

## Uncharted Territory: Taking Life Where You've Never Been

### *Week Seven: There is a Credit on Your Account*

We become righteous not by a change of behavior (*that comes later*). Sin has put a terrible debt on our life's status (*account*)—a debt of destruction (*spiritual death*)—the natural outcome of sinful behavior (see **Romans 1:18–3:18**). But when we turn to Jesus and put the full weight of our faith down upon him, there is a *credit* deposited onto our account, so large a sum that it transforms everything about our life.

**I should then consider four decisions I need to make:** 1) Do not bury myself and Jesus at the same time: *His sacrifice was entirely sufficient and does not need my penance added to it*; 2) Believe fully that God has entirely dealt with my sin problem: *I am a saint, not a sinner*; 3) Begin to see myself as insanely wealthy in God's economy; 4) Joyfully live like I have unlimited credit: *but spend with the Father's value system*.

**This week**, make a commitment to *invest four blocks of time* to meditate on God's Word slowly and carefully, to reflect on the internal leadings in your own heart, and surrender to God for His help.

### Day One: Do Not Bury Myself and Jesus at the Same Time

**Read slowly** and carefully meditate upon: **Romans 3:21-26** and **5:6-11**.

**Reflect:** It is a common religious idea that we need to pay penance for our sins—to somehow fill ourselves with enough remorse, or to pay with some kind of trial or suffering to make up for all the wrongs we have done. But this is not a biblical view at all. If Jesus paid for all our sins, why should we think we can—or should—add anything to it?

- *How do I tend to punish myself for my sins? Why do I do this?*
- *If the cross was entirely sufficient to pay for my sins, why or how would I add anything to that? Can I trust God that it's enough?*

**Pray:** *God, please help me to recognize the absolute sufficiency of your death on the cross—that it was a complete and thorough atonement (payment) for my sin. I receive your grace in its entirety, and I renounce the idea that I must do something to add to your sacrifice. Help me to walk freely in this truth. In Jesus' name!* (ALSO: Consider praying **Psalms 32** as your own prayer to God!)

## Day Two: Believe That God Has Entirely Dealt with My Sin

**Read slowly** and carefully meditate upon: **Romans 5:6-21**.

**Reflect:** Sin infected humanity right from the very beginning. Adam and Eve's sin in the Garden of Eden ripples throughout every human life from the moment of our conception. But God's plan to deal with this problem was not that we would work our way out of sin. His plan was to atone for (*pay for; completely take away*) our sins by trading places with us in the great spiritual death due us. So, when **Romans 5** demonstrates how thorough that sacrifice was, do we believe it fully? Why or why not?

- *How would I perceive myself differently if I entirely believed in the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice to cleanse and transform me?*
- *What would change in my self-esteem? In my shame? Guilt? Hope? Courage? My relationships? My behavior?*

**Pray:** *God, I confess my struggle to accept and embrace the entire and complete sufficiency of your atonement for me. Help me to believe it in full, and then help me to view myself through the lens of that total cleansing. Renew my mind in how I see myself. Help me to see myself through the same perspective you do—cleansed, healed, redeemed, forgiven, and beloved. In Jesus' name!* (ALSO: Consider praying **Psalms 141** as your own prayer to God!)

### Day Three: See Myself as Insanely Wealthy in God's Economy

**Read slowly** and carefully meditate upon: **Romans 4:1-25**.

**Reflect:** Paul turns to the example of Abraham, the father of the Jewish people. Abraham was "credited" as righteous by God, but he had not yet engaged in all the religious ritual and obedience that would later be revealed in the Law (*handed down through Moses*). What made Abraham righteous was not his good behavior. It was his faith in God's power and capability to do what He had promised—which in Abraham's case was the birth of a wealthy nation through him. When we consider the greater wealth of new birth into a new and forgiven life, do we have the same level of confidence that God has the power and capability to do this?

- *Do I have faith as strong as Abraham's, who considered God capable of even raising someone from the dead (4:17)? Do I believe He can raise me up in victory from my own spiritual death? Why or why not?*

## Notes: What is God saying to me this week?

- *If God indeed has the power to bring an entirely new life to me, what would that mean for me? How valuable (wealthy) is that?*
- *If I were to engage the same kind of bold faith that Abraham had in God's capability, how would I see my struggles and sins differently? My problems? Fears? Temptations? Doubts?*

**Pray:** *God, help me to build faith in your ability to entirely transform me. Help me to see the riches that brings into my life—that you are providing for me a rich wealth of opportunity, courage, strength, hope, joy, and peace. I confess my faith in you, and I receive the riches that are mine in the spiritual realms. Flow through me in power to comprehend how truly wealthy I am in you. In Jesus' name!* (ALSO: Consider praying **Ephesians 1:15-23** as your own prayer to God!)

### Day Four: Joyfully Live Like I Have Unlimited Credit

**Read slowly** and carefully meditate upon: **Ephesians 1:3—2:10**.

**Reflect:** Paul wrote his letter to the Romans under the inspiration of God to reveal the entire picture of what Jesus has done for us. He also wrote a letter to the church in Ephesus where God reveals what was going on in the spiritual realms before time began. We find in these first two chapters of **Ephesians** a description of abundant wealth and riches that belong to us in spiritual matters. Coupled with the promise of a “credit” being placed on our account in **Romans 4**, we are invited to live from that credit—to “spend” in our spiritual lives as if there were no limit.

- *If I could buy anything in the world that related to spiritual, relational, or emotional experiences, what would I buy? Why?*
- **Ephesians 1** describes how God began positioning me for this spiritual wealth long before I was born. If He chose me before time began (**1:4**), it must mean that He made that choice knowing everything I would ever do both good and bad. How does that effect my view of self? Of God? Of my struggles?

**Pray:** *God, help me rest in the actual wealth you have given me in spiritual matters. Help me to not be concerned for human wealth and possessions, but rather to see how abundant and joyful the spiritual, relational, and emotional things in life can be. I receive with great faith and great joy that which you have done for me. I choose to believe it now! In Jesus' name!* (ALSO: Consider praying **Ephesians 3:14-21** as your own prayer to God!)