

New life in the Spirit

Romans 8:5-8

Romans 8:3–8 (NKJV)

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.

Introduction

The spiritual richness, both theological and practical, of this chapter is beyond calculation and surpasses

adequate comment. When read by a believer with an open mind and an obedient heart, it is incredibly enriching. It is one of the supreme life-changing chapters in Scripture. It moves along in an ever-ascending course, concluding in the marvelous paean of praise and assurance:

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38–39).

The Holy Spirit is mentioned but once in the first seven chapters of Romans, but is referred to nearly twenty times in chapter 8. The Spirit is to a believer what God the Creator is to the physical world. Without God, the physical world would not exist. It has been created and is continually sustained by the omnipotent power of God. So the Holy Spirit—who also, of course, participated in the creation of the world—is to the Christian. The Holy Spirit is the divine agent who creates, sustains, and preserves spiritual life in those who place their trust in Jesus Christ. It is the Holy Spirit who ultimately will bring every believer into the full consummation of his salvation by granting him eternal glory in the presence of God.

It should be made clear that the Holy Spirit is not merely an influence or an impersonal power emanating from God. He is a person, the third member of the Trinity, equal in every way to God the Father and God the Son. The doctrine of God's being one essence, yet existing in three persons, is one of the most certain truths in Scripture. Yet the Holy Spirit is often not respected as every bit as much a divine person as the Father and the Son.

Among the many characteristics of personhood that the Holy Spirit possesses and manifests are: He functions with mind, emotion, and will; He loves the saints, He communicates with them, teaches, guides, comforts, and chastises them; He can be grieved, quenched, lied to, tested, resisted, and blasphemed. The Bible speaks of His omniscience, His omnipotence, His omnipresence, and His divine glory and holiness. He is called God, Lord, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of Yahweh (or Jehovah), the Spirit of the Father, the Spirit of the Son, the Spirit of Jesus, and the Comforter and Advocate for believers.

Scripture reveals that the Holy Spirit was fully active with the Father and Son in the creation and that He has been with all believers and enabled and empowered them even before Pentecost. He has always been convicting men of sin, giving salvation

to those who truly believed, and teaching them to worship, obey, and serve God rightly. The Holy Spirit has been the divine agent who uniquely came upon God's servants and inspired God's sovereignly-chosen men to pen God's Word. True believers have always served God not by human might or power but by the Holy Spirit (cf. Zech. 4:6). The Spirit was involved in Jesus' conception as a human being and in Jesus' baptism, anointing, temptation, teaching, miracles, death, and resurrection.

Since Pentecost, the Holy Spirit has, in His fulness, indwelt all believers, illuminating their understanding and application of God's Word as well as empowering them for sanctification in a greater way than had ever occurred before. He fills them, seals them, communes with them, fellowships with them, intercedes for them, comforts them, admonishes them, sanctifies them, and enables them to resist sin and to serve God.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). [Romans](#) (Vol. 1, pp. 414–415). Chicago: Moody Press.

Working backwards from the conclusion

We have been delivered from Condemnation

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,

We have set free through Justification

Romans 8:2 (NKJV)

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

This was accomplished through Substitution, Imputation.

Romans 8:3 (NKJV)

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 is Applied by Regeneration

Romans 8:4 (NKJV)

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.

Lesson:

I. The Axiom

II. The Application

III. The Antagonism

I. The Axiom

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.

Οι γαρ κατα **σαρκα** οντες τα της σαρκος
φρονουσιν οι δε κατα πνευμα τα του
πνευματος

sarx: flesh

Original Word: σάρξ, σαρκός, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: sarx

Phonetic Spelling: (sarx)

Definition: flesh

Usage: flesh, body, human nature, materiality; kindred.
4561 sárks properly, flesh ("carnal"), merely of human
origin or empowerment.

Flesh uses

1. one flesh, union husband and wife in marriage
2. the physical body of Jesus Christ
3. The physical bodies of people
4. The effort of humans to work for salvation
5. The deposition or bent of the sinful inclinations of the heart.
6. The unregenerate man.
7. The foundation of all sin

The Contrast Paul points out is between the lost and the saved. The Unregenerate and the Regenerate.

Those who live according to the flesh

Those who live according to the spirit.

We know the phrase “live according to the flesh” refers to the lost unregenerate self.

Romans 8:7–9 (NKJV)

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.

Romans 8:12–13 (NKJV)

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.

John 3:3–6 (NKJV)

³ Jesus answered and said to him, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”

⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

⁵ Jesus answered, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

2 Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, ¹⁰ and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. *They are* presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,

Galatians 5:16–25 (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. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ 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.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:2–3 (NKJV)

² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once

conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

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.

Οι γαρ κατα σαρκα **ΟΝΤΕΣ** τα της σαρκος φρονουσιν οι δε κατα πνευμα τα του πνευματος

ΟΝΤΕΣ Pres. Act. Part.

who live

1510 eimí (the basic Greek verb which expresses being, i.e. "to be") – am, is. **1510** (eimí), and its counterparts, (properly) convey "straight-forward" being (existence, i.e. without explicit limits).

This is a pattern of life. A characteristic of life.

In this text below, all the verbs are in Present Tense.

1 John 3:6–10 (NKJV)

⁶ Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. ⁸ He who sins 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.

¹⁰ In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor *is* he who does not love his brother.

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.

set their minds on the things of the flesh,

Original Word: φρονέω P.A.I

Part of Speech: **Verb**

Transliteration: phroneó

Phonetic Spelling: (fron-eh'-o)

Definition: to have understanding, to think

Usage: (a) I think, (b) I think, judge, (c) I direct the mind to, seek for, (d) I observe, (e) I care for.

mindset n. — a habitual or characteristic mental attitude that determines how you will interpret and respond to situations.

Phroneō, the verb behind **set their minds**, refers to the basic orientation, bent, and thought patterns of the mind, rather than to the mind or intellect itself (Greek *nous*). It includes a person's affections and will as well as his reasoning. Paul uses the same verb in Philippians, where he admonishes believers to “have this attitude [or, “mind”] in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus” (2:5; see also 2:2; 3:15, 19; Col. 3:2).

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). *Romans* (Vol. 1, p. 416). Chicago: Moody Press.

Romans 8:6–7 (NKJV)

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.

Mark 8:33 (NKJV)

³³ But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, “**Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.**”

Matthew 6:31–32 (NKJV)

³¹ “**Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’**
³² **For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.**

Philippians 3:18–19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and whose glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

James 3:14–18 (NKJV)

¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

1 John 2:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

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.*

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.

Romans 8:14 (NKJV)

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

Colossians 3:1–2 (NKJV)

3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Psalms 119:36–37 (NKJV)

³⁶ Incline my heart to Your testimonies,

And not to covetousness.

³⁷ Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things,
And revive me in Your way.

Matthew 6:19–21 (NKJV)

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

But those who are according to the Spirit, Paul says, set their minds on **the things of the Spirit**. In other words, those who belong to God are concerned about godly things. As Jonathan Edwards liked to say, they have “holy affections,” deep longings after God and sanctification

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). *Romans* (Vol. 1, p. 416). Chicago: Moody Press.

II. The Application

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death,
but to be spiritually minded *is* life
and peace.

το γαρ φρονημα της σαρκος θανατος το
δε φρονημα του πνευματος ζωη και
ειρηνη

For the mind of the flesh- death.

but, mind of the spirit- life and peace.

φρονημα

phronéma: the thought (that which is in the mind)

Original Word: φρόνημα, ατος, τό

Part of Speech: Noun, Neuter

Transliteration: phronéma

Phonetic Spelling: (fron'-ay-mah)

Definition: the thought (that which is in the mind)

Usage: thought, purpose, aspirations.

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Paul reminded the Ephesian believers that, before salvation, they were all once “dead in [their] trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1).

There is, of course, a sense in which sin *leads* to death. “But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,” Isaiah declared to Israel, “and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear” (Isa. 59:2).

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). *Romans* (Vol. 1, p. 417). Chicago: Moody Press.

Romans 6:21–23 (NKJV)

²¹ What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is* death. ²² But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. ²³ For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

Romans 7:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ And the commandment, which *was* to *bring* life, I found to *bring* death.

Galatians 6:8 (NKJV)

⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

James 1:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Sins, ultimate end is death, never life, never peach.

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to **be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.**

Positional Peace

Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 5:9–11 (NKJV)

⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Colossians 1:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

Ephesians 2:14–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

Romans 14:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Practical Peace.

Colossians 3:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Philippians 4:7 (NKJV)

⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

John 14:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 16:33 (NKJV)

³³ These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Galatians 5:22–25 (NKJV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

III. The Antagonism

Why is the carnal mind death?

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.

Διοτι το φρονημα της σαρκος εχθρα εις
Θεον τω γαρ νομω του Θεου ουχ

υποτασσεται ουδε γαρ δυναται οι δε εν
σαρκι οντες Θεω αρεσαι ου δυνανται

Original Word: διότι

Part of Speech: Conjunction

1360 dióti (a conjunction, derived from 1223 /diá, "through" and 3754 /hóti, "because") – properly, "because-through," functioning as an emphatic "because" ("on account of that") which effectively Links to the necessary effect (which is often implied rather than stated in the passage

7 Because the carnal mind is
enmity against God;

echthra: enmity, hostility

Original Word: ἔχθρα, ας, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: echthra

Phonetic Spelling: (ekh'-thrah)

Definition: yesterday

Usage: enmity, hostility, alienation.

Cognate: 2189 éxthra – properly, enemy (hatred, hostility); enmity. See 2190 (exthros).

7 Because the carnal mind *is*
enmity against God;

Διοτι το φρονημα της σαρκος εχθρα εις Θεον

eis (a preposition) – properly, into (unto) – literally, "motion into which" implying penetration ("unto," "union") to a particular purpose or result.

James 4:4 (NKJV)

4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

7 Because the carnal mind *is*
enmity against God; for it is **not**
subject to the law of God, nor
indeed can be

Is not subject (ούχ ύποτασσειται [*ouch hupotassetai*]). Present passive indicative of ύποτασσω [*hupotassō*], late verb, **military term**

for subjection to orders. Present tense here means continued insubordination. Neither indeed can it be (οὐδε γὰρ δυναταὶ [*oude gar dunatai*]). “For it is not even able to do otherwise.” This **helpless state of the unregenerate man** Paul has shown above apart from Christ. Hope lies in Christ (7:25) and the Spirit of life (8:2).

Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Ro 8:7). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, **nor indeed can be**

2 Peter 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. *They have* a heart trained in covetous practices, *and are* accursed children. Jeremiah

13:23 (NKJV)

²³ Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots?

Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.

Matthew 12:34 (NKJV)

³⁴ **Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.**

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

Romans 8:8 (NKJV)

⁸ So then, those who are(exist eimi) in the flesh cannot please God.

areskó: to please

Original Word: ἀρέσκω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: areskó

Phonetic Spelling: (ar-es'-ko)

Definition: to please

Usage: I please, with the idea of willing service rendered to others; hence almost: I serve.

700 aréskō – properly, **satisfy** (make good on something, LS); hence to please, **winning someone's favor (affection, approval) because meeting their expectation (especially by being in moral agreement).**