

Prayer:

Slide # 1
Romans

Theme: The Righteousness of God – The Gospel of God

Outline:

- **Prologue:** 1:1-17
- **Doctrinal:** 1:18-8:39
God’s holiness – man’s sinfulness – 1:18-3:20
Justification by grace through faith – 3:21-5:21
Sanctification of the believer – 6:1-8:39
- **Dispensational:** 9:1-11:36 (The place of Israel and the church)
- **Practical:** 12:1-15:33 (Duties and privileges of the believer)
- **Epilogue:** 16:1-27

Slide # 2

The Flow of Thought in Romans...

- **Universal Sin Problem** – Rom. 1-3a
- **Justification** by Faith Alone – Rom. 3b - 5
- **Sanctification** – Rom. 6-8

In Romans 7:14-24 Paul describes the war within that every believer deals with. On the one hand we have the flesh (the old sin nature) that wants to do wrong, and on the other hand we have a new nature that desires to do right. And so, we are conflicted.

As we get to Romans 7:24 we have Paul giving out a cry of despair.

Slide # 3

Romans 7:24 (NKJV)

24 O wretched man that I am! **Who will deliver me** from this body of death?

And then, in verse 25, Paul answers his own question, which is then followed up with the realization that this internal battle between the two natures will continue on as long as he is in this body.

Slide # 4

Romans 7:25 (NKJV)

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.

Note that Paul does realize deliverance is to be found in Jesus Christ our Lord even though the battle is real. And note also that Paul at this point identifies his real self (the new man) with wanting to serve the law of God.

Chapter 7 has emphasized the trauma of spiritual defeat, but now we transition to Romans 8 which emphasizes the power of spiritual victory as provided in the person of Christ and applied by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8 is my favorite chapter in the Bible. Commentators after commentators emphasize that it is one of the great high points in all the Scriptures.

Romans 8:1 begins with the fact that in Christ there is now no condemnation (that deals with our past); then in the middle, it tells us that all things work together for good to those who love God; (Rom. 8:28 – that relates to the present); and then it concludes with the reality that nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:39 -that relates to our future). So, there you have it; our past is settled, our present has purpose, and our future is secure.

Personally, I've come to Romans 8 again and again when I've been discouraged or depressed. I don't see how you can read Romans 8 and remain down. If you struggle with guilt, read Romans 8. If you struggle with sin, read Romans 8. If you're going through trials, read Romans 8. If you don't know how to pray, read Romans 8. If you're struggling with assurance of your salvation, read Romans 8.

– Pastor Steven Cole

Indeed, Romans 8 is a balm for the soul! It is a great chapter not only on sanctification but also on security. The chapter begins with “***in Christ Jesus***” (v. 1) and ends with “***in Christ Jesus our Lord***.” (v. 39). It begins with no condemnation (v. 1) and ends with “no separation” (v. 39).

Romans 8:1–4 (NKJV)

1 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.~~

The word “**therefore**” looks back to the struggle of Romans 7 and the thankful shout of exuberance for the Deliverer - Jesus Christ our Lord in the midst of the struggle as seen in verse 25.

I love the placement of Romans 8:1. We might expect that coming off the description of spiritual struggle and defeat that Paul would come down hard on the believer! But NO, right on the heels of that he says, “***There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.***”

I love this because it clearly shows if you are in the battle of Romans 7, then you are a child of God, and there is no condemnation hanging over you. In the battle when we fall, it is easy to get discouraged and all down on ourselves. But it is then that we need to remember that for those truly in the battle, there is no condemnation even in failure.

Those in Christ have forever written over them “NO CONDEMNATION”. This is our forever position in Christ. No matter what this will never change.

Condemnation is “a verdict of guilt and the penalty that the verdict demands” (MacArthur). Condemnation is the judgment sentence of GUILT! It is the idea of a deserved “death sentence”.

No condemnation is emphatic! It means “no guilt at all” – “no judgment for sin at all”. Condemnation is the idea of judgment coming down on someone. But for the true believer, no penal judgment will come down on them. Believers stand in the position of “no condemnation”.

Christ took all our judgment for sin at the cross and consequently we are under no condemnation at all – not even a little bit. This is the good news of the gospel!

In Adam, we all stand before God as guilty and condemned to eternal punishment (5:16, 18). We’re on death row, awaiting the execution of the guilty verdict that has been passed. If we died in that condition, we would pass into eternal separation from God, the second death. But since Christ bore the punishment that we deserved, in Him we are set free so that we stand before God justified and acquitted, with all charges dismissed. – **Steven Cole**

I have often said, “On my deathbed read to me Romans 8 – read to me “no condemnation”. Sweeter words could not be heard and applied. The verdict is not LESS condemnation – after all we put up a good struggle. Our position is not just marginally improved, but radically changed to complete acquittal. There is absolutely NO CONDEMNATION for us as believers – NONE – ZERO, ZIP, NADA!

No sin is hanging over our head – no matter how much we struggle – no matter how much we fail. Our record forever and ever reads, “no condemnation” for those who are in Christ Jesus!

This statement follows the section that was marked by inner complicated, conflicted, confusion. In spite of all our struggles with sin our status ever remains “no condemnation”. No longer do we live under the threat of judicial punishment!

But note this only applies to those “***in Christ Jesus***”. Every person is either in Christ or outside of Him. In conversion the believer is brought into the spiritual sphere of being “***in Christ***”. To be “***in Christ***” is to be in union with Him. Someone has said it like this: “*Jesus Christ is around us*”.

Being in Christ is often illustrated with the Ark in the days of Noah. The Ark was the only safe place to be. God’s judgment came down on all who were not in the ark. Today Jesus is our Ark of safety. To be in Christ is to be in the place of safety. There is “no condemnation” there.

So the question is: How does one get into Christ? And the answer is “through faith”.

Slide # 5

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV)

8 For **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus** for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Slide # 6

Galatians 3:26–27 (NKJV)

26 For you are all sons of God **through faith** in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as were **baptized** [placed] **into Christ** have put on Christ.

The older manuscripts do not have the phrase at the end of verse 1 “*who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit*”. This is thought to be a gloss inserted here from verse 4 where it properly belongs.

Slide # 7

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

1 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.~~

These words are not found in the earliest ancient manuscripts of the Book of Romans and they do not agree with the flow of Paul’s context here. They were probably added by a copyist who either made a mistake or thought he could “help” Paul by adding these words from [Romans 8:4](#). While it is true that those who are in **Christ** *should* not and *do* not consistently **walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit**, this is not a *condition* for their status of **no condemnation**. Our position in Jesus Christ is the reason for our standing of **no condemnation**. – **David Guzik**

As we transition from verse 1 to verse 2 keep in mind we are really dealing with the overall topic of sanctification and Christian living.

Slide # 8

Three Tenses of Salvation			
TIME	PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
Effect	Deliverance from penalty of sin	Deliverance from power of sin	Deliverance from presence of sin
Theological Terms	Justification Rom 5:1 Rom 8:1	Progressive Sanctification 1 Cor 1:18 Phip 2:12, 13 Rom 6-8	Glorification Rom 13:11 Rom 8:30 1 Peter 1:5

Justification and sanctification, while closely related are not the same. In this conversation there is overlap as sanctification always builds on the truth of justification. That’s the flow of thought here in Romans 8.

But in view here is mainly the idea of sanctification – that is practical Christian living in overcoming sin. The issue in context is not how we are justified – that was settled back in chapters 3-5 where Paul shows we are justified by faith and by faith alone. The point Paul now seeks to make in verse 1 is that of POSITION. The believer is now in the position of “no condemnation”. That is the POSITION of justification upon which sanctification then builds.

Slide # 9

DELIVERANCE from the Penalty of sin (Justification).

DELIVERANCE from the Power of sin (Sanctification).

DELIVERANCE from the Presence of sin (Glorification).

All DELIVERANCE is based on the PROVISION of God’s Son through His cross work, but APPLICATION to our lives is based on the Spirit’s work. The point of emphasis in this context here in Romans 8 is the Spirit’s work within us in regard to not sinning – that is sanctification.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

In view in this verse are two different “laws” or “principles”. These laws are operative principles.

Prior to salvation we were under the operative principle (law) of sin and death. We were in bondage to sin – it was the operating principle in our lives which resulted in DEATH. And if people die in their sin without being reconciled to God, they will experience eternal death – that is, eternal separation from God in the lake of fire – which is commonly called HELL.

But now “***in Christ Jesus***” (and this is the defining reality) – now in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life has made us free from the law of sin and death.

The “***Spirit of life***” is thought by most commentators to a designation of the Holy Spirit. It is by the Holy Spirit that we are regenerated and have spiritual life (cf. Jn. 3:5, 8; Titus 3:5).

As believers we now have a whole new operative principle that is now dominant in our lives – namely the Holy Spirit. And this relationship with the Holy Spirit has freed us from the old operative principle of sin and death.

Being under the controlling principle of sin and death resulted in condemnation (cf. Rom. 5:16, 18). But we are no longer under sin as a controlling principle. We as believers are now DEAD to sin. It no longer has ruling authority over us and it is the Spirit that has freed us from the tyranny of sin's reign.

When sin has ruling authority it drags us down to death. The two laws in verse 2 have been illustrated like this: It is like the law of gravity. If you throw a ball into the air the law of gravity brings it back to earth. If you toss a living bird into the air it will fly away. You see the law of life in the bird overcomes the law of gravity.

As believers we now have now have the law of the Spirit of life residing in us which has freed us from the law of sin and death.

Paul in verses 3 and 4 will explain further how this works.

In verse 2 we are introduced to the Holy Spirit and His freeing work in our lives. Up to this point in the book the Spirit has only been mentioned twice (cf. 1:4; 5:5). But now the Spirit takes center stage in the discussion. In Romans 8 the Spirit is mentioned 18 times – which is more than in any other chapter in the whole Bible. His role in sanctification is prominent!

Slide # 10

We notice right away that the personal pronouns that were so prominent in chapter 7 largely disappear, and that the Holy Spirit becomes the dominant Person. This is an important key to understanding the passage. – **William MacDonald**

Judaism taught that the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn and that only in the kingdom age to come would He be restored as seen for example in Joel 2:28. They were right about the Spirit being poured out in the kingdom, but what they failed to realize is that there would be an intervening Church Age that would also be marked by the Spirit.

The establishment of the New Covenant goes hand in hand with the specialized ministry of the Spirit. The Spirit's interaction and intimacy with God's people is a core component of what the New Covenant is all about. Now in the Church Age we have a New Covenant relationship with God based on Christ's blood. We now share in the spiritual blessings of the New Covenant related to the Holy Spirit.

So prominent is the Spirit's work in the Church Age, that some have in fact called the Church Age "The Age of the Spirit".

The Holy Spirit has a convicting ministry; a regenerating ministry; a cleansing ministry; a sanctifying ministry; a justifying ministry; a baptizing ministry; an indwelling ministry; an empowering ministry; an interceding ministry; a teaching ministry; a leading ministry; a testifying ministry; a helping ministry; a sealing ministry; a freeing ministry; a loving ministry; an enlightening ministry; a unifying ministry; a truth revealing ministry; a comforting ministry; and on and on!

Jesus Christ has made provision for deliverance from the penalty of sin, but it is the Spirit that applies deliverance in our experience. The Spirit is KEY to victory over sin!

Note it very well that we are not delivered from the presence of indwelling sin (cf. Rom. 7:17). Rather we are delivered from the LAW of sin and death. Sin no longer has the rule of LAW over us. Oh, yes, its influence is still there and it would like us to submit to it, but it has no authority over us. There is now a superior ruling power inside of us and that is the Spirit. Never again do we have to obey SIN!

[Romans 8:1](#) tells us we are free from the *guilt* of sin. [Romans 8:2](#) tells us we are free from the *power* of sin. – **David Guzik**

Note that "in Christ" results in "no condemnation" (v. 1); but "in Christ" also results in the Spirit freeing us from the law of sin and death (v. 2). In Christ we are at once freed from the penalty of sin, but also from the power of sin.

Again, it is the Spirit that put us into this position of freedom. We never get there by ourselves.

Slide # 11

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NKJV)

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.**

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,

The law had a problem in what it had to work with. The law itself was not the problem as we noted back in Roman 7:12. The law is holy, just, and good. No problem there. The weakness was us – our flesh. Going by the law is good if you can keep it. The problem is no one could keep it!

But thanks be to God He has an answer to this problem. God sent His own Son. There is the answer to our sin problem! It's all about Jesus! The law was not the answer. It could not deliver. But Jesus is the answer. He could deliver!

Jesus came “in the likeness of sinful flesh”. Paul states this very precisely.

Note he did not say Jesus came “in sinful flesh” for that would have made Him a sinner and the Bible is emphatically clear that Jesus was totally without sin (cf. Lk. 1:35; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 2:17-18; 4:14-16; 1Pet. 2:22; 1 Jn. 3:5).

So, the exact terminology he used was, “in the likeness of sinful flesh” emphasizing that Jesus fully took on humanity without Himself becoming a sinner. He fully shares in our humanity but without a sin nature.

Paul used similar terminology in Phil. 2:7-8 when he spoke of Jesus, “coming in the likeness of men” and “being found in appearance as a man”.

And the reason God sent His own Son in human form was “on account of sin”. Jesus was sent to deal with our sin problem. Man sinned and therefore God required that sin be dealt with in the form of a man. Jesus as God's Son was sent to earth as a MAN. As God's Son, Jesus was fully God, and as one “in the likeness of sinful flesh” He was fully human. He was fully God and fully man in one person – He was the God-Man.

Slide # 12

Hebrews 2:14 (NKJV)

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

In order to be our representative Jesus had to become one of us. In order to die for us He had to be human.

As the God-Man Jesus is the perfect mediator – who perfectly represents God from the divine side and who perfectly represents mankind from the human side.

Slide # 13**1 Timothy 2:5–6 (NKJV)****5** For there is one God and **one Mediator between God and men, the Man** Christ Jesus,**6** who gave Himself **a ransom for all**, to be testified in due time,

But note Paul in the Romans 8:3 context is thinking about how Jesus dealt with sin – not in terms of justification – not in terms of guilt – but rather in terms of “***sin in the flesh***”. He is not here dealing with the penalty of sin – but rather the power of sin. As I say there is overlap, but there is a specific emphasis here as the context shows.

Jesus died on the cross not only to set us free from the penalty of sin but also from the power of sin. Delivering us from the power of sin is the sense of what “***condemned sin in the flesh***” means. Notice it does not say He condemned Jesus in the flesh, but rather “He condemned sin in the flesh”.

Sin has its way in the flesh! That is the great issue in the whole surrounding context. Paul speaks of the unconverted as being “***in the flesh***”. They live in the sphere of the flesh where they are in bondage to the sin nature.

Slide # 14**Romans 7:5 (NKJV)****5** For when we were **in the flesh**, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.

The believer is now not in the flesh, but in the Spirit.

Slide # 15**Romans 8:9 (NKJV)****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.

To be “in the flesh” is to be under the authority of the sin nature; to be in the Spirit is to now being under a different ruling authority – namely the Spirit.

So, the believer is not “in the flesh”, but we still have the flesh. We still have indwelling sin – which is to say the sin nature.

Slide # 16

Romans 7:17–18 (NKJV)

17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

Romans 7:25 (NKJV)

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.

It is in the context of “***the flesh***” that sin has its operating principle. Christ came to deal with sin – with the emphasis here being to condemn sin in the flesh.

To condemn means to pass a judicial sentence. To condemn sin means to judge it and sentence it to death! Now in Christ we are dead to sin. Sin has been severed from its rule over the believer. Jesus on the cross conquered sin totally and thus it is condemned in the flesh.

Slide # 17

Romans 6:6 (NKJV)

6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

The “body of sin” is really talking about the realm (the human body) in which the sin nature had its sway. In our union with Christ, we now share in His victory over sin – over the sin nature. The POWER of sin in the realm of the flesh of the believer has been broken. Because of Christ’s work on the cross God has pronounced judgment on sin breaking its ruling power in the body of believers. Thus, “***He condemned sin in the flesh***”.

Note the language here. This is not talking about sin being forgiven, but rather about sin in the flesh being condemned.

This is talking about the ruling power of sin within being defeated and sentenced to death as far as its ruling authority over the believer. God has sentenced sin in the believer to death!

[Sin] has already been condemned in the flesh, and should be reckoned so by us all. Just as real as our sins were put away by the blood of Christ, so was sin in the flesh condemned, judgment executed on it. ...Sin has thus no more rights in us now, than it will have in our glorified bodies. – **William Newell**

Jesus not only died for our sins in the sense of paying the price for them, but He also died for sin in the sense of breaking its ruling power.

[Jesus] died not only for the sins which we commit (1 Pet. 3:18) but also for our sin nature. In other words, He died for what we are just as much as for what we have done. In so doing, He condemned sin in the flesh. Our sin nature is never said to be forgiven; it is condemned. It is the sins that we have committed that are forgiven.

– **William MacDonald**

We often (and rightly so) emphasize Christ death on the cross as payment for sin, but the NT makes just as big a deal over the truth that Christ death on the cross also sets us free from the ruling power of sin.

Slide # 18

1 John 3:8–9 (NKJV)

8 He who sins [*present tense – unbroken pattern*] is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, **that He might destroy the works of the devil.**

9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

The works of the devil involve an unbroken pattern of sin! Christ came to deliver us from this. And those born of God have a new nature that is wed with the Holy Spirit that does not sin (cf. 1 Cor. 6:17). What leads us into sin is our old nature (the sin nature), but Paul in Romans does not identify the new man with sin. In Romans 7:17 he says, “***it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.***”

My brothers and sisters Christ has delivered us from the penalty of sin – there is NO CONDEMNATION in Christ, but He has also delivered us from the RULING POWER of sin in that He condemned sin in the flesh.

To show you all the more that the idea of “**condemned sin in the flesh**” means its ruling power has been broken note the flow of thought as it continues on into verse 4.

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.

God condemned sin in the flesh to the end that “**the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us**”. In a word, the righteous requirement of the law is HOLINESS (cf. Lev. 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7).

God has broken the power of sin so that we might live righteously – so that we might actually be able to live out the righteous requirement of the law.

Now Paul has at great length shown that no one can live up to the law. We all break the law of God. In fact, “**by the law is the knowledge of sin**” (Rom. 3:20).

But now in the cross of Christ God has done something that enables us as believers to live out His holy standard. He has condemned sin in the flesh – He has broken its ruling authority and power in us which allows us to now live out the moral requirement of the law.

We find in Romans 13 that the moral requirement of the law can be boiled down to one word – the word LOVE!

Slide # 19

Romans 13:8 (NKJV)

8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

We are no longer under the formal law code, but we are under the law of Christ which is the law of LOVE (cf. Gal. 6:2; Ja. 2:8). We are no longer under the law of Moses, but we are under Christ. We are no longer under “law” formally but we are under our LORD!

The righteous requirement of the law is fulfilled in us when “**we do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**” When we allow sin to have its way God’s righteousness is not fulfilled in us (cf. Rom. 6:12; 7:23). But when we walk in the Spirit it is a beautiful thing as God’s righteousness is fulfilled in us. This is what God desires of us. This is what the death of Christ has made possible.

The death of Christ made provision for deliverance from both the penalty and the power of sin; but it is the Spirit that makes application to our lives. And the chief fruit of the Holy Spirit is LOVE (Gal. 5:22-23).

Note it says that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled ***“in us”*** and not ***“by us”***. This puts the emphasis on the Holy Spirit. Holy living is dependent upon the power of the Holy Spirit. This is what a New Covenant relationship with God is all about. It’s about forgiveness of sin and empowerment by the Spirit.

Slide # 20

Jeremiah 31:33 (NKJV)

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: **I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts;** and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Slide # 21

Ezekiel 36:26–27 (NKJV)

26 I will give you **a new heart** and put **a new spirit** within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

27 I will **put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes**, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

Being in a new covenant relationship God means we are now a brand-new person. God changes us from the inside out. Yes, we are in process, but our new nature consistently desires to obey, and on top of this we now have the Spirit Who empowers us to that end. The writer of Hebrews applies this very truth to us as believers today.

Slide # 22

Hebrews 10:15–17 (NKJV)

15 But the **Holy Spirit also witnesses to us**; for after He had said before,

16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: **I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,**”

17 then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

Sometimes it is said that God gives us the power to overcome sin. But that is not quite accurate. If we ourselves had the power we would undoubtedly become proud and self-righteous. The power is not of us and God has not given it to us. Here is the great secret to Holy Living, **the POWER IS GOD HIMSELF**. Here is the great secret that defines the Christian life. God Himself comes to live in us and He overcomes sin as we yield to Him.

This is the great thing about Christianity – our God is now living out His life through us. It's all about Him! We simply yield to Him. So fundamental is this truth to Christianity that Paul makes this the acid TEST of authentic Christianity.

Slide # 23

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NKJV)

5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that **Jesus Christ is in you?**—unless indeed you are disqualified.

We like to ask people if they believe! That is good but if we have a true saving faith it will be a life-changing kind of faith in which Jesus Christ is clearly living out His life through us. People often say, “I believe” – okay can we see Jesus anywhere in your life? This is the ultimate defining reality!

Paul here in Romans 8:4 contrasts the walk (lifestyle pattern) of the unbeliever with that of the believer. As believers we do not walk as a lifestyle pattern according to the flesh, but rather according to the Spirit. And yet our walk can be interrupted by sin (by the flesh) if we allow it.

The law's moral requirements are met by the Spirit-controlled life. When we walk in the Spirit we do not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Gal. 5:16). And yet it is a battle to the pearly gates.

Slide # 24

Galatians 5:16–17 (NKJV)

16 I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

At any given time we are either walking in the Spirit or we are fulfilling the lust of the flesh. We can't have it both ways at the same time. Either the flesh is having its way (by our permission) or the Spirit is having His way.

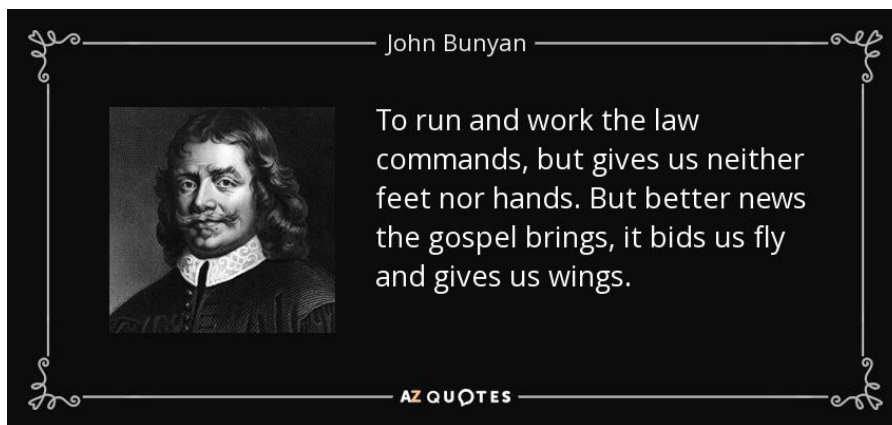
This is what Paul was talking about in Rom. 6:13 when he says, “***do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God...your members as instruments of righteousness to God.***”

This is where human responsibility comes in: Will we present ourselves to serve sin or will we present ourselves to God? At each step along the way we are constantly making choices either to yield to sin or to yield to God.

And Paul's point is that we have no excuse for yielding to sin. God has given us a new nature that desires to do right; He has broken sins ruling power; and He has given us His Spirit to empower us. God has made every provision so that we might live holy lives that please Him.

All that the law required by way of conformity to the will of God is now realized in the lives of those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit and are released from their servitude to the old order. God's command's have now become God's enablings. – **F.F. Bruce**

Slide # 25



Augustine said, “***The law is given that grace might be sought; grace is given that the Law might be fulfilled.***”

Walking in the Spirit is really a matter of faith...

Slide # 26

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

There are really three KEY components in our walk of faith. There is the matter of **dependence** – without Jesus we can do nothing (Jn. 15:5; Rom. 7:25). There is the matter of **submission** concerning presenting ourselves to God (Rom. 6:16). And finally, there is the matter of **FOCUS**. Hebrews 12 says to run with endurance “looking unto Jesus” (Heb. 12:1-2). He is our great High Priest Who is ever there for us to give us the grace we need as we look to Him (Heb. 4:15-16).

As believers we have a desire to obey and serve the Lord – it’s a part of our new nature as Paul describes in Romans 7. However, a HUGE factor in our battle to live a consistent Spirit-filled life is this matter of FOCUS. It is so easy for us to get distracted by the world, the flesh, and the devil. Being tethered to this world in this body of flesh it is hard to keep our FOCUS on the Lord.

Let me illustrate this with Peter. Peter was a man of sincere faith. He loved Jesus. He wanted to please Jesus. When Peter was near Jesus and focused on Jesus, he did amazing things.

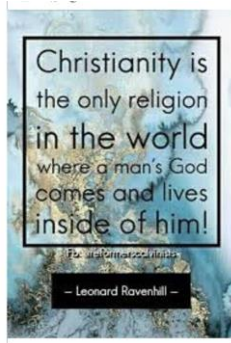
When out on a boat in the middle of a storm Jesus came walking on the water. Peter emboldened by the Lord’s presence asked the Lord to command him to come and so Jesus did. And lo and behold Peter walked on the water. And he was doing fine until he took his eyes off of Jesus (Mt. 14:25-33).

When the soldiers came to arrest Jesus Peter in the presence of Jesus knew great boldness. He took out his sword and was ready to take on the whole Roman army. But then shortly after when he was separated from Jesus what happened? Suddenly Peter played the part of the coward and denied Jesus 3 times.

After Jesus was crucified all the disciples took cover behind closed doors. But then after the resurrection when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit Peter with great boldness got up and preached right there in the center of hostile Jerusalem and 3000 people got saved.

Now the living God was living in him. And that forever changed Peter's life forever.

Slide # 27



This reality is the KEY to victory over sin! We need to know the truth of who we are in Christ and then by faith live it out. It is a battle to the pearly gates as indwelling sin is ever present, but at the same time its ruling power has been broken. Our position in Christ and the Spirit's empowerment are KEY to living victoriously over sin.

We need to keep our FOCUS on Jesus as a constant way of life.

Slide # 28

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

J. Vernon McGee said, "Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer at Dallas Theological Seminary used to stop the men when they were singing the song, "***Take Time to be Holy.***" And he would say, "Let's change that first line. Instead of singing, 'Take time to be holy, let's sing, ***Take time to behold Him.***" The secret of holiness is very simple: it is occupation with Christ.

Praise God there is now NO CONDEMNATION to those in Christ Jesus.

Praise God through the cross work of Christ God has condemned sin in the flesh!

We have been delivered from both the penalty and the power of sin, but we are still awaiting deliverance from the presence of sin.

In the meantime, God help us to walk in the Spirit and we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh! Stay FOCUSED on Christ!