

hearts, it now being **our zealous desire**. This is the blessing of the New Covenant promise of God, to live in the blessing and presence of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 - 31 "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, **"when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,** 32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. 33 **"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it;** and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 "And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' **for they shall all know Me,** from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will **forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."** NASB
Ezekiel 36:26-27 - 26 "Moreover, **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 "And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.** NASB

Having this great blessing of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit is vital to our ongoing Sanctification and vital to our ongoing struggle against sin. Sin cannot dominate us, but it will always be at war with the Spirit within us until Glorification. The old sinful nature in this body of death will always be at enmity with the Spirit. **We have died** to the **authority of sin**, but not to **its influence**. It is still there, with its lusts and temptations against the Spirit, so Paul tells us **"consider yourselves dead to sin,"** and therefore as a result, he says, **"do not let sin reign."** You **shall not let sin master you** but instead **Jesus is to be your King** and your Master and we are, by the Spirit's power to live in subjection to His will, **"perfecting holiness out of reverence for God"** (2 Cor 7:1). This is the progression of how Paul deals with sin in the believer's life in Romans chapters 6-8. The whole section from Romans 6:1-Romans 8:17 is devoted to the **problem of remaining sin and Sanctification in the Christian Life**. After having laid out the glorious good news of the gospel in chapter 1-5, in Romans 6 Paul makes the point that even though the grace of God reigns over sin because of Christ(chapter 5), yet we must mortify sin while we still live in these mortal bodies.

Romans 6:1-2 - 1 What shall we say then? **Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? 2 May it never be!** How shall we who died to sin still live in it? NASB

The key he tells us, as we have seen in 6:11-14 is that it is all in the way we **THINK** about the struggle between the sinful and righteous desires in our hearts and minds. We must renew our minds by considering ourselves **"dead to sin but alive to God"** (Rom 6:11). Since we have been freed from sin's power to dominate us and control us, we must not allow it to do so. **We have died** to the **authority of sin**, but not to **its influence**. It is still there, with its lusts and temptations against the Spirit, so Paul tells us **"consider yourselves dead to sin,"** and therefore as a result, he says, **"do not let sin reign."** Now in Romans chapter 7, Paul discusses **the nature of the warfare with sin in ourselves**. He makes several key points;

- We have been released from the Law's power to condemn – 7:1-6
- The Law is good, yet is the strength and power of sin – 7:7-13 (1 Cor 15:56)
- Sin is within us – 7:17-23
- Sin makes war against us and never rests - 7:14-25
- Our inner man delights in God's law – 7:15-23

Paul explains that we **"were in the flesh"** and as a result bore **"fruit for death."** But having believed, we **"have been released from the Law,"** that is the **"sinful passions which were aroused by the Law,"** and so now we **"serve in the newness of the Spirit."**

Romans 7:4-6 - 4 Therefore, my brethren, **you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ,** that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, **that we might bear**