

Understanding Spiritual Warfare Pt.2: The War between the Flesh and the Spirit

Romans 8:1-17

8 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the

deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.¹

Introduction

- **Review**

- **Overview**
 - Today, we are going to continue on this subject and specifically speak about the battle between the flesh and the spirit, and the importance of living according to the spirit of God.

Thesis:

Although we are being made new day by day, it is important for us to learn how to live according to our spirit, because although we may have said the prayer of salvation, read our bible, and even attend church, we still have to deal with something that is known as the flesh. Because we still have a flesh, it is important for us to learn how to live according to the spirit of God, which helps us set our minds according to the spirit, causing us to come alive in Christ Jesus, freeing us from the bondage of fear.

Context.

I. Understanding the Flesh.

¹ [*The New King James Version*](#). (1982). (Ro 8:1–17). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Q. What is the flesh?

We may have heard this term around religious circles from time to time. But the Flesh is the nature of man without God. It is the nature of Man who does not think in alignment with the will of God, does not have self-control and chooses to conduct itself in a way that is destructive and not constructive.

A. How the flesh thinks.

B. There are a couple of things we need to understand about FEAR:

1. It is FALSE.

- **Genesis 3:1-5**
- Notice How Satan used a truth and twisted it? He said, "If you eat of this, you will become like God." However, the truth of the matter is humanity was already in the Image of God (The Imago Dei).
 - **Genesis 1:26**
 - *26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*
 - *27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and*

God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."²

- It is the same thing for many of us today, Satan uses "A" Truth and twists that truth. Because it is a "twisted" truth, it is not "THE Truth." It is a twisted truth because it is told based off of the narrative Satan wants, that leads to the end He wants.

2. Evidence.

- The evidence in Genesis 3 was a tangible thing...It was the apple. This story describes the apple as something that looked good to eat. Satan will cause things to "look, like it is good or look like it is bad."
- by FAITH!!

3. Appears to be real fact.

- It is when we choose to "BELIEVE" something as real fact, that is when we act on it.

II. Understanding the Spirit of God.

- The reason why Paul mentions the word "Wrestle" in Romans 7 & 8, is because He acknowledges that although He is saved and His spirit is made new, He still has a flesh.

Romans 8:12-17 NKJV

¹²Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the

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deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.³

A. The Spirit of God thinks in alignment with the Will of God.

Romans 8:26-27 NKJV

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.⁴

B. The Spirit of God operates according to FAITH in God.

- Hebrews tells us that Faith is the Confident assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1)
 - Faith provides Substance. Something that is sustainable.
 - Hope. Something to look forward to.
 - Evidence, that is not seen but is yet to come.
- There are a few other things we should understand about Faith.

³ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Ro 8:12–17). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁴ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Ro 8:26–27). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

1. It provides proper understanding.

- Hebrews 1:3

2. It moves you to accomplish the will of God.

Conclusion.

III. The Spirit of God causes us to live the Life God intended for us to live.