

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this series about sharing from our quiet times you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Two teachers will share from what they have learned from their quiet times. Every day during the past week we had a quiet time from a passage in the New Testament. Once a week we come together to share with one another what we have learned. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. We will share the important truths and lessons from our quiet times and try to answer some difficult questions. Today's topic is A DISCIPLE SHARES WHAT HE LEARNS FROM ROMANS 4:1 – 8:39.

(S) **POINT 1. SHARING FROM ROMANS 4:1 – 8:39**

This past week we have read, meditated and prayed from Romans 4:1 – 8:39. Now we will use our quiet time notes to share truths and lessons from the assigned passages and discuss some questions.

(T) **Sharing quiet times from Romans chapter 4.**

I want to share from Romans 4:20-21 about getting strengthened in your faith. It says, "Abraham did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised." How was Abraham strengthened in his faith? God repeated his promise to Abraham in several times, in Genesis 12, 15 and 17. And Abraham repeatedly obeyed God by going to the land God promised, by being willing to sacrifice his son, etc. By God's *repeated promises* to Abraham and by Abraham's *repeated obedience* to God, Abraham's faith became stronger and stronger. Abraham's faith is a deep conviction that *God can and will do the things he has said*. Faith is therefore dependent on what God says to us. The strength of our faith is among other things dependent on our obedience to God's word.

(S) I want to share from Romans 4:3 and 22 about the faith that saves and the faith that does not save. It says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Abraham's faith was not an incident that happened once in his life. Abraham's faith was a continual and persistent faith! It is this kind of faith that justifies and saves. Some people have *an intellectual faith*. They believe with their minds that something is true, but it does not change their lives at all. Intellectual faith cannot justify or save anyone. Some people have *a temporary faith*. They believed once in the past history of their life or maybe for a little while in their life, but now they do not believe anymore. Temporary faith cannot justify or save anyone. Some people have *miracle faith*. They believe because they see the miracle of God, but they do not believe in the gospel of God. Miracle faith cannot justify or save anyone. The only faith that can justify or save a person is *salvation faith*. Salvation faith believes that Jesus Christ has merited our salvation through his death and resurrection. *The faith that saves transforms our life and is a continual and persistent faith in Christ*.

Sharing quiet times from Romans chapter 5.

(T) I want to share from Romans 5:15-17 why the work of Christ is so much greater than the work of Adam. Through the one trespass of Adam, all the people in the history of the world suffer death. However, God's work through Christ works in the opposite direction and brings salvation. In four ways the work of Jesus Christ through his death and resurrection accomplished "much more".

First. Through Adam's one trespass, Adam introduced *sin* into the whole human world. However, in the midst of a multitude of sins (trespasses), God through Christ introduced *overflowing grace*! God forgives, not just one man's sin, but also the sins of millions and millions of people that believe in Jesus Christ after the time of Adam.

Second. Adam's sin caused everyone in the world to be *condemned guilty* and therefore to eternal death.

However, God's work in Christ does not merely restore man to his former state of innocence, but *declares him righteous*, that is, bestows on him the righteousness and eternal life of Christ. Third. Since Adam, the reign of sin is expressed in *physical death* of people and the death of everything on this planet. However, since the work of God in Christ, all people, who believe in Christ, *reign in this life*. They have eternal spiritual life. They bring spiritual life to spiritual dead people. They reign over sin, difficult circumstances and eventually over death itself. Fourth. *The wrath of God remains* on all godlessness and wickedness of people who suppress and exchange the truth. However, all who believe in Christ will be *saved from God's wrath*.

(S) I want to answer a question from Romans 5:18. It says, "Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation *for all men*, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life *for all men*." Does this mean that salvation is universal and that all people in the world will one day be saved?

No. Concluding that Romans 5:18 teaches that all people in the world would one day be saved, is again a case of basing a doctrine on just one verse in the Bible without looking at the context. The phrase “for all men” means, “All people meant in the context” and has two different meanings in Romans 5:18. The first phrase “for all men” can only refer to absolutely all people in the history of the world. All people in the world have sinned and all people in the world are condemned. However, the second phrase “for all men” can only refer to all those people in the world who believe in Jesus Christ. The context of Romans 5:18 is Romans 5:17 and it says that they are the people who “receive God’s abundant provision of grace and the gift of righteousness”. Only they will reign in life. Paul uses this strong expression “all men” to combat the wrong attitude of the Jews that they were better than the Gentiles and even that only they were God’s people. Paul emphasises that as far as salvation is concerned, there is no difference between a Jew and a Gentile. He says, “*all men*”, *who believe in Jesus Christ, whether they come from the Jews or from the Gentiles, will receive eternal life in exactly the same way.* They will receive eternal life only by God’s grace and through their faith in Jesus Christ.

Sharing quiet times from Romans chapter 6.

(T) I want to share from Romans 6:3-4 about baptism. It says, “Don’t you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” The baptism into Christ refers to the baptism with water in the name of Jesus Christ. *The baptism with water* again refers to *the baptism with the Holy Spirit*. Through the baptism with the Holy Spirit, believers in Jesus Christ are born-again and become a part of the Body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 says, “The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit into one body.” *The baptism with water* is the outward sign and seal that a person has been *baptised with the Holy Spirit*. Through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we are brought into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and his work of salvation, which he accomplished by his death and his resurrection. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ not only becomes very meaningful to us, but also very effective in our lives! The baptism with water is an outward sign of an inward work of regeneration by the Holy Spirit and an outward seal of an inward assurance given by the Holy Spirit that the believer in Jesus Christ has been united to Jesus Christ and shares in the complete work of salvation of Jesus Christ in all its phases in the past, in the present and in the future. The baptism with water in Romans 6 is particularly a sign and seal for the believer that he or she shares in the judicial state of righteousness of Christ and in the moral state of holiness of Jesus Christ. And this spiritual state or position of righteousness and holiness of the believer in Jesus Christ is inseparably connected to the believer’s present process of sanctification and his future state of glorification. Because the believer in Jesus Christ is united to Jesus Christ and shares on the one hand in his position of righteousness and holiness before God and on the other hand in his continued work of sanctification, the believer in Jesus Christ CAN, WANTS TO and SHALL conquer sin in his life and CAN, WANTS TO and SHALL live the new life of the Christian here on earth!

(S) I want to share from Romans 6:19 about slavery to sin or to righteousness. It says, “Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.” Romans chapter 6 speaks of human life without Christ or with Christ. When we lived without Jesus Christ, we were slaves to sin. We not only *wanted to* do impure and wicked things, we also *could not stop* doing those things. We had become slaves of all kinds of sins. Paul is speaking of all kinds of impurity and wickedness that we did with the members of our bodies. For example, we looked at immoral or violent pictures with our eyes, we thought immoral or hateful thoughts with our minds, we spoke lies or slandered other people with our tongues, we stole or murdered with our hands, etc. But now, because we believe in Jesus Christ and have been baptised by the Holy Spirit into Christ’s body, we have become new people. We are born again. We have died to the old life of slavery to sin and have been resurrected to the new life of righteousness and holiness. Therefore we should dedicate the members of our bodies to Jesus Christ, *willingly become slaves of Jesus Christ and give the members of our bodies to promote righteousness and holiness*. We CAN do it. Therefore we SHOULD do it! The Bible makes very clear that a person cannot do righteousness when he is still a slave of sin. A person cannot do anything that is right in God’s eyes when he is still a slave of sins in his heart. Every person in the world MUST choose between remaining a slave of sin and becoming a believer in Jesus Christ.

Sharing quiet times from Romans chapter 7.

(T) I want to share from Romans 7:1-6 about the law in the Old Testament as it was interpreted by the religious teachers of the Jews. The religious teachers of the Jews took the law of God in the Old Testament and elaborated it into 218 religious commandments and 365 religious prohibitions that every Jew had to keep. In Matthew 23:4 Jesus said that they had turned God’s Law into a terrible religious burden! God never intended the Old Testament law to be a means of justification before God or a means of salvation. But the Jews had turned the

keeping of God's law into the means of salvation! No one could keep God's Law perfectly! Not even the religious teachers of the Jews kept all of God's Law!

Paul teaches that when we were still non-Christians, the religious laws that were made by religious teachers had authority over us and bound us to keep them. But because we could not keep these laws, these laws became like a tyrant ruling over us! God's Old Testament moral laws intended to show us how God's people should live in this world. But because we were not yet born-again and still had our old human nature in our bodies, these good laws of God only made us aware of right and wrong and actually aroused in us the desire to do wrong! Even if we wanted to keep God's laws, we could not, because we were not yet born-again! As long as we are not yet born-again, we are controlled by the sinful nature in our bodies. The sinful nature in our bodies arouses all kinds of sinful passions in us and we do all kinds of sinful things with the members of our body. And sin only leads to spiritual death, then physical death and finally eternal death in hell.

But when we believe in Jesus Christ, we die with Christ and are resurrected with Christ. When we believe in Jesus Christ, we are set free from the Old Testament law as a means of justification or as a means of salvation. When we believe that we have received the 100% perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ, we are set free from all the religious laws that were made by religious teachers and that kept us in religious slavery! When we believe in Jesus Christ, we are no longer controlled by religious laws, but are controlled only by God himself through his Holy Spirit that lives in our bodies. Born-again people no longer serve in the old way of religious laws, but in the new way of the Holy Spirit!

(S) I want to share from Romans 7:7-25 about three more laws. Romans 7:7-13 refers to the function of God's moral law or the Ten Commandments. Without God's moral law we cannot know what sin is, we do not know what sin is and we cannot consciously recognise that it is sin that is troubling us. However, with God's moral law we know what sin is, we know that we are doing sin and we consciously experience the results of sin. Romans 7:14-25 refers to "the law of sin" in every human being and to "the law of our renewed mind" in every Christian. As long as we Christians live on earth in this body, we experience the law of sin in our body, that is, we experience that our body is still subject to the ravages of sin and death (vs 24). This law of sin also wages a war against the law of my renewed mind (vs 23). With our born-again mind we are slaves to God, but at the same time with our sinful nature in our body we are still slaves or prisoners to the law of sin (vs 25). With our born-again or renewed mind, we hate sin (vs 15), we do not want to do evil (vs 16), we want to do good (vs 18) and we delight in God's righteous ways that are expressed in God's moral law (vs 22). However, we also have a sinful nature living in our bodies. This sinful nature is unspiritual (vs 14), sold us as a slave to sin (vs 14), does evil in us (vs 17), has nothing good in it (vs 18) and especially likes to use the members of our body to do its wicked works (vs 23). But in the future Jesus Christ will resurrect our bodies from the dead and then he will rescue us completely from this body of death, that is, from this sinful nature that still lives in our bodies (vs 25). Salvation begins when we believe in Jesus Christ, but salvation is only completed when our mortal bodies will be resurrected from the dead!

Sharing quiet times from Romans chapter 8.

(T) I want to share from Romans 8:13-14 about the way the Holy Spirit leads. It says, "If you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God." First. The Spirit *leads every Christian* and not just a few special selected saints. Second. The Spirit *leads us constantly* and not only when we need him. Third. The Spirit *leads us to correct us* and not simply to protect us. His influence in our heart and life enables us to more and more crush the power of sin and to walk in God's ways. Fourth. The Spirit *controls us* instead of only showing us the right way. He is the absolute controlling power in our lives. Fifth. The Spirit only *encourages* and helps us in our responsibilities. He never stifles or represses us.

(S) POINT 2. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK

First. Divide Romans 9:1 to 12:21 into seven passages. Every day have a quiet time from one passage. Record the meditations of all your quiet times in a notebook. Once a week meet with a friend or with a house fellowship or discipleship group and share from your quiet times.

Second. See the workbooks "Go and make disciples" and Internet on www. Etc

Third. Listen on short wave radio from SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY to "Discipleship training on the air".