

The Believer's Battle



"Let there be Light" – Gen 1:3

FORWARD

I believe that this teaching will change your life. I pray the Holy Spirit to put this message in your heart and in your spirit. Unfortunately spiritual revelation does not come through the mind – henceforth you need to get your mind out of the way.

And this is precisely what this teaching is all about. There is a battle going on – Paul refers in Romans, to this as a law which wars against the mind! “But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members” (Rom 7:23 KJV). The word “warring” means “to attack”. There a is principle attacking your mind! You're either going to win or lose it in the mind.

*Are you following sometimes a "different law" in your live than the law of God? “If then I do that which I would not, I **consent unto the law that it is good**” (Rom 7:16). Paul is saying if I do **those things that are evil**, I'm telling the law or the Word that the new law that I'm following - which represents evil - is good and the Word of God is evil. When you do those evil things you wished you would not do – you are consenting unto the law of God that this thing that you should not be doing is good and that automatically puts you under the authority of another gospel! *When we hate our brother - we are affirming a new gospel that overthrows the gospel of our God! The gospel of God says to forgive our brother - when instead we hold onto unforgiveness and bitterness toward our brother - we are in fact following a different law - a different gospel, a different way of thinking from that of God. So when we allow fear to rule our lives - we are affirming the gospel of FEAR. Fear destroys FAITH - which is of God. When we allow guilt to rule our lives - we're affirming the “gospel of guilt” and do not have faith in the forgiveness of God. We are the ones who are setting up one gospel against another!**

We are either establishing the law of the kingdom of God or we are establishing the laws of Satan's kingdom!

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Believers Battle

THE IMPOSSIBLE LIFE

Throughout my life, I have had many questions that few people could answer. As I grew up, studied, searched, asked and cried out to the Lord, He revealed over time many truths and the Lord answered all the questions I had. What a wonderful and faithful God we are serving. (*Don't trust in man, in whom there is no help for your there – Ps 146:3*).

From childhood, I loved the Lord but lived a life of many frustrations. Deep inside of me, I had a desire to do the right things, but instead, I always ended up doing wrong. I messed up so many times in my life. Deep inside of me, I had the desire to just give love, but instead, I destroyed relationships and people around me. The more I tried to overcome my shortfalls, the worse it seemed to get.

*So, one of the questions I struggled with as a young believer, was what Paul talked about in Rom 7: **"I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I can't. I do what I don't want to—what I hate. ¹⁶I know perfectly well that what I am doing is wrong, and my bad conscience proves that I agree with these laws I am breaking. ¹⁷But, I can't help myself because I'm no longer doing it. It is sin inside me that is stronger than I am that makes me do these evil things"** (Rom 7:15 TLB).*

One weekend during a church camp at University (when I was a student) I asked a theology Professor the question of what Paul was describing his life in this scripture: "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I (Rom. 7:15). He gave me an unsatisfied theological answer (or maybe at that time I couldn't understand it).



The good news is that after 30 years God revealed the truth to me, and I would like to share it with you so that the truth will also set you free and you live the life of freedom, peace, and joy in Jesus Name. Amen!

This is the “Believer’s Battle” we all face in our lives. Please note that this battle is not the battle of the **unbeliever** – No, it is what we as born-again, water baptized, Holy Spirit filled, tongue speaking believers are struggling daily in our walk with Christ Jesus. Not knowing where this battle is taking place further complicates our understanding and the enemy keeps us in captivity: *“They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart”* (Eph 4:18 KJV).

Satan only wants to blind our mind from the truth to keep us from seeing the light of the good news of the Gospel and preventing us to see and to become to His image and likeness: *“In their case, the god of this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe to keep them from seeing the light of the glorious gospel of the Messiah, who is the image of God”* (2Co 4:4 KJV).

It fascinates me these days when you share “deliverance” of God’s people in the Body of Christ, that so many members and pastors respond think that you are talking about the people outside the church. Not realizing that Christ had come for deliverance for His sons and daughter, descendants of Abraham. It is interesting how the Jews responded the same way when Jesus told them that if you abide in My word, you are my disciples indeed (John 8:31) and that the truth shall set you free (John 8:32), but they answered Him **“We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone”** (John 8:33). How ironic and laughable this is – the descendants of Abraham, been enslaved for 430 years, standing at that movement under the Romans Empire saying: **“we have never been in bondage”**

What about you?



WE ARE IN CAPTIVITY

The Lord is **WEEPING** because His flock are carried away in captivity!

Jer 13:17 But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for *your* pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the LORD'S flock is carried away **captive**.

Because they have no **KNOWLEDGE**.

Isa 5:13 Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.

And also because they **REJECTED** knowledge.

Hos 4:6a My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge

People are led away with **LUSTS** - never come to the knowledge of the truth

2Ti 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

The consequences hereof is that the Lord also **REJECTS** you!

Hos 4:6b I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

And **hell enlarged herself** - opened her mouth and they descend into it!

Isa 5:14 Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.

We are in a **BATTLE** (*whether we realize it and/or like it or not*). The battle is against principalities, powers, ruler of the darkness of this world.



Eph 6:12 For we **wrestle** not against **flesh and blood**, but **against principalities**, against **powers**, **against the rulers of the darkness of this world**, **against spiritual wickedness** in high places.

Devil is **ROARING** like a lion seeking to devour someone.

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

The Lord commanded us to **come out of captivity**. There come a day (that day is today) that the Lord will send somebody with an anointing to bring the TRUTH to FREE YOU!

Isa 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to **proclaim liberty to the captives**, and the **opening of the prison** to them that are bound;

BUT - You must **RESIST** the devil yourself, so you may recover yourself out of the snare of the devil.

Jam 4:7 Submit **yourselves therefore to God**. **Resist the devil**, and he will flee from you.

2Ti 2:26 And that they may **recover themselves out of the snare of the devil**, who are taken captive by him at his will.

THE GOOD NEWS

The good news is that a day is coming - when the SUN of Righteousness will arise with healing in His wings and in His beams.

Mal 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the **Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings**; and ye **shall go forth**, and **grow up as calves of the stall**. KJV



Mal 4:2 But unto you who revere and worshipfully fear My name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in ***His wings and His beams***, and you ***shall go forth*** and gambol ***like calves [released]*** from the ***stall and leap for joy***. AMPC

That day you will go forth and gambol like calves released from the stall and leap for joy!

THE PROBLEM

There is a reason that many Christians struggle with living the Christian life. But, if we know the root of the problem and deal with it, we can live a victorious, joyful life. Somehow we as Christians - born-again believers, baptized with the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues - all struggle in life because of ignorance! We than live the impossible Christian life on earth. *Today - this very day - is the day to cease from your struggles and come to a place of rest. (Hebr 4:9 There remains, therefore, a rest for the people of God KJV.)*

Start learning to let God do what He wants to do all the time. Don Krow (a Pastor at Charis Bible College with Andrew Wommack) wrote:

I have been through many struggles during my life. I've also seen many miracles. I was on a deathbed in 1976 and God raised me up. We saw our stillborn daughter restored to life. About five years ago I came to work for Andrew Wommack and I was totally destitute. I had pastored a church and there had been a split. I was totally burned out and tired of trying to live the Christian life.

Then the Lord began a process of renewing my mind. Through a period of several years, God has opened a picture more clearly to me. As a result, I have ceased from my struggles and come to a place of rest. I have learned to let God do what He wanted to do all the time.



And this is what Paul was talking about in Romans 7. He goes on to say it does not matter which way I turn I can't make myself do the right thing. He has a desire to do right, but he can't. Paul discovered that when he is didn't what he doesn't want to, it is plain where the trouble lies!

*Rom 7:18 I know I am rotten through and through so far as my **old sinful nature** is concerned. No matter which way I turn I can't make myself do right. I want to but I can't. 19 When I want to do good, I don't; and when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway. 20 Now if I am doing what I don't want to, **it is plain where the trouble is: sin still has me in its evil grasp.** TLB*

He goes on and distinguished between the two natures in him: “as far as my “**new nature**” is concerned I love to do God's will, but there is also something else in my “**lower nature**” that is at war with my mind”.

*Rom 7:21 It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. ²² I love to do God's will so far as my **new nature** is concerned; ²³⁻²⁵ but there is something else deep within me, in my **lower nature**, that is **at war** with my mind and **wins the fight** and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. In my mind I want to be God's willing servant, but instead I find myself still enslaved to sin. TLB*

Paul revealed something here to us. He is talking about his “**new nature**” and a “**lower nature**” and in his lower nature that is at **WAR** with his mind! There is a battle going on – he referred to it as a “**law**” which wars against the mind!

Rom 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

Apart from these two natures, Paul is referring to, he also sees another “law” – not with the unbelievers, but in “my members” (the believers) that are at war with his mind and **WINS** the fight! So, Paul is not just saying it is what happened with him, but in all of us – the believers – in my members. Whao!



Just look at the words in the AMPC version:

“but I discern in my bodily members [in the sensitive appetites and **wills of the flesh**] a **different law (rule of action)** at **war against the law of my mind** (my reason) and making **me a prisoner** to the law of sin that dwells in my **bodily organs** [in the **sensitive appetites and wills of the flesh**]” (Rom 7:23 AMPC). **So this law wars against the mind.**

Let's evaluate what Paul is telling us in Rom 7:23 by looking at each of the following individual aspects in more detail:

- There is a **WAR** going on – a law that wars against the mind.
- It is another **LAW** in my members – “the Law of Sin”.
- My Lower Nature – the **OLD MAN** is in opposition with,
- My **NEW NATURE**

WARRING - THE BATTLE

Paul says this **law wars against the mind!**

Rom 7:23 *But I see another law in my members, warring^{G497} against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*

The meaning of the word “warring” in the original Greek is “**to attack**”. There is principle attacking your mind!

G497

antistrateuomai

an-tee-strat-yoo'-om-ahee

From G473 and G4754; (figuratively) to **attack**, that is, (by implication) **destroy**: - **war against**.

You're either going to win or lose in the mind.



It schemes against you, trying to deceive you and defeat you.

- It's warring against your mind, trying to **bring you into captivity** to what Paul calls the "**law of sin**".
- For all practical purposes, we can call this "**the law the flesh**"
- The "law of sin" as Paul puts it and the "law of the flesh" as we put it, is so closely related that they can hardly be separated.

In essence, Paul is saying that there is a war going on between my "new nature" and my "old nature" in my mind and when it wins (the war in my mind), it brings me into **captivity to the law of sin**. So the law Paul is referring to is the "**Law of Sin**". The "new nature", Paul refers to his "**spirit**" and his lower nature, which is the old man, Paul refers to the "**flesh**".

These are major concepts for the believers to grasp and fully understand to walk out in victory! First, you have to realize that you are CREATED with a **spirit, soul** and a **body**. God our Creator formed us out of the dust – that is our **Body**; when He breath in man's nostrils, God breath life – that is our **Spirit**; and we became a living **Soul**.

Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the **dust** of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the **breath of life**; and man became a **living soul**.

Do you want to know why God created us like this? God knew man would rebel and turn against Him and if our soul and spirit were one, God couldn't redeem us. So God separates the spirit from the soul and gives us another chance to choose; "if we choose Him, His blood brings atonement for us and we are redeemed". Now, when we accept Jesus Christ, we can have eternal life!

God clearly stated in His word that you are not in the "**flesh**", but you are in the **Spirit**.

Rom 8:9 But ye are not in the **flesh**, but in the **Spirit**, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.



God is commanding us to walk in the Spirit. And there is a very good reason that God is commanding us to walk in the Spirit – that you shall not **fulfill the lust of the flesh**. For the flesh lust against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh.

Gal 5:16 *This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall not **fulfil the lust of the flesh**. 17 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. KJV*

**LOOK AGAIN AT VERSE 17 HOW THE SPIRIT AND THE FLESH IS IN CONTRAST
WITH ONE ANOTHER**

"THE BATTLE"

The Believer's Battle – this is the secret of the impossible life on earth. This is where the battle is taking place. Knowing this, and understanding this will set you free to walk in victory.

You simply can't contact your spirit through your emotions or your physical body - herein lies one of the great problems of the Christian life! If you don't understand that spiritual reality can't be felt - then you'll be confused when God's Word declares that you have the **same power** that raised Jesus from the dead (Rom 8:11) "*and if the Spirit of God, who raised up Jesus from the dead, lives in you, he will make your dying bodies live again after you die, by means of this same Holy Spirit living within you* (Eph 1:18-20).

- If you think that the TRUTH can be discerned through your natural senses, then you'll be baffled when the Bible says that you're a brand new creature who can do the same miraculous works what Jesus did - 2 Cor 5:17, John 14:12.
- Without understanding spirit, soul & body you'll search your body and soul in bewilderment wondering - Where is it? I don't really have that kind of power in me - The Bible is so hard to understand.
- If you can't see, taste, hear, smell or touch what the Word reveals about you - you'll immediately be thrown into conflict.



This apparent disparity between your experience and God's Word will cause you to throw up your hands in frustration and conclude.

"It must not be true"

This is the "Battle of the Believer" and it takes place in our soulish and spiritual realm. When a Christian walks like an unbeliever - they get the same results – **DEATH**. Believers who don't understand and apply the knowledge of God in their lives gravitate toward carnal-mindedness. Without spiritual knowledge and understanding - your mind can't be renewed and the life of God in your spirit can't be released. That's why understanding this revelation of spirit, soul, and body is the first step toward walking in life and peace and into freedom. When a believer's understanding is darkened - they are alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them - because of the blindness of their heart! (*Eph 4:18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart*).

WE ARE REFERRING TO SIN:

AS THE "LAW OF SIN" THE "FLESH", AND "SELF-SUFFICIENCY"

SELF SUFFICIENCY

The soul is the mind, will, and emotions and is selfish. Self-sufficiency is operating independently from the Spirit.

- Self-sufficiency is what ***happened*** at the ***tree of knowledge of good and evil***.
- We tried to be God and do things in our own strength and ability.
- You have all the resources you need in Christ, but you can still operate just like an unbeliever.
- We are all capable of anything if we operate independently of this new creation that we are in Christ and begin to operate in the realm of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21).



And the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; **adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,** 20 **Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,** 21 **envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings,** and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall **not inherit the kingdom of God** (Gal 5:19).

Sin warring against Mind

Exactly how does this sin principle war against the mind? I've discovered in my life that it works something like this:

I'm at work and I'm having a bad day. Everything that could possibly go wrong goes wrong. Then I get a thought in my mind that says, "Why don't you go over there and give Tom a piece of your mind because Tom is the problem around here". If it wasn't for Tom, you wouldn't be having all these problems.

If I heard a thought like that I'd say, I rebuke you, devil, in Jesus name. Get out of here! That's pretty obvious that someone is telling me to go over there and give Tom a piece of my mind. However, I very seldom have thoughts like that. The thoughts come and say, I ought to give Tom a piece of my mind. It is first person singular pronoun... identifying with me.

If I go over there and give Tom a piece of my mind, I'm operating on that principle of sin. Not everything that comes into my mind is me.

Don Crow

That is why the Lord gave us weapons for his specific war to overcome and to win:

“For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of **strong holds;**) 5 **Casting down imaginations,** and **every high** thing that exalteth itself **against the knowledge of God,** and bringing into **captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ** (2 Cor 10:4-5).



If I had a bad thought and wasn't enlightened about this topic, I would condemn myself. I would say, If I was really a good Christian I wouldn't have had a thought like that. Good Christians don't have thoughts about giving someone a piece of their mind. It was actually the principle of sin that came via my flesh.

- The devil or a demonic spirit could be attached to it, too.
- Sometimes I don't know the difference, but that doesn't matter.
- The answer is still the same;

I have to bring those thoughts into obedience to Christ.

ANOTHER LAW

Paul tries to explain it to us. He called this sinful nature a law and asked: "Are we following a "different law" in our lives sometimes other than the law of God"?

Rom 7:16 If then I do that which I would not, I **consent unto the law that *it is good***
KJV

If I do **those things that are evil**, I'm telling the law or the Word that his new law that I'm following - which represents evil - is **good** and the Word of God is **evil**. When you do those evil things you wished you would not do – you are consenting unto the law of God that this thing that he should not be doing is good and that automatically puts you under the **authority of another gospel!**

When we hate our brother - we are affirming a new gospel that overthrows the gospel of our God! The gospel of God says to forgive our brother - when instead we hold onto unforgiveness and bitterness toward our brother - we are in fact following a different law - a different gospel, a different way of thinking from that of God. So when we allow fear to rule our lives - we are affirming the gospel of FEAR. Fear destroys FAITH - which is of God. When we are allowing guilt to rule our lives - we're affirming the gospel of guilt to the destruction of forgiveness by God. We are the ones who are setting up one gospel against another!



We are either establishing the law of the kingdom of God or we are establishing the laws of Satan's kingdom!

Sin involves the overthrowing of the government, the laws, and precepts of God. By doing it we are establishing another gospel on earth for mankind to follow to their destruction - not to their benefit. There's not enough emphasis put on this dimension of sin in the Church today - we've become so anti-social around the issue of sin because we do not like to think that we have sin in our lives as Christians! It is important to understand this battle, where it takes place and where this sinful nature of mine still is.

SIN

If we are not aware of this problem and know how to deal with it, it results in what the Bible calls **strongholds**. You can't escape the bad thoughts of lusts; the lust of the eyes, lusts of the flesh and the pride of life (1 John 2:16).

2Co 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not **carnal**, but **mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds**)

Then, as a result of those strongholds, there are **demonic activities that begin to operate in the life of the believer**. (Eph 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.)

The root problem to the struggles we face as believers (many of you may disagree with me at first) is one word - **SIN**

- The reason you may disagree is because we have only a partial understanding of this subject.
- To confuse it more - looking at scriptures above and like Rom 6:2 says that we are dead in sin? Rom 6:2b that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

When you hear the word sin most of you think of something you did.



You think of an action, like the time you got angry or gossiped; but I'm not talking about sin in that context. The word "SIN" in Romans Chapter 5 to 8 - is used 41 times.

- Forty of the times, the word sin is used as a noun.
- Only once is the word sin used as a verb, indicating an action or something you do.
- **As a noun, the scripture is talking about a principle.**

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned^{G264}, and come short of the glory of God;

G264

hamartanō

ham-ar-tan'-o

Perhaps from G1 (as a negative particle) and the base of G3313; properly to *miss* the **mark** (and so not share in the prize), that is, (figuratively) to *err*, especially (morally) to *sin*: - for your faults, offend, sin, trespass.

The word sin in the Greek word is "**hamartia**" and literally, that word means a **missing of the mark**.

Sin is coming short of the glory of God

When you yield yourself under the law of sin and sin overtakes you, you are not sharing in the prize. What prize?

In the prize of victory;

Rev 15:2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the **victory over the beast**, and over his **image**, and over his **mark**, and over the **number of his name**, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. KJV

You must overcome to stand before the throne and sing a marvelous song of victory with all the saints. To understand this better, let's look at Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words;



"Sin" as a noun.

So, sin can refer to an action. But Vine also says that the earliest known use is largely lost in the New Testament. He says that sin is a principle.

- It's a **source of action**.
- It's not the act itself, but **it's an inward element that produces the act**.
- Then he says that sin is a **governing principle or power**.
- **Sin is an organized power that acts through the members of the body**.
- The body is the instrument.

Vine continues and says that sin, the governing power that tries to operate through our body, is personified. He lists 16 scriptures in which sin is personified.

- To personify something is to give it personality.
- In the Old Testament, wisdom was personified. Wisdom wasn't a person, but wisdom cried from the streets (Prov. 1:20).

It seems if the Apostle Paul **personified the word sin** in Romans, Chapters 5-8.

- It is not saying that sin seems to almost have a personality, but
- It seems to **have a tactic**.
- It **schemes against you**. It tries to **deceive you**. It **wants to beat you**.

Evan as born-again believers we still have an **old nature** – it is the **spirit of disobedience**.

Eph 2:1 AND YOU [*He made alive*], **when you were dead** (slain) by [*your*] trespasses and sins. In which at one **time you walked [*habitually*]**. You were **following the course and fashion of this world** [*were under the sway of the tendency of this present age*], following the prince of the power of the air. [*You were obedient to and under the control of*] the [*demon*] spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience [*the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God*]. AMP



It is this old spirit that was dead in trespasses and sins.

- This spirit is who we were outside of Christ and in Adam.

Rom 5:12 When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. His sin spread death throughout all the world, so everything began to grow old and die, for all sinned. ¹³ We know that it was Adam's sin that caused this because although, of course, people were sinning from the time of Adam until Moses, God did not in those days judge them guilty of death for breaking his laws—because he had not yet given his laws to them nor told them what he wanted them to do. TLB

- This old spirit was crucified with Christ and there was a new creation.

Rom 6:14 Sin need never again be your master, [b] for now you are no longer tied to the law where sin enslaves you, but you are free under God's favor and mercy. ¹⁵ Does this mean that now we can go ahead and sin and not worry about it? (For our salvation does not depend on keeping the law but on receiving God's grace!) Of course not! ¹⁶ Don't you realize that you can choose your own master? You can choose sin (with death) or else obedience (with acquittal). The one to whom you offer yourself—he will take you and be your master, and you will be his slave. ¹⁷ Thank God that though you once chose to be slaves of sin, now you have obeyed with all your heart the teaching to which God has committed you. ¹⁸ And now you are free from your old master, sin; and you have become slaves to your new master, righteousness. ¹⁹ I speak this way, using the illustration of slaves and masters, because it is easy to understand: just as you used to be slaves to all kinds of sin, so now you must let yourselves be slaves to all that is right and holy. ²⁰ In those days when you were slaves of sin you didn't bother much with goodness. ²¹ And what was the result? Evidently not good, since you are ashamed now even to think about those things you used to do, for all of them end in eternal doom. TLB

- Old things passed away and everything became new in our spirits.

There may be times you fail. You may have all kinds of feelings, but inside you delight to do the will of God.



Disease

Herein lays the secret of sickness and disease. It is not God who makes you sick, nor can the devil makes you sick. So how can you then get a disease and become sick? During this battle in the mind when you yield instead to the Law of God (e.g. forgiveness), you yield to the Law of Sin (e.g. unforgiveness) it is in this soulish realm (the mind, emotions, and will), in our mind that disease is produced! Our bodies are very chemical and when we, for example, yield unto the spirit of fear over a very long period, a chemical imbalance occurs. These imbalances in our bodies' lead to many hormone deficiencies and our bodies end up with a disease and sickness which leads to death. The Word of God is there to show us our hidden sin – where the battle takes place between the old man (soul) and the new man (spirit). But few are listening to God's Word and His correction (2 Tim 3:16).

Heb 4:12 For the **word of God is quick**, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the **dividing asunder of soul and spirit**, and of the **joints and marrow**, and *is* a **discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart**. 13 Neither is there **any creature that is not manifest in his sight**: but **all things are naked** and **opened** unto the **eyes of him with whom we have to do**.

This is what the Word of God is doing – it is like a two-edged sword – it divides and splits the spirit and the soul of man and discerning the thoughts and intents of the heart.

More than 80% of sickness and disease are spiritually originated and this is in the realm of the spirit where the Church must deal with the spirit of man with the Word of God. No doctor or the physio can do this and no psychologist or the psyche can do this either. To forgive my brother or my neighbor I must **first separate sin from myself** and / or the other person. I'm not the one with sin - I am not sinning. I reserve the right to deal with sin - get it out of my life and remain who I am in Christ. So I can exchange compassion for bitterness according to the knowledge of God. Now - in your own life you see that sin that dwells within and you know it yields the



fruits of self-hatred, bitterness, unbelief, doubt, fear, jealousy, envy, competition, and strife. Do you know that strife is found in the same verses as murder, adultery, and fornication (hoerery).

Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God **gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;** 29 Being filled with all **unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,** 30 **Backbiters, haters** of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, **disobedient to parents,** 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful

Sin gives Satan access to your body and soul

Rom 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness?

Satan wants to bring death into your life any way he can.

- Sickness, disease, poverty, shame, depression, discouragement and all sorts of other nasty things.
- Why give your enemy an opportunity to come against you?
- But as a Christian, we do not have to live holy in order for God to accept and be pleased with you.
- Our actions and attitudes as to what we do determine how you get along with other people.
- That's why it's still to your advantage to live a holy life.

Rom 7:17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.



Look at verse 18 - Paul is making it very clear to me - that it is in my FLESH. The body without the spirit is dead - if not born again there is absolute nothing good in you. John 6:63 the spirit quicken and the flesh profits nothing. This is the struggle that we all have - believers and unbelievers - in the physical body!

Jam 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Jam 5:16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

We must separate ourselves from the sin that dwells within us and that dwells within our neighbour. When you look at your neighbor you are going to have to be able to look at them separately from their sin - to bring any kind of sanity into your Christian walk before God. What happens when you see sin in your neighbor is that you make him the same as his sin. He does not sin and if he's a believer - he's the redeemed of God. He may have sinned - but he is not sinning. He is the one whom God saw from the foundation of the world. He's the one whom the Spirit of God lives within - he's the one who's being redeemed. He's the one whom God loves - but he's got some sin tagging along that needs to go. The sin needs to go; it's interfering with his sonship - interfering with his sanctification - interfering with his position before God and that is the area we need to deal with

Discernment unto freedom requires **separation** - seeing sin for what it is

- What I am about to teach you right here is the foundation for your freedom - that's **discernment** and **separation**
- You must be able to separate yourself from the sin that dwells within you.
- Romans 7 shows us that we need to separate ourselves and our hearts from the sin within - that is the day that sanctification begins in my life
- Then we on our way to FREEDOM



It is not what enters a man that can defile him, but the things which come out of him. We are hung by our tongues – you can only speak life or death (Prov 18:21). Nothing in-between.

Mar 7:15 There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.

Mar 7:20 And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. 21 For from within, out of the **heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,** 22 Thefts, **covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:** 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Look at the profound words of Galatians all the works of the “**flesh**”.

Gal 5:19 **Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,** 20 **Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,** 21 **Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings,** and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Why is this so - because we are not **sanctified**?

That is what is causing our biological, spiritual and mental diseases. This is what Paul is saying in Chapter 7 - because we can't separate ourselves from our sin we condemn ourselves every day and Sunday trying to approach God. We have an enemy - and I still have a heart for God. We must deal with this enemy and he must go. The day that you learn to **separate yourself** and your **heart** from your **sin** is the day that **sanctification in your life will begin!**

Rom 7:17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.



And God wants to sanctify you in your spirit, soul, and body:

1Th 5:23 And the very God of **peace sanctify you wholly**; and *I pray God* your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

FLESH

“The Impossible Life”

Now that we have discovered we are a spirit, with a soul, living in a body and that there is a war going on in your mind between the spirit and the soul we can analyze what the scripture is telling us about our soul – the flesh.

When Paul is saying that he had learned to separate himself and his heart from his sin, he is talking about his flesh. Now here's a situation where "**FLESH**" has to do with the carnal nature. Paul is not talking about his human flesh. Paul goes on to say in verse 18 – *“for I know that in me - **that is, in my flesh - dwells no good thing; for to will is present with me but how to perform that which is good I find not”***.

Paul is referring to his “*carnal*” - his man in the “*flesh*”. In the Greek the word Flesh means carnal minded, a human nature / being with its frailties, physically or morally passions. The Greek word is “sarx”.

G4561

sarx

flesh (as *stripped* of the skin), that is, (strictly) the *meat* of an animal (as food), or (by extension) the **body** (as opposed to the **soul** (or spirit), or as the symbol of what is external, or as the means of kindred, or (by implication) **human nature** (with its frailties (physically or morally) and passions), or (specifically) a *human being* (as such): - **carnal** (-ly, + -ly minded), flesh ([-ly]).



As a man thinks he will become: "For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart *is* not with thee" (Pro 23:7). When we are walking in the spirit we shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh (*This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Gal 5:16). It is our daily thoughts; the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life that determines who you become.

That is what's happening: We struggle in the flesh - but still have a good heart for God. We are looking in the mirror - the perfect law of liberty - and when we turn away - we see the sin.

Rom 7:19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, **but sin that dwelleth in me.**

Paul is talking here about his ***carnal nature*** - that ***unrenewed part*** of him that didn't match the nature of God within him. He came to the realization that it was not him - for he knew his heart before God was to do good; so he concluded that it was something else that was within him that was doing it - that is - the sin; yet the conclusion of this is that it was sin that dwelt within, causing an action through Paul that became sin to him. More than once Paul has concluded that in his life as a Christian and apostle it was not him doing it - He determined it was evil / sin that was dwelling in him - doing it through him. This is the same with us - we have a heart for the Lord - the harder we try the more hindered we get. The beginning of understanding is to be able to ***separate yourself from the sin*** that dwells within that is acting out its nature through you - thus the full meaning of Heb 4:12-13.

Hebr 4:12 For whatever God says to us is full of living power: it is sharper than the sharpest dagger, ***cutting swift and deep into our innermost thoughts and desires*** with all their parts, ***exposing us for what we really are.*** ¹³ He knows about everyone, everywhere. Everything about us is bare and wide open to the ***all-seeing eyes of our living God; nothing can be hidden from him to whom we must explain all that we have done.*** TLB



What an amazing scripture. God already knows everything and it is His desire to reveal our entire shortcoming to us – not to condemn us, but to heal and to sanctify us. This is where healing of disease begins!

This sin that dwells within Paul identified in Hebrews 4:13 as the creatures that need to be made open and naked before Him with whom we have to do.

Rom 7:21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. 22 For I delight in the law of God after the **inward man**: 23 But I see **another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind**, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! **who shall deliver me** from the body of this death?

Here Paul very clearly stated that evil was present with him and that law - sin / evil - was in his members, **warring** against the law of his mind and bringing him into captivity to the law of sin which was in his members. He was asking for deliverance - right up front and he told us the answer in verse 25

Rom 7:25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the **mind I myself serve the law of God**; but with the **flesh the law of sin**.

We are all winning or losing it in the arena of the mind

Paul discovered that sin was a law. He explained it like this;

- He tried to do good and he failed.
- He tried to do good again and he failed.
- So he tried to be holy again and he failed.
- He tried to keep the commandments and he failed.
- Then he decided that this must be a law of sin that works in his members - a law of defeat coming against him.

What did Paul mean by a law?



If you were to shoot someone, the police would come and arrest you and take you to jail. This is applicable all over the world - It's a universal law that if you kill someone you will be arrested and stand trial. A law is consistent. It works the same way all the time.

A better example is the law of gravity. The law of gravity applies everywhere. It works the same way all the time and has its own natural power.

Can you beat it?

Have you lived your Christian life trying to beat the "**law of sin**" that seems to have its own power to hold you down? You may say, I'm not going to be defeated. I'm going to get really committed. Then the next Sunday night you have to get recommitted. So every Sunday night you get rededicated. You may think you're not exercising your will enough. Can you live your Christian life that way? Can you say no to sin and defeat it? You can, but it's like defeating the law of gravity.

"I can hold an object in my hand and keep it from falling to the floor. For a time, I am defeating the law of gravity. Eventually, my hand and arm will become so tired that I can't hold it any longer. I will drop it because there is a natural power in the law of gravity pulling on my hand".

Sin is not only doing something wrong by violating a command - it's also something right that you should have done!

Jam 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth **to do good**, and **doeth it not**, to him **it is sin.**

Many of us have lived our Christian life that way. We may think we'll just exercise more will power against sin. Paul says: "*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not*" (Rom 7:18). The more we try to beat sin or to exercise more power over it the less we get it right. Paul confirms this – he is saying in Rom 7 that the



things that he wishes to do - he just do not do it, but the things he does not want to do - those things he does!

Rom 7:14 For we know that the **law is spiritual**: but **I am carnal, sold under sin**. 15 For that which **I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not**; but **what I hate, that do I**. KJV

Rom 7:14 We know that the Law is spiritual; but I am a **creature of the flesh** [*carnal, unspiritual*], having been sold into slavery **under [the control of] sin**. 15 For I do not understand my own actions [*I am baffled, bewildered*]. I do not practice or accomplish what I wish, but I do the very thing that I loathe [*which my moral instinct condemns*]. AMP

Looking closely what Paul is saying - we first need to understand who we are?

Paul is saying - I am "**CARNAL**" (KJV) and in the AMP he refers to "**a creature of the flesh**". Notwithstanding the fact that Paul is not just any believer - he's been an apostle for at least 20 years and he's talking about his life and his challenges in living a Christian life. This does sound familiar to all of us!

Paul is saying that I myself serve the law of God - but I've got a problem. I have a problem in my life - I've got sin that dwells within me. Fear is a sin - Unforgiveness is sin - strife is sin - self-hatred is sin - heresy (kettery) is still sin - Lasciviousness (losbandigheid) is still sin - backbiting is still sin - Causing church split is still sin - jealousy and envy are still sin. It is not what goes into your mouth that defiles you - it's what comes from within you - out of your mouth.

Mar 7:15 There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.

For from within out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornication, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness and evil eye, blasphemy, pride foolishness - all these evil things come from within and defile the man.



Mar 7:20 And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 **Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:** 23 **All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.**

So Flesh is everything that is not born-again and not under the control of the Holy Spirit.

Carnal mindedness does not necessarily mean sinful mindedness (*all sin is carnal but not all carnality is sin*).

- CARNAL literally means - "of the 5 senses or sensual! - see, smell, taste, hear and feel!
- It is everything in the physical realm which is in contrast with the spiritual realm.

The soul consists out of the Mind, Will, Emotions and the Conscious and the Body operates in the physical realm and refers to the "old man", carnal, flesh! And this is where the Battle takes place. Between the spirit and the carnal, flesh of man.

Rom 8:6 For to be **carnally minded is death**; but to be **spiritually minded is life and peace.**

Carnal mindedness is allowing your mind to be dominated by what you can see, taste, hear, smell and feel. You are carnal minded when your thoughts center primarily on the physical realm. The sad news that if you are like this – carnal minded – thoughts center on the physical realm you mind wins the fight and makes you a slave of sin!

Rom 7:23-24 "in my **lower nature**, that is at **war with my mind and wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin** that is still within me. In my mind I want to be God's willing servant, but instead I find myself still enslaved to sin.

BUT we *walk in the spirit* we shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Gal 5:16 *This* I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.



SPIRIT

Let us at this point have a short and quick look at the next part of our original text:

*Rom 7:22 I love to do God's will so far as my **new nature** is concerned; TLB*

Understanding your "**new nature**" will allow you to have a much better and clearer understanding of all our scriptures and to put everything into perspective. Let's put everything into perspective by looking at some scripture that the Bible is telling us about who we are now in Christ. When you are born-again, baptized out of the water and baptized in the Holy Spirit then my **old man is crucified** and my body of sin is destroyed and I will serve sin no more!

Rom 6:6 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.

Now, through the **crucifixion** of Christ, I live - **Christ in me** and the life that I now live in the flesh I live by Faith.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me**: and the life which I now **live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God**, who loved me and gave himself for me.

You are a **new creation in Jesus Christ**. Some versions mention new "species". I always say you change from a human being to a spiritual being!

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

We are **one spirit** unto the Lord

1Co 6:17 But he that is joined unto the **Lord is one spirit**.

We are not in the Flesh - but **in the spirit** - IF we do not have the spirit of Christ we do not belong to Him

Rom 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.



There is a **mystery** - a revelation hidden from all ages and generations that **Christ is in YOU!**

Col 1:26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you**, the hope of glory:

Man, this is just profound truth. Paul is revealing the mystery, the revelation hidden for many ages – but now we know: “**Christ is in you**”.

You are a **new creature**: “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things become new*” (2Co 5:17). **Perfectly made**; “*That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works* (2Ti 3:17) and having now the **mind of Christ**; “*For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ* (1Co 2:16). You now have “**The measure of Faith**”, which is the same faith Jesus had on earth – “according to as God hath dealt with every man the measure of faith (Rom 12:3). Your newborn spirit is as perfect as Christ, vacuum packed and **sealed with the Holy Spirit** and will never change again: “*In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise* (Eph 1:13).

This is who we are in Christ and we must walk the new life accordingly. Paul is warning the believers to lay down the “**old man**” which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, but rather to put on now the “**new self**” – the new creation after the likeness and image of God in His true righteousness and holiness. Lay down the **old man which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts**; put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness (Eph 4:22 24).



SANCTIFICATION

Knowing that there is a *battle* going on between our “*old man*” – carnal man – the flesh and our “*new man*” – our spirit – and that because of our old ways of thinking sickness and disease can enter into our bodies, we need sanctification. This is God's desire:

1Th 5:23 And the very God of peace **sanctify you wholly**; and *I pray God* your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus was identified all the wrong things we are doing within the **carnal man** that defile man and Paul recognized this in Rom 7. In 2 Corinthians Paul developed it as a spiritual principle of **sanctification** for the Church.

2Co 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us **cleanse ourselves** from all **filthiness of the flesh**^{G4561} and **spirit**^{G4151}, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God**.

Again, here in Corinthians the word “**flesh**” in the original Greek refers to “**sarx**” and the word “**spirit**” refers to “**pneuma**”

G4561: sarx

Probably from the base of G4563; **flesh** (as *stripped* of the skin), that is, (strictly) the *meat* of an animal (as food), or (by extension) the **body** (as **opposed to the soul** (or spirit), or as the symbol of what is external, or as the means of kindred, or (by implication) **human nature** (with its frailties (physically or morally) and passions), or (specifically) a *human being* (as such): - **carnal** (-ly, + -ly minded), flesh ([-ly]).

G4151: pneuma

From G4154; a *current* of air, that is, **breath** (*blast*) or a *breeze*; by analogy or figuratively a **spirit**, that is, (human) the rational *soul*, (by implication) *vital principle*, mental *disposition*, etc., or (superhuman) an *angel*, *daemon*, or (divine) God, **Christ's spirit, the Holy spirit**: - ghost, life, **spirit** (-ual, -ually), mind. Compare G5590.



Jesus was talking about what is in the heart of man that needs to be dealt with; Paul also picked up on the topic in 2 Cor, 1 Thes and Rom 7 and said that it applied not just to himself but to every one of us. ***I am working out my salvation daily*** through grace and mercy - applying the love of the Father, the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit so that my heart, my soulish man - can be purged of all evil. My poor head gets the picture finally and I become one in my thoughts spiritually and psychologically so I can fulfill the Scriptures. In my spirit - I already have the mind of Christ - I need to draw it out of my spirit into my soul - that's why I need to renew my mind.

2Co 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

This is the process of sanctification - starting to remove spiritual, biological and psychological disease of life - both generationally and personally. When we get before God and take an honest look at ourselves, when we survey our past generations and deal with the sin we find - we then come before God to let Him "work us over". Can you now see and link all these with our profound scripture of Hebr 4:12?

Hebr 4:12 For whatever God says to us is full of living power: it is sharper than the sharpest dagger, ***cutting swift and deep into our innermost thoughts and desires*** with all their parts, ***exposing us for what we really are.*** ¹³ He knows about everyone, everywhere. Everything about us is bare and wide open to the ***all-seeing eyes of our living God; nothing can be hidden from him to whom we must explain all that we have done.*** TLB

The Lord is saying today:

- I'm here knocking - would you open the door of your heart!
- Would you let Me come in with the Holy Spirit and cleanse you - sanctify you and remove the things that are separating Me from you?
- Could I heal you - could I deliver you - could I establish My heart for you?



- Would you enter into that degree of the covenant with Me?
- Could I be God to you?
- Could I be a Savior to you?
- Could I be a Healer to you?
- Could I be a Redeemer to you?
- Could I be a Husband to you?
- Would you fellowship with Me?

Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.
20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open

This scripture is addressing the Church of Laodicea - the believers - telling them that the Lord is not in their hearts when they think He is - but He is outside. Isn't this a tragic picture of the church today. I do not want to hear these words being said to Him - Yea Lord - and He said to me - Depart from Me - I never knew you!

Mat 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. 21 **Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.** 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Rom 6:6 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.

"Is" = present tense - this is where we work out our salvation daily

Phi 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. KJV

Phi 2:12 Therefore, my dear ones, as you have always obeyed [*my suggestions*], so now, not only [*with the enthusiasm you would show*] in my presence but much more



because I am absent, work out (cultivate, carry out to the goal, and fully complete) your own salvation with reverence and awe and trembling (self-distrust, with serious caution, tenderness of conscience, watchfulness against temptation, timidly shrinking from whatever might offend God and discredit the name of Christ). AMP

Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross - according to Rom 6:6 - it is now possible that the body of sin might be destroyed today in your life.

Rom 6:6 Your old ***evil desires were nailed to the cross with him***; that part of you that loves to sin was ***crushed*** and fatally wounded, so that your sin-loving body is no ***longer under sin's control, no longer needs to be a slave to sin*** TLB

This is what we call **sanctification**. God wants us to be whole again and it is His desire to sanctify us in spirit, soul, and body. Why?

So we can be blameless when He returns to come and fetch us again as His "bride". God wants a pure and holy bride and will not defile Him with a second hand, whore.

1Th 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In our soulish realm, we are in a car wash called sanctification. That is what Paul was trying to say. We all sin in our carnal - flesh - old man - human nature.

1Jo 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? 6 This is he that came by water and blood, *even* Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness because the Spirit is truth. 7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. 9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. 10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.



Today we see the same sins in believers today as those that can be found in the unbeliever (Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God). In both cases - saved and unsaved have fallen short of the glory of God. This is exactly what Paul said:

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

Then Paul answers this:

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

Isn't this scripture even more clear - how is it then possible to even live in sin if you are dead to SIN? Our spirit doesn't become righteous through your good actions and attitudes - righteousness comes through confessing Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. As you are born again - God gives you this brand-new spirit. Righteousness is NOT based on your actions. Our new nature desires to live holy and we do not want to give the devil access to your soul and body through sin!

Sin's Strength

If you are truly born again - God has changed your nature!

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

You are no longer a child of the devil who loves to sin. You do still sin - but it's not your nature anymore! Your spirit has been changed - and you no longer enjoy it (your sin). Every born-again believer has a built-in desire to live holy.

1Jo 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifies himself, even as he is pure.

When we preaching the Law - legalism and religious works - actually strengthens sin

1Co 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

The Law makes you sin more by causing you to lust for the very thing that's forbidden. That's why God gave it - mankind was being destroyed by sin - but we deceived ourselves into thinking - I'm pretty good - God answered - Oh - you think you're ok - let me show you what the real standard is!



THE LAW MADE SIN COME ALIVE SO YOU'D RECOGNIZE YOU NEED FOR A SAVIOR

Rom 7:9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

The problem here is the many believers mix the Old Testament with the New Testament and then they think God is schizophrenic - BUT HE IS NOT

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

BECAUSE OF OUR POSITIONAL OBEDIENCE – WE SHOULD NOT BE SERVING SIN ALTHOUGH MANY DO AND THAT'S NOT HISTORICAL, THAT'S PRESENT TENSE

HAS THE BODY OF SIN BEEN DESTROYED IN YOUR LIFE OR ARE YOU STILL SERVING SIN TODAY

Rom 6:12 ***Let not sin therefore rule as king*** in your ***mortal*** (short-lived, perishable) ***bodies***, to ***make you yield to its cravings and be subject to its lusts and evil passions.***

Rom 6:12 is not saying that sin is not reigning in your body today - it says that you should ***not let it reign*** and you should not obey it

Rom 6:13 Do not continue offering or yielding your bodily members [*and faculties*] to sin as instruments (tools) of wickedness. **But offer and yield yourselves to God** as though you have been raised from the dead to [*perpetual*] life, and your bodily members [*and faculties*] to God, presenting them as implements of righteousness.

It does not say you are not yielding your members as instruments of unrighteousness - Paul is saying you should not be - you should yield yourself to God and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. Who is your master and what are you a servant to? ***Sin unto death or obedience unto righteousness.*** If you decide to serve sin - then sin becomes your Lord and you become its slave.



Rom 6:14 **Sin need never again be your master**, for now you are no longer tied to the law where sin enslaves you, but you are free under God's favor and mercy. 15 Does this mean that now we can go ahead and sin and not worry about it? (*For our salvation does not depend on keeping the law but on receiving God's grace!*) Of course not! 16 **Don't you realize that you can choose your own master?** You can choose sin (with death) or else obedience (with acquittal). The one to whom you offer yourself—he will take you and be your master, and you will be his slave.

Those who continue to walk in the flesh bring themselves back into condemnation and Satan has a legal right to their lives until they repent!

Rom 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Act correctly - flesh go away

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

It is like old icons on your iPhone or computer – after not using it for a time it asks you if it can be removed from the screen – as you are not using it anymore.

Likewise – when you are not using old pathways anymore, which were there because of the law of sin, it can also be removed because of new pathways formed (the renewing of your mind) under the Law of the Kingdom of God.

Every born-again believer has undergone a complete inner transformation

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a **new creature: old things are passed away**; behold, **all things are become new**. 18 **And all things are of God**, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;



This Scripture is saying that ALL THINGS become new. It declares old things have passed - past tense. All things have become new - present tense - reality right now. All things are of God. If we do not understand spirit, soul, and body - we will constantly be confused, frustrated and ultimately not believe when we see scripture like this. After I was born-again my body remained the same and I am still as stupid as before my born again experience. The time will come when we all will receive a glorified body but that hasn't happened yet.

1Co 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this **mortal must put on immortality**. 54 So when this **corruptible shall have put on incorruption**, and this **mortal shall have put on immortality**, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory

Although Christ's atonement provided for you physically, your body has not yet been saved. It's been purchased - but not yet redeemed. Jesus purchased your glorified body through His death, burial and resurrection - although full payment has been made - you still have a corrupt body while you wait to receive your immortal, incorruptible one. At this moment, you do not yet have the redemption of the purchased possession.

Eph 1:14 That [*Spirit*] is the guarantee of our inheritance [*the firstfruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage*], in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring [*complete*] possession of it--to the praise of His glory. AMP

Your Soul wasn't saved either - this might sound strange to many people because they use terminology like "I'm a soul-winner" and I came to see a soul saved to describe an evangelist and evangelism.

In reality, the New Testament only mentions soul salvation a few times - and none of them - in context are talking about the born-again experience (Heb 10:39; James 1:21, 5:20; 1 Pet 1:9).



SOUL SALVATION HAPPENS WHEN AN EMOTIONALLY DISCOURAGED AND MENTALLY DEFEATED CHRISTIAN STARTS BELIEVING GOD'S WORD AND THEN EXPERIENCES VICTORY, PEACE, AND JOY AGAIN

When it comes to being born again - your soul wasn't the part of you that completely changed! If you were stupid before you were saved - you're still stupid after being saved. If you were depressed before - you got saved - you'll stay depressed until you change the way your soul thinks by believing God's Word.

YOUR SOUL CAN BE TRANSFORMED NOW TO THE DEGREE YOU RENEW YOUR MIND, CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDES AND CONFORM YOUR VALUES TO THE WORD OF GOD

This should happen, and it's in the process of happening but it doesn't automatically happen. In your soul, old things haven't passed away - and all things haven't yet become new - the transformation of your soul won't be completed until you get to be with Jesus!

Where the Change is Complete

When you receive your glorified body - you'll also receive your glorified soul - 1 Cor 13:9-12

1Co 13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

When that which is perfect comes - your glorified body - your current partial knowledge will give way to full revelation! That's the coming future fulfillment of



transformation and complete change in your body and soul. But Scripture has clearly stated that any person who is in Christ is right now a brand-new creature.

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Old things have passed away - all things have become new - this total transformation isn't just in process; it's describing a change that's already been done - an accomplished fact

WHERE DID THIS COMPLETE CHANGE OCCUR? - ACCORDING TO GOD'S MIRROR - NOT IN YOUR BODY AND NOT IN YOUR SOUL BUT IN YOUR BORN - AGAIN SPIRIT

--- o0o ---

TWO MASTERS

It is just not possible to serve two Masters. Either you going to love the one and hate the other! This is very important to be understood with regards to certain diseases before you can be healed! You can't be healed of lupus (*veltering, vel uitslag - melaats*) and still hang onto self-hatred - it's just not going to happen.

Mat 6:24 **No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one**, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

But we all have a **choice**. In Chapter 6 Paul is saying: “*Don't you realize that you can **choose your own master**? You can choose sin (with death) or else obedience (with acquittal). The one to whom you offer yourself—he will take you and be your master, and you will be his slave (Rom 6:16 TLB).*”



You can choose who's slave you want to become. You can offer yourself to the law of sin (death) or to the law of God (life). To whom you offer yourself, he will take you and be your MASTER. That is why God brings to you to the choice:

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that* I have **set before you life and death, blessing and cursing**: therefore **choose life**, that both thou and thy seed may live: KJV

God calls the heaven and the earth (all and everybody as witnesses) that He sets before you today to choose between life and death – But He also gives you the answer – Choose Me – choose Life – so I – God Almighty can become your MASTER!

What is the verdict?

Who will be your Master?

--- o0o ---

HIGHER LAW

The purpose of the Law, which God gave to Moses was to make you bow your knee and confess - "God HAVE MERCY ON ME" I can't do it on my own - I can't break this sin. The law wasn't given to help you overcome sin. It was to show you that sin had already overcome you. The Law strengthened sin and gave it so much power that it would effectively remove the deception that you could ever get rid of sin on your own. Religion - however, turns it around and says - "*The law was given to help you overcome sin*". That's just not true. If you are truly born-again you will have a desire to live for God



1Jo 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

There will be varying degrees of this purity manifest in your actions and thought, BUT - every born-again person seeks to purify themselves. This is clear, man cannot overcome and defeat sin. It is as we said to try to overcome the law of gravity. It is just impossible – you can't. So, what shall we say then – to give up?

God forbid – Our Father Heaven put into effect a different plan –

“Another Law”

Rom 8:3 We aren't saved from sin's grasp by knowing the commandments of God because **we can't and don't keep them**, but **God put into effect a different plan to save us**. He sent his own Son in a human body like ours—except that ours are sinful—and destroyed sin's control over us by giving himself as a sacrifice for our sins.

TLB

I like the way Paul is explaining this in TLB version. He says that he is speaking this way, using the illustration of slaves and masters because it is easy to understand.

Rom 6:18 I speak this way, using the illustration of slaves and masters, because it is easy to understand: just as you used to be slaves to all kinds of sin, so now you must let yourselves be slaves to all that is right and holy. ²⁰ **In those days when you were slaves of sin you didn't bother much with goodness.** ²¹ And what was the **result?** Evidently not good, since you are ashamed now even to think about those things you used to do, for all of them end in eternal doom. ²² **But now you are free from the power of sin and are slaves of God**, and his benefits to you include holiness and everlasting life. ²³ For the **wages of sin is death**, but the **free gift of God is eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.TLB

Paul is saying that there was a time that you were a slave of sin and the result was death. BUT NOW, you are free from that power of sin and are a slave of God. But now you have received the free gift from God – that is ETERNAL LIFE. In essence, Paul is saying you can only overcome the law of sin and winning the battle when you **replace** the “**law of sin**” with a higher law – with the “**law of God**”.



Dr. Myles Munroe tells a story in one of his teachings, explaining this principle by using the example of a Boeing 747. This airplane weighed 225 ton. It can't be moved on the ground, but still, you know that it can fly. How is this possible? How can 250 ton fly like a feather? This airplane of 250 ton leaves the ground because the "**Law of Gravity**" is canceled by another law: "**the Law of Lift**". We do not destroy the Law of Gravity - but we are using the Law of Gravity to hold the airplane on the ground to reach a speed of 260 km/h and then it creates a new law and the wings are canceling the Law of Gravity and the Law of Lift takes over. Amazing!

But even more amazing is that if the airplane stays on the ground at that high speed (*if it was possible to keep it on the ground*) it will destroy itself. It can't stay on the ground, it automatically creates another law – "the Law of Aerodynamics".

So what is going to bring you out of your mess – "**LAWS**". It is laws that keep you on the ground, but God also created many other laws to cancel the law of sin. Gravity does not go away, so you can't pray for the depression – but you can cancel it with another higher law! It is only impossible to cancel it if you stay under the law of gravity. Gravity makes the law of lift possible. That very same thing that is holding you down will eventually kick in and lift you out of it. For example, "the law of love" will take you out of "the law of hate".

More good news is that once that airplane is in the air it operates under the complete different law! You can look down on the earth and see that gravity does not influence you anymore BUT you have to keep the speed up. If you drop the speed the plane will drop like a rock. Whatever got you there - will keep you there! Once you are at a different level - it will keep you there. Separates you with those you are associated with - some that you can't associate with anymore. It is only a law that lifts 250 ton from the ground!

This is profound my friend. You need to meditate for a while on this and let it sink into your innermost being and personality. Similar, there is only one way to beat the "**law of sin**" that has a natural force.



TO PUT A HIGHER LAW INTO OPERATION

FREED vs FREE

Let me challenge your “theology” today - the **Bible never talks about overcoming sin**. The Bible teaches about being freed and delivered from sin (Rom. 6:7, 22) through a **power** that Paul calls **another law**.

Rom 6:7 For he that is dead is **freed from sin**.

Don't just read too fast over this simple text. Paul is using the word “freed”.

freed

simple past tense and past participle of free

The adjective **FREED** has 2 senses:

- *Freed from bondage*
- *Having become freed from entanglement; disengaged*

*Familiarity information: **FREED** used as an adjective is rare.*

Freed the slaves by legislation does not mean that all are aware of the new law and were still under bondage of the law of slavery

1. *To make free, as from confinement or oppression: freed the slaves.*
2. *To be relieved of a burden, obligation or restraint: a **people** who were at last **freed from fear**.*
3. *To remove obstructions or entanglements from; clear: free a path through the jungle.*
4. *To make available: Cancelling the program freed up money for the new library.*

loose, unloose, unloosen, release, liberate, release, discharge, set free, disengage, forgive, unbound, unrestricted, detached allowed, permitted, unrestricted, unimpeded, at liberty, open, clear, able, loose, unattached, unregulated, disengaged, untrammelled, unobstructed, unhampered, unengaged



What it says, is that when the law of slavery changed, it “freed” the people from slavery.

But not all of them were aware of the new legislation and were still in bondage and captive under the law of slavery. Once they became aware of the good news, they can only become free when they walk out in that freedom.

Rom 8;4 So **now we can obey God's laws** if we follow **after the Holy Spirit** and no longer obey the old evil nature within us. 5 Those who let themselves be controlled by their lower natures live only to please themselves, but those who follow after the Holy Spirit find themselves doing those things that **please God**. 6 Following after the Holy Spirit leads to life and peace, but following after the old nature leads to death 7 because the **old sinful nature within us is against God**. It never did obey God's laws and it never will. 8 **That's why those who are still under the control of their old sinful selves, bent on following their old evil desires, can never please God.** 9 **But you are not like that.** You are **controlled by your new nature** if you have the Spirit of God living in you TLB

Likewise, the Word of God already “freed” you from sin. Are you aware of this new law? If not – I am here today to bring the good news to you – you are no longer enslaved into slavery – you are free. Just as the new legislation freed the slaves, it took somebody to bring the good news to them in order for them to walk out into their freedom. You are now controlled by your new nature. Paul explains it and says: We all died with Christ (*when you accepted Jesus Christ and were baptized your old man died and stayed behind the water*), but we all rise with Christ (*when we came out of the water*) and share his new life. All your evil desires – the sinful nature – were nailed to the cross and crushed. The “**law of sin**” has now been canceled with a higher law – the “**law of God**”. This new law freed you from all its allure and its power over you.

Rom 6:6 For you have become a part of him, and so **you died with him**, so to speak, when he died; and now you share his **new life** and **shall rise as he did**.⁶ Your **old evil desires were nailed to the cross** with him; **that part of you that loves to sin was crushed and fatally wounded**, so that your **sin-loving body is no longer**



under sin's control, no longer needs to be a ***slave to sin***; ⁷ ***for when you are deadened to sin you are freed from all its allure and its power over you***. ⁸ And since your old sin-loving nature "***died***" ***with Christ***, we know that you will share his ***new life***. ⁹ Christ rose from the dead and will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. ¹⁰ He died once for all to end sin's power, but now he lives forever in unbroken fellowship with God. ¹¹ ***So look upon your old sin nature as dead and unresponsive to sin***, and instead be ***alive to God***, alert to him, through Jesus Christ our Lord. TLB

Rom 8:2 For the ***power of the life-giving Spirit***—and this power is mine through Christ Jesus—has ***freed*** me from the vicious circle of sin and death. TLB

Now that you are aware of the implication of this new legislation – accept the free gift from Christ Jesus and walk out into freedom.

Rom 6:14 ***Sin need never again be your master***, for ***now you are no longer tied to the law where sin enslaves*** you, but you are ***free*** under God's favor and mercy. TLB

Rom 6:22 But now being ***made free from sin***, and ***become servants to God***, ye have your ***fruit unto holiness***, and the end ***everlasting life***. KJV

Now it is your turn – walk out into your freedom – You are free from the law of sin. A higher law canceled it. It is the law of the Kingdom of God! With the new law, God's new plan He puts in place for us, we overcome and crush the "law of sin" by replacing it with the power of the Holy Spirit with a higher law – the "law of the spirit". That makes us now sons and daughter of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 8:13 For if you keep on following it you are lost and will perish, but if through the ***power of the Holy Spirit you crush it and its evil deeds***, you shall live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

This is the best news a born again believer could hear in his life!

You are Freed from the law of sin

Walk out in freedom as a son and daughter of God Almighty.



ANSWER

I discovered for myself that the answer to this question I had asked about 30 years ago, culminates to;

The Answer to the Impossible Life

Not Guilty

Without the Spirit of God

The End of Yourself

Your Soul must Die

The Daily Walk

All things Add up

Not Guilty

It changed my life the moment I realized that God never imputed the sins of this world on mankind! Whao!

Rom 4:8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord ***will not impute sin***. KJV

God only filled us with the goodness of Jesus Christ and declared to us: "Not Guilty"!

Rom 8:30 And having chosen us, he called us to come to him; and when we came, he declared us "***not guilty***," filled us with Christ's goodness, gave us right standing with himself, and promised us his glory. TLB

We grew up with the wrong theology and were taught that God was mad and punished the people of the Old Testament. Clearly, scripture is telling us something different:

Rom 5:13 We know that it was Adam's sin that caused this[b] because although, of course, ***people were sinning from the time of Adam until Moses, God did not in those days judge them guilty of death for breaking his laws***—because he had not yet given his laws to them nor told them what he wanted them to do. TLB



No – God did not impute any sin on the human race – but instead sacrifice His Son, Christ Jesus to take upon Him all our sin – and only through Him we get our right standing before the throne and the Father.

Rom 8:30b gave us ***right standing with himself***, and promised us his glory. TLB

Without the Spirit of God

In Chapter 7 Paul is clearly talking about the FLESH (soul).

The key to understanding Romans 7 is the personal **pronoun I**.

- The **pronoun I** is used over and over:
- I want to do good. I want to keep the commandments. I want to love God.
- **However, the Spirit of God is not in that chapter.**
- **Paul is a believer, loving God and committed with all his heart, but he is operating on his own steam and burning out.**

And then in Chapter 8 comes the victory as Paul is mentioning the spirit more than 15 times, hence referring to the spiritual man! Roman 8:1 is also a very miss quoted verse by believers as *in most other translations the second part of Rom 8:1 has been left out.*

Rom 8:1 *There is therefore **now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh**, but after the **Spirit**.* KJV

It says that there is no condemnation for us who is in Christ Jesus. But the second part (***which is missing in some other translations***) clearly says for those who are not **walking after the flesh** anymore!

In other words - Paul is saying that there is condemnation for those walking after the FLESH! No condemnation for those walking after the Spirit! When we step outside his parameters we are back under the law again. We have to obey God. As a man thinks he will become: Pro 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart *is* not with thee.



This is where healing manifests. Victory is inside of me. I must see who I am in Christ. Then I can change my thinking and renew my mind!

Gal 5:16 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Joh 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

With the Spirit of God

Remarkable, when Paul comes to the second verse of this Chapter saying: "***for the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus had (past tense) made me free from the law of sin and death***"

Rom 8:2 For the ***law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus*** hath made me ***free*** from the law of sin and death. KJV

HE DIDN'T SAY IT WORKS SOMETIMES - IT'S ALREADY DONE!

Paul is giving us part of the answer in verse 5.

Rom 8:5 For they that are after **the flesh do mind the things of the flesh**; but they that are **after the Spirit** the things of **the Spirit**.

The next verse says,

Rom 8:6 For to be ***carnally minded is death***; but to be ***spiritually minded is life*** and peace.

Being carnally minded doesn't just tend towards death, it is death. The Amplified Bible defines death as all the miseries arising from sin, both here and hereafter. Are you depressed, beaten down, defeated? What are you thinking about? This kind of thinking and minds will lead to death.

The flesh will always oppose the Spirit.

Galatians 5:17 says the flesh wars against the Spirit. I have to take the Word of God and focus on the God behind the Word to draw His strength.



I'm not rejected. God's Word says that I'm loved. I'm not beaten down. I'm above and not beneath. Your mind has to cooperate with the Spirit. If your mind is not cooperating with the Spirit of God's Word, you're going to walk after the flesh. If you agree with God and set your mind on things above and not on things of this earth, there will be life and peace (Col. 3:1-3; Rom. 8:5).

Col 3:1 If ye then **be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above**, where **Christ sitteth** on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

As Christ died, so did we and because we are dead, we are now FREED from the law of sin. But freed the slaves by legislation does not mean that all are aware of the new law and some were still under the bondage of the law of slavery.

Rom 6:7 For he that is dead is **freed from sin**.

Acknowledge it, today, that the power of the law of the Spirit gives life and made you free from the law of sin.

Rom 8:2 For the **power of the life-giving Spirit**—and this power is mine through Christ Jesus—has **freed** me from the vicious circle of sin and death. TLB

You are no longer tied to the law of sin but free under a new law – the law of the Spirit and now you are a servant of God. He is now your Master.

Rom 6:14 **Sin need never again be your master**, for **now you are no longer tied to the law where sin enslaves** you, but you are **free** under God's favor and mercy. TLB

Rom 6:22 But now being **made free from sin**, and **become servants to God**, ye have your **fruit unto holiness**, and the end **everlasting life**. KJV

What it says, is that when the law of slavery has been replaced with another law, the Law of the Spirit, it “freed” the all of us from sin.



The End of Yourself

Paul discovered that it is just not possible to beat the law of sin. We all have tried to fight it, but the war in our mind is winning and that put us again-and-again under this law – the law of sin. Even the law of the Old Testament which God gave to Moses was not to overcome sin, but rather to bring them to their knees to confess - "GOD HAVE MERCY ON ME" I can't do it on my own - I can't break this sin. The law shows that sin had already overcome you. The Law strengthened sin and gave it so much power that it would effectively remove the deception that you could ever get rid of sin on your own.

Similarly, Paul also cried out: "O **wretched**^{G5005} man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? (Rom 7:24)

G5005

talaipōros

tal-ah'ee-po-ros

From the base of G5007 and a derivative of the base of G3984; *enduring trial*, that is, **miserable**: - wretched.

The word "**wretched**" here means miserable. Paul is saying that I am **miserable as a believer**.

- Have you ever felt so **miserable as a believer** that you didn't want to evangelize because you were so miserable?
- You didn't want to give anyone else the miserable quality of life you were living as a Christian.

But Paul was totally committed and he delighted in the law of God. He wants to please God. So why is he miserable?



The answer is in Romans 7:15

“He says, For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. The good things he wants to do, he doesn't do, and the things he doesn't want to do, he does”.

The Bible says two seemingly different things about believers.

- It tells me that I'm an ***old wretched man*** and can't do anything.
- Then it says that ***I can do all things through Christ***. (John 15)
- There is a balance between these two scriptures.
- Before you can do all things, you have to get down to ***Oh wretched man*** that I am and ***see*** that ***without Him I can do nothing***.

Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead **dwell in you**, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also **quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you**.

After Paul said, **Oh wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me?** In the next verse, he said, **I thank God** (Rom. 7:24-25).

It takes Christ to live the Christian life. I can tap into the resource of Christ. People have wonderful experiences in prayer, but we've made a religion out of it. Just pray so long each day and you'll have a wonderful experience with God. They've missed the point. The point isn't the prayer. All our answers are only in Jesus Christ (Col. 2:10). Prayer is not the answer. Prayer is what I use to focus my attention on Jesus, and that's when I draw His strength. Some people say the answer is praise and worship. It's not the praise and worship.

It's Christ.

Praise and worship are ways to direct my attention to Christ, and then I am energized (Ps. 22:3; Ps. 8:2; Mt. 21:16). Some may say the answer is in confessing the Word, but it's focusing on the God behind those words (2 Cor. 3:15-17).



WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO DO TO FOCUS YOUR ATTENTION ON CHRIST, DO IT.

JUST DON'T EVER FORGET WHERE YOUR STRENGTH LIES.

YOUR TRUST AND DEPENDENCE MUST BE IN JESUS CHRIST (GAL. 2:20)

But Paul found another law - a principle

Rom 7:21 **I find then a law**, that, when I would do good, **evil is present with me.**

I find then a law [or principle] that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. He didn't say, When I want to do evil, evil is lurking with me. He said, When I want to do good, evil is present with me to defeat me. He is a wretched, miserable believer. This is not the abundant life that Jesus promised. Jesus said I come that [you] might have life and that [you] might have it more abundantly (Jn. 10:10).

I don't know where we get the ideas that if you are a good Christian, bad things don't happen to you.

Paul said I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. If we read it in context, we find that Paul was saying, in essence, I know what it is to be abused. I know what it is to abound. I know what it is to be hungry and I know what it is to be full. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:12-13). He's saying that **circumstances of life have nothing to do with one's victory**. In the parables of Jesus, we read that the wind will come and the rains will descend, and it will beat upon the house whether it's on the sand or the rock (Mt. 7:24-27). The difference is that if we're on the rock, we understand who we are in Christ. If we understand the resource that we have and the revelation of what happened to us on the inside, we can face any circumstances. Paul is saying that he is not living his life according to circumstance. He is saying, I can do all things through Christ which infuses strength into me. But, before you get to that point you have to know how weak



you are. It's common for believers to start out depending on Christ, and end up depending on their own ability. It goes something like this:

When you come to Jesus you throw yourself on the grace of God:

You know you are a sinner and you throw yourself upon the cross and the blood that Jesus shed (Rom. 5-9). Then you get into the church world. The other Christians tell you, if you really want to be a good Christian, then you have to pray an hour a day. You have to read your Bible and do all these other things. These things are good, but people misunderstand them.

Many people think that after ten years of religious instruction and establishing all these laws and avoiding the don'ts and doing the do's that they have arrived. Then suddenly they do something so devastating that they can't even believe it themselves. They may come for help and say, I've been in the ministry so many years and I can't even believe what I've done. I should have been stronger than that.

True Christianity is not you becoming stronger. It's you becoming so weak that you never depend on your own resources (2 Cor. 12:9).

You don't depend on your own ability anymore. The good thing about you and I is Christ. Even Paul said that in our flesh dwells no good thing. We have to live the Christian life the same way Jesus Christ lived the Christian life. He came to the earth and humbled Himself. He came here from heaven and stripped Himself (Phil. 2:7-8). Jesus said I live totally dependent on the Father. What I see Him do, I do. What I hear Him speak is what I speak. Without Him I can do nothing (Jn. 5:19, 30; 8:28, 38; 12:49-50; 14:10). Then, Jesus said, You have to live the Christian life that same way - in dependence upon Me (Jn. 15:4-5; Gal. 2:20).

You are saved by grace and you're going to have to live by grace (Col. 2:6).

Romans 6:14 says that sin shall not have **dominion over you** for you are not under the law **but under grace**. Under the law, you had to rely on your



own ability to achieve. But, under grace Jesus says that it's His strength, His ability, made perfect in your weakness.

You may be good looking, or wealthy, or successful, but God says you have to come to the end of all that (Phil. 3:6-7).

Phi 3:6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things ***were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.***

Your Soul Must Die

The crux of the matter is that the soul must die. We need to wean our souls like David put in the Psalms:

Psa 131:2 Instead, I have composed and quieted myself like a weaned child with its mother; I am like a weaned child. KJV

The ESV version says it more direct that "I calmed and quieted my soul like a weaned child.

Psa 131:2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. ESV

The next clue Paul gave us is that the older will serve the younger . He is talking here about a spiritual principle. When you have walked 20 or 30 years before you got saved, that means that your soul is older than your spirit. The soul there has to serve the spirit

Rom 9:12 she was told, "The older will serve the younger. ESV

When Paul speaks to the people of Corinthians, he could talk to them spiritually, but instead, he had to speak to them carnally. Why?

They were still babied in Christ – fed on milk. They were not even weaned.



1Co 3:1 And I, brethren, **could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.** :2 I have **fed you with milk, and not with meat:** for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. KJV

What happens if you try to wean a baby? It throws tantrums and rebels. When you still have need of milk, Paul is saying in Hebrew, you are unskilful in the word of righteousness and are still a baby.

Heb 5:11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. 12 For when for the time ye **ought to be teachers,** ye have need that one teach you again which be the **first principles of the oracles of God;** and are become such as **have need of milk, and not of strong meat.** 13 For every one that useth milk is **unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.** 14 But **strong meat** belongeth to them that are of **full age,** even those who by reason of use have **their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.** KJV

At this stage, you ought to be a teacher yourselves, be on strong meat – that is mature age having your senses exercised to discern both good and evil. This is the **daily** walk of the Christian life – you need to take up **YOUR cross.**

Mat 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

The Daily Walk

Taking up your cross, every day and following Jesus is what Luke is saying.

Luk 9:23 And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.



This cannot be your spirit (once saved always saved) and refers to your soul. Working out your own salvation daily. The soul – the flesh must die, and the older must serve the younger. Your soul must submit to the spirit.

1Co 15:31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, ***I die daily.***

It is because of our way of thinking over many years that when the time of harvest comes, we can only reap what we sown throughout our lives. When you sow adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envy, murdering, drunkenness, revellings and unforgiveness we reap sickness and disease, poverty, lack of joy, peace and we die a premature death.

All Things Add Up!

Ps 32:6 ***These things add up.*** Every one of us needs to pray; when all hell breaks loose and the dam bursts we'll be on high ground, untouched. MSG

All things in life add up. When you disobey God's Word your whole life, you reap sickness and disease in your old age (*we can see, witness and experience this daily in our lives today*). This is what the Word of God is also telling us. In Deuteronomy it's talking about blessings, using the word "***IF***" you obey the commandments of the Lord.

Deu 11:27 A blessing, if^{H834} ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: KJV

Strong's Concordance H834: "ash-er"

In the original Hebrew text, the word "if" refers to "***asher***" and it literally means the "***blessing comes quickly***".



When we are looking at the next verse, it talks about the curse and also using the word "**IF**", but in this case, the Hebrew word using here is "***im***"

Deu 11:28 And a curse, if^{H518} ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

Strong's Concordance H518: "im"

Here the word "***im***" means the "***curse will not come quickly***".

So you cannot blame God nor can you blame the devil. God has called you for purity and He has called you to establish His kingdom.

"Behold I set before you this day a blessing and a curse. If you obey the commandments of your God, the blessings shall come and they shall come quickly".

That is "asher".

*"If you will not obey the commandments of your God, the curse does not come quickly but it shall surely come". **That is "im"**.*

So, you hold the keys to both kingdoms. You decide which kingdom moves in your life. You decide whether or not to remove the other kingdom that shouldn't be there.

YOU DO IT AND GOD WILL WORK WITH YOU!

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⁴ Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice! ⁵ Let everyone see that you are unselfish and considerate in all you do. Remember that the Lord is coming soon.

⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. ⁷ If you do this, you will experience **God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.**

⁸ And now, brothers, as I close this letter, let me say this one more thing: **Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about.** ⁹ **Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and saw me doing, and the God of peace will be with you.**

¹⁰ How grateful I am and how I praise the Lord that you are helping me again. I know you have always been anxious to send what you could, but for a while you didn't have the chance. ¹¹ Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to get along happily whether I have much or little. ¹² I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. **I have learned the secret of contentment in every situation, whether it be a full stomach or hunger, plenty or want;** ¹³ for I can do everything God asks me to with the help of **Christ who gives me the strength and power.** ¹⁴ But even so, you have done right in helping me in my present difficulty.

¹⁸ At the moment I have all I need—more than I need! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me when Epaphroditus came. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that pleases God well. ¹⁹ And it is he who will supply all your needs from his riches in glory because of what Christ Jesus has done for us. ²⁰ Now unto God our Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Sincerely, Paul

Phil 4:4-18 - TLB

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*"I am the Bright Morning Star -
Surely I come quickly"
Rev 22:16, 20*