

Message Extras

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

Message Extras accompany the [weekly message](#).

This week our speaker shared the real struggle with the sin nature illustrated in Romans 7 and the truth of Romans 8 that when you make Jesus your Lord and Savior, He sets you free! For those that have decided to follow Jesus, what a powerful truth to rest in both now and forevermore. If you have not decided to follow Jesus, what are you waiting for? Today is your day of salvation. Repent and run to Jesus. Believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord.

As I reflect on the teaching from Romans 7 and 8, I am reminded of a word picture A.B. Simpson wrote about in his booklet, Himself. Simpson said our life is like a little bottle. Think about it like this. You are a bottle, and before you received Jesus as Lord and Savior, there was water in the bottle and it was filthy. When you received Jesus, He took the bottle and dumped the filthy water out. He then replaced it with the crystal-clear, pure water of the Holy Spirit. When He did this, Jesus made you new in your inner self.

Now we know from Romans 7, that even though you have been made new by Christ in your inner self, still there is another power in you, your old sinful nature, that wages war against the new you. If you allow the old sinful nature to be greater than your newly created spirit, and you return to sinful ways, such as jealousy, pride, gossip, sexual immorality, and greed, then you essentially pour filthy water in with the clean water. We try to keep the waters separate, but waters mix and become diluted.

Now the sinful nature at war with you, wants you to think you can have both the world and Christ. You can't. God wants all of you! But still, we try, don't we? In our attempt to have both, we forget our life is like a bottle, and we think we can keep our old self, for ourselves and carry our spiritual life in Christ around in a bottle. But we can't. Remember, you are the bottle, you don't carry the bottle. If you see your relationship with Jesus as a bottle you carry through life, eventually, the bottle either runs dry or you introduce impurities in the crystal-clear water. Either way, you must come back to the water's edge so you can receive pure water again. This back and forth, from the water's edge to MY life, back to the water's edge to MY life, back to the water's edge to MY life, is SO EXHAUSTING! And it is not the Spirit-filled life we are called to live.

Remember, you are the bottle. You are not meant to carry the bottle. Instead of going to and from the water's edge, why not just walk right in until you are completely submerged? But you say, "I will drown, I will die under the water!" Exactly, and all that will remain is the bottle, which is the new "you" that Jesus intends you to be. And the bottle will float on the water, and some of the water will enter in. So it will be then, the bottle is in the water, and the water is in the bottle. The bottle will go and move where the water leads. You are the bottle, and water is the Holy Spirit. You will be in the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit will be in you. You are set free to go and move where the Holy Spirit leads. Such a life is truly unbelievable and everything in this life, well everything that matters, is free.

- Read Romans 7: 14-25. If you are currently caught in a pattern of doing the things you do not want to do, what must you do to be set free?
- Read Romans 8: 1-13. How does the teaching about where we set our minds impact the lives we live? How does the knowledge that God wants all of you, help you to set your mind on the things of the Spirit?
- Consider the illustration of the little bottle in the sea. Do you find yourself going to and from the water's edge of the Crystal Sea to receive forgiveness and cleansing for the things you do not want to do? What must you do to live life in the Spirit?

