

---

# A NEW PERSPECTIVE

## I. Wins vs. Losses

- a. How do you view your life as a Christian?
  - i. Do you feel like you're more apt to win or lose in the battle to live like Christ?
  - ii. Is the temptation stronger than your ability to resist it.
  - iii. Do you feel like you're just barely hanging on?
- b. If we see God for who He really is, and believe what He says about us, then we can have more victories.

## II. The Failure Perspective

- a. Some of our beliefs about our inability to win the temptation battle come from a misreading of Romans 7.
  - i. Romans 7:14-20 (NIV)
  - ii. This passage describes how many Christians feel about their lives; however, Paul wasn't describing what he believed was the normal Christian life.
    1. This description doesn't match how Paul characterizes a life in Christ in the rest of Romans.
    2. The use of "I" was not a reflection of Paul's life but used to add emphasis to the discussion.
    3. The Holy Spirit isn't mentioned anywhere in this passage.
- b. Paul reminds us what it's like to obey God on our own without the Holy Spirit's help.

## III. The Winning Perspective

- a. **Romans 8:1-2** (NIV), *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.*
  - i. Paul contrasts life in the Spirit with the situation he just described in Romans 7.
  - ii. Our perspective should change to see ourselves as people set free.
- b. **Romans 6:11** (NIV), *In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*
  - i. "Count" means to consider the reality of the situation.
  - ii. We should consider ourselves dead to sin.

- c. **Romans 6:22** (NIV), *But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God*
  - i. We have changed masters; therefore, the old master, sin, is no longer our boss.
  - ii. Temptation is sin trying to get us to live like it's still in charge.
  - iii. Jesus has set us free to live under his authority and power.
  - iv. Sin is believing a lie that you are the "same old person."
- d. **Romans 8:11** (NIV), *"And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you."*
- e. **Romans 8:5-6** (NIV), *Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.*
  - i. "Flesh" refers to our sinful nature, the part of us susceptible to weakness in this world.
  - ii. Our flesh battles with our Spirit that has been renewed, but the power of Jesus is greater.
- f. **Romans 8:34** (NIV), *Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.*
  - i. Jesus is praying for you to win.
  - ii. You have power because Jesus is on your side. You are not isolated and alone.

#### IV. What is Your Perspective?

- a. Battling temptation is a daily choice. There is no coasting.
- b. We don't fight this battle alone. We have God's help to battle a defeated enemy.
- c. What could this year look like if you realize that you don't have to choose old habits and to do what you've always done? What if you choose to follow the new master?