

**Series: Faith By the Numbers**

**Title: The Four “R’s” of being Reformed to Christ**

**Text:** (Gal 2:20-21)

Knowing God is the Absolute MUST to live the Abundant Christian Life.

(Gal 2:20) is the Key to our understanding, application, and experiencing of the Abundant Christian Life.

(Gal 2:20) tells us that we are utterly helpless, we have been put to death, and dead people cannot help themselves.

*“I am crucified with Christ:”*

While teaching us **Reaffirm Our Helplessness**, this verse leads us to **Realize Our New Identity in Christ**.

*“nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me”*

Our Former Helplessness is replaced with Christ who is limitless.

To elevate our potential from helpless to limitless, we must **Recognize the Power of Faith**.

*“and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God,”*

Our final act of submission requires a willingness to **Relinquish Self-ownership** of our lives to the Christ who wants to live His life through us.

*“who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*

Having been crucified, yet living, we can now by faith submit to the inner man’s leading.

Vs 21 shows how I frustrate the Grace of God/ slowing God’s work in us by putting on the brakes.

We Quench the Holy Spirit.

We frustrate the grace of God by trying to obtain a level of righteousness through our works. (Picture of the OT)

Grace is in effect when God is doing the work.

The Law is in effect when Man is doing the work.

Frustrate means *to make (plans, efforts, etc.) worthless or of no avail; to defeat; to nullify.*

God’s Grace working in our lives is dependent upon us yielding our dead works to His living work within us.

When we try *“to turnover a new leaf”* or try to do good in the power of our flesh, we are in effect, setting aside Christ’s death and continuing work in our lives.

His Sacrifice is in Vain, His Grace is Frustrated.

Our New Life in Christ suffers.

God’s Working powering in our lives is limited by our fleshly efforts.

I struggle here; Big Time.

Paul struggled with this same thing.

He had to **Reaffirm his Helplessness** not once, but daily. (1 Cor 15:31) *I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.*

He had to **Realize his Identity in Christ** over & over again as he considered himself the chiefest of sinners.

(1 Tim 1:15) *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; **of whom I am chief.***

Paul Struggled to **Recognize The Power of Faith**, so God gave him a physical weakness that made him seek the Lord for strength.

(2 Cor 12:8) *For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*

But the Lord wanted him to see God's power and increase in faith. Paul's eventual conclusion was ..

(2 Cor 12:10) *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

Paul would have to again, **Relinquish Self-Ownership** to God

(2 Cor 12:9) *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

I have often referred to Paul as the greatest Christian to ever live, but even he had to be reminded of how to be Re-Formed/ReMade & not to Frustrate God's Grace.

***What is the definition of Reform?***

Reform is not Conform

**Romans 8:29 - Conform**

*To Make similar in form, nature, or character of another.*

**Gal 2:20-21 "Reformed"**

*The improvement or amendment of what is wrong, corrupt, unsatisfactory. To cause a person to abandon wrong or evil ways of life or conduct.*

***We must be formed again!***

So don't get discouraged if you & I need to be reminded too.

**I. Reaffirm Our Helplessness**

*"I am crucified with Christ:" -What does this mean to you?*

We are dead people, but for dead people, we cause ourselves allot of trouble.

***We need to remember our position in Christ.***

(Rom 6:6-7) *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

***The Body of Sin, is not a person, but a ruling authority.***

Our Problem is not so much our continuing sinning that slows our progress in our Christian Walk, as much as our failure to **Serve Our New Ruling Authority.**

We tend to believe that we can DO good, without following our new ruler.

***Do you ever feel frustrated by this?***

When we do this, we frustrate ourselves, and the grace of God is nullified to empower us.

We fail to achieve the progress in our Christian Lives because we Frustrate the Grace of God.

Being Dead, we are Helpless without our New living Authority, (Christ) ruling our lives.

***Paul was Frustrated*** (Rom 7:14-24)

Vs 18 *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

Vs 24 *O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

Without God, We are Nothing

***Before God an do anything, we must come to the conclusion that without God's power we are helpless.***

Without Submission to His rule over our lives, we are helpless in overcoming strongholds (addiction/persistent habits) which sin (our former ruler) attempts to bring back into our lives.

The Power to Gain the Victory only comes through Christ, living in us, and our submission to His Rule over us. (Phil 4:13) *I can do all things through Christ which Strengtheneth me.*

How often do we forget that without His Strengthening of Me, I can do NOTHING!

***Have you found yourself blaming God for this?***

*Illus: How many of you have, like me, prayed. "God why don't you take these temptations away from me? Why don't you protect me from the Devil?"*

(Gal 6:7-8) says it's NOT God's fault.

*"Be not deceived (misled), God is not mocked (imitated).*

***We imitate God when we think that we control the outcome of our sin by somehow controlling the circumstances in which we sin.***

*We will only drink a little, or at home & not get a DUI. We will do only a little drugs, and still fool the cops, or pass a drug test.*

*We will look at porn late at night when no one is watching and we will get away with it.*

*We will disguise my gossip as a prayer request.*

*We will lie and justify it by not wanting to hurt their feelings. And the list goes on.*

***Do you believe we are responsible for where we are today?*** (Gal 6:7b) *"For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap"*

This is a Universal LAW.

***If we live for our own desires, we will reap ruin.***

Vs 8 *"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."*

***We are responsible for where we are today.***

We are reaping the reward of our past decisions.

Our willingness to submit to our former ruler (SIN) is what has put us in this helpless position, NOT GOD.

We are in the condition we are today because we have obeyed the Old Ruling Authority of Sin.

Like a farmer who plants seeds, we have let our submission to Sin, leave a trail of bad decisions & will have a harvest of bad outcomes.

*(2 Cor 9:6) He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

No we reap what we Sow, Later than we Sow, and More than we sowed.

***We must give heed to the Word of God to avoid Satanic Deception.***

*(Heb 4:12) The Word Separates the Outer man from the Inner man.*

When God starts to speak in our lives, we think about his direction.

Our emotions get involved & our stubborn will reacts to His leading.

We begin to rationalize why we don't need to do his will.

We are deceived by our own judgment because our hearts deceive us, but the Word of God never will.

*(2 Tim 3:16)*

While teaching us our Utter Helplessness, *(Gal 2:20)* leads us to recognize our new identity in Christ.

**II. Realize our New Identity in Christ:** *(Gal 2:20)*

*“nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:”*

***What does this mean to you?***

When we were Crucified with Christ, we were recreated in the Identity of Christ. *(2 Cor 5:17)*

Our Former Helplessness is replaced with Christ who is limitless.

WE are no longer under the obligation to Submit to the Ruling Authority of SIN!

***We now have the choice to Submit to the Inner leader.***

The Word of God, & the Spirit of Truth to Submit to our New Ruling Authority, Christ!

We do not have to work our way into Righteousness in our own power.

God is leading us *“in the paths of righteousness for His names sake.”*

The Old Covenant, where I worked for Righteousness is replaced by the New Covenant where God does the work in us as we submit to Him.

Try Harder Christianity is a creation of Satan.

***We have been deceived into thinking that the ability to live righteously is found in our effort & will power***

**This Is a Lie!** A Lie of Satan to keep us frustrated & Bound!

**With Our New Identity in Christ,**

***All We are being asked to do is to submit to God's leading!***

(Prov 3:5-6) *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

**With Our New Identity in Christ,**  
***All We are being asked to do is to Abide in God's Word!***  
(John 15:4,6,7,10)

*Illus:* *The Incredible Hulk - Injure himself, transform, break things.*

***Our behavior should not determine our Beliefs.***  
***Our Beliefs should affect our Behavior.***

The fact that we do not Rule, but Submit to Christ during adversity, and the Metamorphosis of Christ living through us

***How does our beliefs about ourselves affect our behavior?***  
Does Wealth and privilege always create the best behavior?

***Christ living in us is our only hope of ever glorifying God***  
(Making God look good) ***when adversity Strikes our lives.***  
(Col 1:27) *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*

*Illus:* *If a King fell in love with a Harlot, and the Harlot in turn fell in love with the King. They then get married. Would she return to her former trade every evening after the King goes to bed? NO! She would find her former behavior detestable. She is no longer a prostitute but a Queen. She is now a woman of the highest order.*

*Illus:* International adoption affects their birth culture?

**How should our New Birth affect our Birth Culture?**  
**What is it you believe about yourself?**  
**What is it God wants you to believe about yourself?**

I am no longer a child of Hell.  
I am no longer living in the culture of Sin.  
I am His Child.  
I am a joint Heir with Jesus.  
I am a Child of the King, I should obey Him accordingly.  
***Our Identity in Christ should determine how we behave.***

***What is the Opposite of this? Rebellion/Treason***  
To elevate our potential from helpless to limitless, we must recognize the power of faith.

### **III. Recognize the Power of Faith**

(Gal 2:20) *“and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God”*

Our Former Helplessness is replaced with Christ who is limitless.

Christ is in us, and wants to lead us, Not Just Save Us.  
***The Faith that saves, is the Same Faith that will produce change.***

The Life we now Live has to be lived by Faith.

### **What is Faith?**

The personal measurement of my level of confidence in what Christ can and will do in, through, and for us.

When we exercise our faith we are saying, we are doing this because we believe the results will be exactly what God says

it will be. This exercise produces a greater measure of faith in us.

***What is it that we use to determine God's acceptance of us?***

**He has already accepted us! DAH! (Rom 5:8)**

Here is where we get back into bondage of sin!

God's acceptance of us is not acquired by what we have done or will do, nor can it be lost by what we have failed to do.

We receive God's acceptance by having faith in His sacrifice for Justification and Faith in His guidance for Sanctification.

### **3 Aspects of Faith:**

***A. Faith is dependent upon the Object our faith is in.***

Our Faith is in the One Who Died For US!

***B. The size of our faith is determined by our knowledge of the object of our faith?***

*Illus: Like Faith in a chair. If it looks rickety, we will test it 1st. Once our test proves satisfactory, we plop down on it!*

*Illus: When someone wants to borrow money, what determines your trust of them?*

***What does it say when we don't act in faith?***

*We don't know Jesus enough to trust Him.*

*Because we do not know God well, we are unwilling to make a sacrifice above our current measure of confidence in him.*

*Our willingness to submit to His leading is limited, not by what He can do with us, but what we fail to believe about him.*

(Rom 10:17) Our Faith Grows as we get to know Him.

(Heb 11:6) Only way we please Him.

***What does this say about God's pleasure in us when we act according to our own will?***

***C. Faith is an Action Word, not Passive:***

(James 2:17-18) ***How is Faith an Action Word?***

Are outward actions reveal the inner condition of Our faith. Our efforts do not save us, neither do they change us, But they are a byproduct of our faith.

(Matt 14:25-31) Peter walking on water.

vs 28-29 Peter's faith was put in action by his immediate obedience to God's call, despite the potential consequences.

vs 30-31 when Peter's eyes were focused on Jesus, he was able to walk in faith. But as soon as he took his eyes off of Jesus and put them on the circumstances around him, he began to sink.

When we take our eyes off of Jesus, our faith is going to waver.

*Our final act of submission requires a willingness to relinquish self-ownership of our lives to the Christ who wants to live His life through us.*

#### **IV. Relinquish Self-Ownership**

(Gal 2:20d) “*who loved me, and gave himself for me.*”

##### ***Why did He do this?***

*Not so I can free to be me, but for me to be like him.*

##### ***What purpose did He have in Mind?***

*Illus: when I give \$10,000 for a car, I did not give it so the car would have spending money. I gave it so that it would belong to me and take me where I want to go.*

He Purchased Me for His will to be done.

##### ***What is another verse that talks about this directly?***

(1 Cor 6:19-20) *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

##### ***What Price?***

#### **The Key to Harmony with God is Submission.**

***If God said it, then it settles it - Submit to His leading.***

***If God is against it, That settles it- Submit to His leading.***

***If God is for it, that settles it, - Submit to His leading.***

If we do this, we can expect the Devil to hinder you with doubt and temptation to fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

If the Devil is not attacking you, ask yourself,

*Am I a Christian?*

*Am I growing in my Faith by growing in my knowledge of God?*

(Heb 4:12) *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

The Word of God separates our Inner man from the Control of the Outer Man.

(Phil 1:6) *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*