

Living in the Spirit or Living in the Flesh

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By receiving Jesus as Savior (salvation), not only are we alive to Christ, but we are also dead to sin. We are no longer hopelessly ensnared by it and do not intentionally *practice* it any longer. Instead, we walk in newness of life. The Holy Spirit empowers us to walk in this more excellent way. Yet, in all this, **we have a free will.**

Will we yield to the Holy Spirit who desires to bring our daily lives in alignment with God's purposes ... or will we yield to our flesh, which leans toward the world, sin, and the devil?

Life in the Flesh

Please read Romans 5:6-21, Romans 6:20-23, and Romans 7:18-25

Highlights ...

Romans 5 | Through Adam, judgment and condemnation came to all (Rom. 5:16), but God displayed His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8). Jesus Christ's obedience - his death and resurrection - is greater than Adam's disobedience (Rom. 5:18-19). The captive is now set free to make a choice.

Romans 6 | We will either be slaves to sin or slaves to righteousness. Slavery to sin leads to death. As slaves of God, our lives become fruitful and we gain eternal life (Rom. 6:22). *For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness* (Rom. 6:19).

Romans 7 | A war is being waged between evil in our flesh and the desire to do good in our hearts and minds. Who will deliver us or, rather, who *has delivered* us? (Rom. 7:23-24).

Life in the SPIRIT



Believers must arise! We are justified or **placed in right standing** with God (Rom. 3:23-24) and are also being transformed and conformed (called sanctification) into the image of Christ (2 Cor. 3:18). God desires that we fulfill our life's purpose as Jesus did. To do this, we must walk in the Spirit, not the flesh. As we receive the Word in our inner man, the Holy Spirit leads us into right living - giving us new desires and a new hope. We are empowered to do what is right before God. Ultimately, we walk in God's plan for us on earth **and** in eternity.

Please Read Romans 8:1-17

Highlights ...

Romans 8 | We stand victorious in Christ over the war within. *Christ in us is the hope of glory* (Col. 1:27). We defeat sin when we make a heart choice to be spiritually minded and live by the Spirit. We search the Word for its truths and then believe that Word. The Word that is **believed** renews our minds to think and act differently. As we continue to exercise our faith, speak the Word, and pray accordingly, we defeat sin and walk in the Spirit.

❖ **Reflective Questions:** What war rages within you? Does an idol prevent you from walking freely in the Spirit? What is the Holy Spirit revealing to you about your walk in the Spirit? What are you learning from our study in Romans 5 - 8?