

Spirit vs. Flesh

Lesson 18 – Outline

1. Once you're born again, the rest of the Christian life is learning to walk in the spirit, which is letting what God has done through the new birth dominate you more than your physical, emotional realm.
2. One of the hardest things you'll ever do is learn how to turn from your natural self-rule and let who you are in Christ dominate instead.
 - A. It's difficult because you must perceive your spirit by faith in God's Word because you can't see or feel it.
 - B. All you have to do is start basing your thoughts, actions, and identity on who you are in Christ.
3. As long as your flesh is contrary to your spirit, you'll have conflict.

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law” (Gal. 5:16-18).

- A. “Contrary” means they're “opposed, enemies, adversaries.”
 - B. This conflict between your spirit and flesh is your true spiritual warfare.
4. You cannot please God in your flesh.

“So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God” (Rom. 8:8).

- A. Living after the flesh brings all forms of death.

“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live” (Rom. 8:12-13).

“For the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).

- B. Your flesh is Satan's inroad to bring death into your life.
 - C. As a born-again believer, your flesh is made up of your soulish and physical realms.
5. As Paul taught how God now deals with people based on His grace, not their performance, this raised the question in Romans 6:1:

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?”

A. The answer, of course, is:

“God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”
(Rom. 6:2).

B. Your spirit is the part of you that’s dead to sin.

C. Your body and soul can still do sinful things, but the born-again part of you cannot.

6. When you were born again, you were baptized into His death.

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?” (Rom. 6:3).

A. Being baptized into His death is automatic, but walking in newness of life isn’t.

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4, emphasis mine).

B. Manifesting newness of life is something that should happen—but it depends on how you renew your mind.

“For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this” (Rom. 6:5-6).

7. Your spirit died to sin, cannot sin, and has no desire for sin, but this doesn’t automatically mean that your soul and body will reflect that change.

A. Your walking in resurrection life depends upon you:

“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth, we should not serve sin” (Rom. 6:6).

B. “Old man” refers to the spirit you had prior to salvation.

C. Your old man no longer exists because it’s been crucified, has died, and was buried with Christ.

D. Your new man is now who you are in the spirit.

E. What you’re dealing with is the spirit vs. the flesh.

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Lesson 18 – Discipleship Questions

1. According to John 6:63, what are Jesus' words?
2. What does James 1:23-25 reveal God's Word to be?
3. Second Corinthians 5:7 says that we walk by _____, not by _____.
4. According to Galatians 5:16-18, if we walk in the Spirit, we will not:
 - A. Fulfill the lust of the Spirit.
 - B. Fulfill the law of the flesh.
 - C. Fulfill the lust of the flesh.
 - D. Fulfill the law of the Spirit.
5. What effect does it have upon us when our flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit lusts against our flesh—one contrary to the other?
6. How do we avoid being under the Law?
7. According to Romans 8:8, who cannot please God?
8. Read Romans 8:12-13. What are the results of living after the flesh?
9. How, then, do we live?
10. According to Romans 6:23, what are the results of sin?
11. Read Romans 6:1-2. What question is normally raised once we begin to understand that God now deals with us based on His grace, and not our performance?
12. How does Paul answer that question?
 - A. For heaven's sake!
 - B. God bless you!
 - C. God forbid!
 - D. Lord willing!

13. Which part of our beings is dead to sin?
 - A. Spirit.
 - B. Soul.
 - C. Body.
 - D. None of the above.

14. According to Romans 6:3 and 1 Corinthians 12:13, what happened the instant we were born again?

15. What else does Romans 6:3 say occurred at this point in time?

16. Read Romans 6:4. Since Jesus died and was raised up by the glory of the Father, we also died and should what?

17. According to Romans 6:5-6, what must we know in order to be able to manifest this resurrection life?

18. What does Ephesians 2:1 reveal about our old man?

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Lesson 18 – Scriptures

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

“For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed” (James 1:23-25).

“For we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7).

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law” (Gal. 5:16-18).

“So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God” (Rom. 8:8).

“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live” (Rom. 8:12-13).

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?” (Rom. 6:1-3).

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:13).

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin” (Rom. 6:4-6).

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1).