

Romans 8:10–14

10And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11But 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.

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 deeds of the body, you will live.

14For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

What the Spirit Does

Romans 8:10–14

We talk a lot about the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives. The Apostle Paul in this text expands on some vital things the Spirit of God produces. It is interesting to note that none of these examples involve any spiritual gift. Instead, the Spirit of God is at work in us to make us what we ought to be. There are three things the Holy Spirit does in us which you may not know about.

I. The Holy Spirit will Resurrect Us. (verses 10-11)

II. The Holy Spirit Helps Us to Put to Death the works of the Flesh. (verses 12-13)

III. The Holy Spirit Will Lead Us if We Will Follow. (verse 14)

I. The Holy Spirit will Resurrect Us. (verses 10-11)

“And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. And 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.” (verses 10-11)

A. If the Holy Spirit of God dwells in us, even though our bodies may die, we will someday have our bodies resurrected.

B. *1 Corinthians 15:51-53* states, ***“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”*** The Holy Spirit of God will someday raise us from the dead.

II. The Holy Spirit Helps Us to Put to Death the works of the Flesh. (verses 12-13)

“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 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.”

A. How do we put to death the deeds of the flesh? In Colossians 3, the Apostle Paul described this process in similar terms. ***“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:1–3)*** In the very next verses Paul commanded us to put off the sins we often fight and put on the new man. ***“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.” (Colossians 3:12–13)***

B. Here we must practice the Apostle’s admonition in ***Philippians 2:12-13. “Therefore, my beloved, as you 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; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”***

C. We cannot mortify the deeds of the flesh by just letting go and letting God. The process also cannot be done by human effort alone. It is us working out the spiritual mindset into our lives and seeking to put away sin by co-operating with the Holy Spirit within us Romans 13:14. ***“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”***

III. The Holy Spirit Will Lead Us if We Will Follow. (verse 14)

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” (verse 14)

A. This verse has puzzled many believers. What does it mean to be led by the Spirit of God? The context indicates the person who cannot live in the flesh but who actively through the Spirit of God overcomes sin in his life is a person who is led by the Spirit. This person is assured he is a son of God.

B. The Apostle sheds light on this in Galatians 5. ***“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 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. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” (Galatians 5:16–18)*** The internal battle Paul summarized in Romans 8:13, he detailed in these verses in Galatians 5.

1. Paul gave a sample list of the qualities that the flesh produces in our lives in ***Galatians 5:19-21. “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”*** This is one ugly and scary list. Thank God, Paul did not stop there.

2. Paul showed us the rest of the story in ***verses 21-24. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such***

there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

Are we actively working together with the Spirit of God to overcome sin in our lives? If we are, we own the promise of Romans 8:14.

If we see the fruit of the Spirit present and growing in our lives and the produce of the flesh disappearing, as we with God's help overcome it, we can have great assurance we are His.

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