

How To Live Like a King's Kid (Romans, Part 1)

Illustrations:

- gadgets with features that we never use (VCR, cell phone, etc.)
- The Prince and the Pauper (Edward Tudor, Tom Canty)
- Romans tells us how to access the unused "royalty" within us!

Paul had been imprisoned in Philippi (Acts 16:23-24), chased out of Thessalonica (Acts 17:10), smuggled out of Berea (Acts 17:14), laughed at in Athens (Acts 17:32), regarded as a fool in Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:18, 23), and stoned in Galatia (Acts 14:19), but he remained eager to preach the gospel in Rome.

However, he never got to go to Rome until near the end of his life. That "delay" is why we have the book of Romans, written in advance to a group of believers he had never met. When he did travel to Rome it was as a prisoner, but even then he preached to his guards! Why?

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

The Bible is not just information, it is LIFE!

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

"The Word of Life" – Philippians 2:16, 1 John 1:1

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator; If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist; If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist; If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer; But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life (***not information!***), and that they might have it more abundantly.

We already KNOW more than we are DOING anyway! We don't need more CONDEMNATION, we need TRANSFORMATION.

In Romans 1, Paul talks about people who had all kinds of information about God, but they did not allow this truth to work in their lives. They buried it under busyness so they could live however they wanted to.

This effectively left them without a god, but man is created so that he must worship something. If he will not worship the true God, he will worship a false god, even if he has to manufacture it himself! And the ultimate lie is that human beings should worship human beings!

The oldest lie in the Bible is that man is his own god! (Garden of Eden)

Far Side cartoon – "School for the Gifted"

Romans 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

God reveals His wrath against sin in many ways, but two ways go mostly unnoticed – the law of sowing and reaping (i.e. gravity), and the wrath of abandonment, which is removing restraint and letting people indulge their sins. It is that kind of wrath that we see in Romans 1, and in the world today. But God waits to extend mercy to those who obey Him!

Let's talk about this "lie" that we are in control of our own lives ...

Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

1. **All behavior is based on a BELIEF.**
2. **Behind every sin is a LIE that I am believing.**

Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

(We need to figure out the lie motivating the behavior!)

3. **Change always starts in the MIND.**

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

(Feelings are always the LAST thing to change!)

4. **In order to change my life, I must change my BELIEFS first.**

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

5. Trying to change people's BEHAVIOR without changing their beliefs is a waste of time!

UPBI Van Story – “I hate antilock brakes!”
(that van had a mind of its own – like each of us!)

Your “autopilot” is the way you think, and you can force a new behavior only for a limited time unless you change your thinking!

6. The Bible term for “changing your mind” is REPENTANCE.

This is life's ultimate “paradigm shift” – changing the way I think about something by accepting the way God thinks about it.

7. Changing the way I act is the RESULT of repentance.

Matthew 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

*Repentance is a mind change that results in an action change.
So repentance is not negative, it is positive!*

Every sermon comes down to two words: “Will you?”