

THE INDWELLING OF SIN

Now you take that back to the concept of sin dwelling in us and the same principle applies. Jesus influences the way we live as we try to follow His example and teachings (Matt. 11:28). The Holy Spirit influences the way we live as we allow the word of God given by the Holy Spirit to guide our decisions (John 14:26; Acts 2:4). And in the same way, when sin dwells in us, we allow the desires of the flesh to influence what we do.

If you study Romans 7 very carefully, you find Paul using himself as an illustration of someone who is lost. He says of himself, *"I am carnal, sold under sin"* (Rom. 7:14). He says that *"the evil that I will not to do, that I practice"* (Rom. 7:19). Paul is characterizing himself as someone who is a slave of sin. And it is in this contextual flow that Paul writes that *"it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me"* (Rom. 7:17). In this passage, sin can dwell in us when we allow it to influence our lives and dictate our decisions.

If we back up to the previous chapter, Paul made reference to our being a slave of sin. He wrote, *"Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?"* (Rom. 6:16). We are the slaves of whoever we choose to obey. Therefore, if we choose to obey sin, then we become a slave of sin. In Romans 7, Paul is writing about being a slave of sin, because he allowed himself to be influenced by the desires of the flesh (Rom. 7:14).

Because of his slavery to sin, that led him to write, *"O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"* (Rom. 7:24). Paul knew that he was guilty of sin living as a slave of sin. He knew that the consequences of his bad decisions was spiritual death (Rom. 6:23; 7:13). So he cried out in despair looking for deliverance. The answer is given in the very next verse: *"I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!"* (Rom. 7:25). The solution for ridding his life of sin was Jesus.

When we live by giving into the desires of the flesh, we become a slave of sin (John 8:34). But freedom is found in Christ. CLP

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16:15

September 7, 2025

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

WHY DO PEOPLE COME TO CHURCH?

Getting the lost to come and hear the gospel has always been a challenge. Some congregations have resorted to unconventional and unscriptural ways to attract the world. They offer recreational activities, promise gifts such as food and even money to the first 10 visitors. But what really moves people to leave their homes on a Sunday morning and visit the Lord's church?

According to a variety of studies we learn why the lost have come to the Lord's church and eventually became faithful members. The study indicates that only 2% come through advertising such as putting an ad in the newspaper or radio. Only 6% come because of the direct contact of the local preacher. Only 6% come because of the various evangelism done by the church, that is, knocking on doors, mailing bulletins, internet. But 86% of all people who had come to the church and eventually obeyed the gospel did so because they were invited by a friend or relative.

God told Jeremiah to tell the children of Israel, *"Will you not receive instruction to obey My words"* (Jer. 35:13)? In spite of the statistics, most of us fail to apply what we know and give the lost instructions to obey God's word. In fact, a recent Gallup poll revealed that 63% of those who do not attend any church service say that it is because they have never been invited. CLP

MESSIAHIC PROPHECIES OF ISAIAH

MATTHEW 11:29

INTRODUCTION:

1. We are to always strive to be like Jesus. (Matt. 11:29)
2. Through the prophecies of Isaiah, we learn the kind of life Jesus would live and serve.

I. JESUS WOULD BE HELPFUL

- A. What did the prophecy mean in Isaiah's day?
 1. **Isaiah 53:4:** *"Surely He has borne our griefs..."*
 2. Contextually, God promises to restore peace.
- B. What did the prophecy mean in Jesus' day?
 2. **Matthew 8:1-16:** Jesus healed the masses.
 3. **Matthew 8:17:** *"He Himself took our infirmities..."*
- C. What does this prophecy mean to us?
 1. Jesus still helps us today. (Heb. 4:14-16)
 2. We are to be like Jesus. (Matt. 25:31ff)

II. JESUS WOULD BE HUMBLE

- A. What did the prophecy mean in Isaiah's day?
 1. **Isaiah 42:1-4:** Judah would be submissive and obedient to God after returning from Babylonian captivity.
 2. **Isaiah 40:1,2,10,11:** God is comforting Judah.
- B. What did the prophecy mean in Jesus' day?
 1. **Matthew 12:9-16:** Jesus healed great multitudes and told them not to let others know what He did.
 2. **Matthew 12:17-21:** The character of Jesus was humble.
- C. What does this prophecy mean to us? (Phil. 2:5-8)

III. JESUS WOULD BE HARASSED

- A. What did the prophecy mean in Isaiah's day?
 1. **Isaiah 6:1-8:** Isaiah saw God and felt insignificant.
 2. **Isaiah 6:9,10:** Isaiah was to go preach to people whose hearts were hardened and would not listen.
- B. What did the prophecy mean in Jesus' day?
 1. **Matthew 13:10-13:** Jesus taught in parables.
 2. **Matthew 13:14,15:** Jesus preached a message to people whose heart was hardened and would not listen.
- C. What does the prophecy mean to us? (1 Pet. 4:4; Matt. 5:11)

CONCLUSION: Are you like Jesus?

THE INDWELLING OF SIN

The concept of indwelling has been the source of much confusion. That someone or something that dwells inside of us is difficult to grasp also makes it a source of debate. Does the Holy Spirit dwell in the believer miraculously? Is there some spiritual force within us that controls our minds and directs our actions? In Romans 7, Paul refers to the indwelling of sin.

Notice what Paul wrote in **Romans 7:17**: *"But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me."* We have to be very careful with the concept of the indwelling of sin. If we do not read this passage carefully, we might come to the conclusion that the indwelling of sin took away his volition and forced Paul to do what he did not do. In fact, if you back up just one verse, he writes, *"For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do"* (Rom. 7:15). Paul wanted to do what was good. But he found himself practicing evil. He failed to do what he wanted and instead did what he hated. Does this mean that sin was in control of his life? Are we to conclude that Paul was not responsible for his actions since they were outside of his control?

To understand the concept of sin dwelling within us, we need to look at other types of indwelling. First, we read about Christ dwelling in us. In Galatians 2, Paul writes that after he was converted to Christ, *"it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me"* (Gal. 2:20). Christ dwelt in the life of Paul. But how did that happen? In an earlier letter, Paul wrote, *"Imitate me as I also imitate Christ"* (1 Cor. 11:1). In the life of Paul, you could see the life of Christ. The character of Jesus, the work of Jesus, the purpose of Jesus was all manifested in the life of Paul. If Christ dwells in you, His life and His teachings influence everything that you do.

Second, we read about the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. Romans 8 is the chapter that teaches us about the Holy Spirit. Verse 9 says *"the Spirit of God dwells in you."* Verse 11 says, *"the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you."* We cringe when we read verses like this. That is because these are passages often used to prove that the Holy Spirit is miraculously dwelling within us. However, if we back up to the beginning of the chapter, we learn that the Holy Spirit dwells in us through the influence of the word of God. We read about walking in the Spirit in verse 1. We then read about the law of Spirit in verse 2. When we make decisions by allowing the word of God to guide us, we are walking in the Spirit. And if we are walking in the Spirit, that means that the Holy Spirit dwells in us.