

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

ο γὰρ νόμου τοῦ πνεύματος τῆς ζωῆς ἐν Χριστῷ
G3588 For the law G3588 of the Spirit G3588 of life G2222 in G1722 Christ
G1063 G3551 G4151 G2222 G1722 G5547

Ἰησοῦ ἡλευθέρωσέν με ἀπὸ τοῦ νόμου τῆς ἀμαρτίας
Jesus free me from G3588 the law G3588 of sin G266
G2424 G1659 G3165 G575 G3551 G2288

καὶ τοῦ θανάτου
and G3588 death 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.