



# Letting Light SHINE OUT OF BONDAGE

FREEDOM IN CHRIST SERIES  
Pastor Barry Bruce/ Lesson 9

## Diminished Light

Like a bright light buried in a dark hole, our intensity of faith grows dim with layers of sin. It is so easy to forget the strength of our old habits. The temptations we once overcame can come back with a vengeance when we lose sight of our adversary and forget that we need a “daily” walk with Christ. The “light” diminishes slowly at first and then all at once seems lost. “You’re not even a Christian!” the accuser spits! “Why can’t I stop sinning?” “I hate myself!” Can you relate?

## Doing What I Don’t Want to Do! *Romans 7:15-20*

Do you, like Paul, find yourself doing the very thing that you do not want to do? Do you find yourself agreeing with God’s word (the Law) and believing it to be good and then doing just the opposite? Why do we do that?

In these verses Paul discloses the fact that there is a battle within us. We agree that God’s Law is good and right; however, we go against it and sin. Paul tells us that the “sin” in us is acting up. As a Christian, it is no longer I who desire to sin (God has changed my desire) but it is sin itself which battles against my will. Satan would have you believe that you are not born again. You are not God’s child because you are evil, but we must remember...it is not we who are evil but the sin that is within us. *Example: If you had a parasite living in you that was causing you to be ill that would be “nothing good living in you”, but that “nothing good” isn’t you it is the parasite.*

## All Things Become New? *2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans*

*7:21-25* Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians that “all things become new” when we give our lives to Christ. God gives us a new nature, a new character. A character that agrees that His Law is good. A nature that desires to keep God’s will. When we act outside of that new nature the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin. He reminds us that this “parasite” in us is not us. We must fight against its “darkness” in our lives.

What usually happens when we sin is that we begin to hate ourselves and beat ourselves right out of the arms of God, but consider this example: *If a dog came and bit you in the leg would you beat yourself or the dog who bit you? When you struggle with sin then you are struggling with that “dog”, the Devil. He bites you and because you don’t understand you beat yourself. After a while people get tired of beating on themselves, so they walk away from God under a cloud of defeat. This is why Satan does it. He hounds us with our past failures so that we beat ourselves to death, but God wants us free!*

When Satan reminds you of your past,  
remind him of his future!

## Who Will Deliver Us? *Romans 8:1-4*

There is now no condemnation for we who are in Christ. He has separated us from the sin that wages war within us. We are no longer the parasite we are His child because of the price He paid for sin. He will not condemn us. He sees us separate from our sin. We must see it that way too. We must recognize the two forces that do battle within us. I must no longer be in bondage and hate myself but instead hate he to whom the sin belongs...Satan.

## You can Overcome the Darkness *2 Corinthians 10:3-5*

*(STEP 6 to Freedom In Christ)* Accept the fact that your mind now belongs to God because you want to do His will. *(you didn’t care before you knew Him.)* Sin still dwells in me, but it no longer belongs to me. When I blow it and sin, I will no longer hate myself...I will hate the Devil. As we begin to see sin separate from ourselves it becomes logical to treat it as an intruder. Sinful habits will be striped away as we set our minds on Christ and who He says we are.

- 1. UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR MIND IS NOW UNDER GOD’S CONTROL.** *The Holy Spirit convicts you because you now belong to Christ.*
- 2. UNDERSTAND THAT THE SIN THAT DWELLS WITHIN YOU IS NO LONGER A PART OF YOU.** *It is an intruder, a parasite.*
- 3. NOW ACT! SINCE YOUR MIND IS NOW UNDER GOD’S CONTROL USE IT TO BATTLE YOUR PAST.** *All spiritual bondage is unlocked in the mind. Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. Here is how:*

- Read God’s Word • Pray • Godly Fellowship • Counseling
- Develop the new habit of listening to God’s voice. • Proclaim His marvelous works!  
*Psalm 96:1-3*

*The world-view taught you to think and act in an un-Christian way. Those patterns and responses became strongholds and bondages in your life that kept you from being free in Christ. To be free we must “walk in the light” admit we have sin within us but call it for what it is. It belongs to the Devil. It is an unwelcomed intruder, confess it for what it is and do not allow yourself to be bound by it. Proclaim who God is and live free in Christ!*