

# Romans 8:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

## Analysis

---

**For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death**—Paul contrasts two "laws" (governing principles): *ho nomos tou pneumatos* (the law of the Spirit) versus *ho nomos tēs hamartias* (the law of sin). The Spirit's "law" is not legal code but the life-giving principle that operates through union with Christ. The verb *ēleutherōsen* ("made free") is aorist tense, pointing to the decisive moment of liberation at conversion.

The **Spirit of life** (*pneuma tēs zōēs*) directly counters **the law of sin and death** mentioned in 7:23-25. Where Adam's sin brought the reign of death (5:12-21), Christ's obedience brings the Spirit's life-giving power. This is not sinless perfection but freedom from sin's enslaving dominion—the Spirit writes God's law on hearts (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:10), accomplishing what external commandment never could.

## Historical Context

---

The concept of "law" (*nomos*) had become problematic in early Christianity as Jewish believers struggled to understand how Gentiles could be saved without Torah observance. Paul carefully distinguishes between the Mosaic law (holy but unable to give life, 7:12-13) and the Spirit's internal principle that fulfills the law's righteous requirements (8:4).

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

---

1. How does the "law of the Spirit" differ from the Mosaic law in its method and power?
2. In what specific ways have you experienced freedom from sin's enslaving dominion versus sinless perfection?
3. How does this verse answer the charge that grace promotes lawlessness (6:1)?

## Interlinear Text

---

ὁ	γὰρ	νόμου	τοῦ	πνεύματος	τῆς	ζωῆς	ἐν	Χριστῷ
G3588	<b>For</b>	<b>the law</b>	G3588	<b>of the Spirit</b>	G3588	<b>of life</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>Christ</b>
	G1063	G3551		G4151		G2222	G1722	G5547
Ἰησοῦ	ἠλευθέρωσέν	με	ἀπὸ	τοῦ	νόμου	τῆς	ἁμαρτίας	
<b>Jesus</b>	<b>free</b>	<b>me</b>	<b>from</b>	G3588	<b>the law</b>	G3588	<b>of sin</b>	
G2424	G1659	G3165	G575		G3551		G266	
καὶ	τοῦ	θανάτου						
<b>and</b>	G3588	<b>death</b>						
G2532		G2288						

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Romans 6:14** (Word): For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

**2 Corinthians 3:17** (Spirit): Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

**Romans 6:18** (Creation): Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

**1 Corinthians 15:45** (Spirit): And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

**2 Corinthians 3:6** (Spirit): Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

**John 8:36** (Parallel theme): If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

**John 8:32** (Parallel theme): And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

**Romans 7:4** (Word): Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

**Romans 6:22** (Creation): But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

**John 6:63** (Spirit): It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.