace of Jesus (Mt 1:21). To put the matter clearly, Sin is not dead in us, but we may be dead to Sin, so that it shall not bear the deadly fruits of sins.

### **III. WE MUST NOT EXPECT TO BE FREE FROM LIABILITY TO SIN.**

What is sin? It is the "Yes" of the will to temptation. It is very difficult to express the delicate workings of our hearts, but does not something like this happen to us when we are tempted? A temptation is suddenly presented to us and makes a strong appeal. Immediately there may be a tremulous movement of the old nature, as the strings of a violin or piano vibrate in answer to any sounds that may be thrilling the air around. Some do not feel this tremulous response; others do, though I believe that it will get fainter and fainter as they treat it with continued neglect, so that at last, in the matured saint, it will become almost inaudible. This response indicates the presence of the evil nature within, which is in itself hateful in the sight of our Holy God, and should be bemoaned and confessed, and ever needs the presence of the Blood of Jesus to counteract and atone; but that tremulous movement has not as yet developed into an actual overt sin, for which we are responsible, and of which we need to repent.

Sin is the act of the will, and is only possible when the will assents to some unholy influence. The tempter presenting his temptation through the senses and emotions, makes an appeal to the will, which is our real self. If that will instantly shudders, as chickens when the hawk is hovering in the sky above them, and cries, " How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God!" and looks at once to Jesus, there are so far as I can understand, no sins. If on the other hand the will begins to palter with temptation, to dally with it, and yield to it, then we have stepped out of the light into the dark, we have broken God's Law, splashed our white robes, and brought ourselves into condemnation. To this we are liable as long as we are in this world. We may live a godly, righteous, sober life for years, but if we look away from God for only a moment, our will may be suddenly mastered, as was Louis XVIII, by the mob that invaded his palace; and we may, like David, be hurried into a sin which will blast our peace and blacken our character for all coming time.

## **NOW WHAT ARE THE SECRETS OF VICTORY OVER SIN?**

### **I. REMEMBER THAT THE BLOOD OF JESUS IS EVER AT WORK CLEANSING YOU.**

It is sweet to notice the present tenses of Scripture. He forgiveth, healeth, redeemeth, crowneth, satisfieth, executeth judgment; but the sweetest of all is " the Blood of Jesus cleanseth from all sin." It cleansed us when first we knelt at His cross. It will cleanse away the last remnant of sin as we cross the golden threshold. But it does cleanse us every hour; as the brook flows over the stones in its bed, till they glisten with lustrous beauty; and as the tear water, pouring constantly over the eye, keeps it bright and clean, in spite of all the smuts that darken the air. The possession of a sinful nature is an evil that ever needs an antidote. The risings and stirrings of that nature beneath the appeals of temptation ever need cleansing. The permission of things in our life, which we now count harmless, but which we shall some day, amid increasing light, condemn and put away, all these need forgiveness. But for all these needs there is ample provision for us in the Blood of Jesus, which is always crying to God for us. Even when we do not plead it, or remember it, or realize our need of it, it fulfils for us and in us its unceasing ministry of blessing.

### **2. RECKON YOURSELF DEAD TO THE APPEALS OF SIN.**

Sin has no power over a dead man. Dress it in its most bewitching guise, yet it stirs him not. Tears and smiles and words and blows alike fail to awaken a response from that cold corpse. No appeal will stir it until it hears the voice of the Son of God.

This is our position in respect to the appeals of sin. God looks on us as having been crucified with Christ, and being dead with Him. In Him we have passed out of the world of sin and death into the world of resurrection glory. This is our position in the mind of God; it is for us to take it up and make it real by faith. We may not feel any great difference, but we must believe that there is; we must act as if there were. Our children sometimes play at make-believe; we, too, are to make believe, and we shall soon come to feel as we

believe. When, then, a temptation solicits you, say, "I am dead to thee. Spend not thine energies on one that is oblivious to thy spells and callous to thy charms. Thou hast no more power over me than over my Lord and Head." "Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:11.)

### **3. WALK IN THE SPIRIT; KEEP IN WITH THE HOLY GHOST.**

The Holy Spirit is in the heart of every believer (Rom. 8:9); but alas! too often He is shut up in some mere attic in the back of the house, whilst the world fills the rest. As long as it is so, there is one long weary story of defeat and unrest. But He is not content. Know ye not that the Spirit, which lie hath made to dwell in us, yearneth even unto jealous envy? (Jas. 4:5, R. V.) Happy are they who yield to Him. Then He will fill them, as the tide fills the harbor and lifts the barges off the banks of mud; He will dwell in them, shedding abroad the perfume of the love of Jesus; and will reveal the deep things of God.

We can always tell when we are wrong with the Spirit of God; our conscience darkens in a moment when we have grieved Him. If we are aware of such a darkness, we do well never to rest until, beneath His electric light, we have discovered the cause, and confessed it, and put it away. Besides this, if we live and walk in the Spirit, we shall find that He will work against the risings of our old nature, counteracting them as disinfecting power counteracts the germs of disease floating in an infected house, so that we may do the things that we would. (Gal. 5:17, R. V.) This is one of the most precious words in the New Testament. If you have never tried it, I entreat you to begin to test it in daily experience. "Walk in the Spirit," hour by hour, by watchful obedience to His slightest promptings, and you will find that "you will not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

### **4. AS SOON AS YOU ARE AWARE OF TEMPTATION, LOOK INSTANTLY TO JESUS.**

Flee to Him quicker than a chicken runs beneath the shelter of its mother's wing when the kestrel is in the air. In the morning, ere you leave your room, put yourself definitely into His hands, persuaded He is able to keep that which you commit unto Him. Go from your room with the assurance that He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings shall you trust. And when the tempter comes, look instantly up and say, "Jesus, I am trusting Thee to keep me."

This is what the Apostle Paul calls using the shield of Faith. The upward glance of faith puts Jesus as a Shield between the tempter and yourself. You may go through life, saying a hundred times a day, Jesus saves me, and He will never let those that trust in Him be ashamed. "He is able to guard you even from stumbling." (Jude 24, R. V.) You may be pressed with temptations from without, and may feel the workings of evil within, and yet your will looking earnestly to Jesus, shall remain steadfast, immovable, and unyielding. No weapon that is forged against you in the armory of hell shall prosper.

### **5. THERE IS SOMETHING BETTER EVEN THAN THIS.**

It was first taught me by a grey-haired clergyman, in the study of the Deanery, at Southampton. Once, when tempted to feel great irritation, he told us that he looked up and claimed the patience and gentleness of Christ; and since then it had become the practice of his life to claim from Him the virtue of which he felt the deficiency in himself. In hours of unrest, "Thy Peace, Lord." In hours of irritation, "Thy Patience, Lord." In hours of temptation, "Thy Purity, Lord." In hours of weakness, "Thy Strength, Lord." It was to me a message straight from the throne. Till then I had been content with ridding myself with burdens; now I began to reach forth to positive blessing, making each temptation the occasion for the new acquisition of gold-leaf. Try it, dear reader.

When I have spoken thus in public, I have sometimes been met by the objection, "Ah, sir, it is quite true that the Lord will keep me if I look to Him, but I often forget to look in time." This arises from one of three causes. Perhaps the heart and life have never been entirely surrendered to Jesus. Constant defeat always indicates that there has been failure in consecration. You must not expect Christ to keep you unless you have given your heart and life entirely over to Him, so that He is king. Christ can not be keeper if He is not king. And He will not be king at all, unless He is king in all. Or perhaps there is a want of watchfulness. Christ will not keep us if we carelessly and wantonly put ourselves into the way of temptation. He will give His angels charge over us in every path of duty, but not to catch us every time we like to throw ourselves from the beetling height. Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation. Or perhaps there is a lack of feeding on the Word of God. No one can live a life of Faith without seasons of prolonged waiting on God in the loving study of the Bible and in prayer. The man who does not make time for private devotion in the early morning can not walk with God all day. And of the two things, the devout meditation on the Word is more important to soul-health than even prayer. It is more needful for you to hear God's words than that God should hear yours, though the one will always lead to the other. Attend to these conditions, and it will become both easy and natural to trust Christ in the hour of trial.

If, notwithstanding all these helps, you should be still betrayed into a sin, and overtaken by a fault, do not lose heart. If a sheep and a sow fall into a ditch, the sow wallows in it, the sheep bleats piteously until she is cleansed. Go at once to your compassionate Saviour; tell Him in the simplest words the story of your fall and sorrow; ask Him to wash you at once and restore your soul, and, whilst you are asking, believe that it is done. Then go to any one against or with whom you have sinned, and confess your faults one to another. Thus the peace of God that passeth all understanding shall return to roost in your heart, and to guard it like a sentry-angel in shining armor.

And if you thus live, free from the power of sin, you will find that the Master will begin to use you as never before and to tell you His heart-secrets, and to open to you the royal magnificence of a life hidden with Himself in God.

May this be your happy lot, dear reader.

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