

Romans 8:5–13

XXVI. Life in the Spirit - Part 2 - The Spirit Changes Our Nature and Empowers Us for Victory

A. The Holy Spirit Changes Our Nature

1. For

- a. referring back to vs 4 - walking according to flesh or Spirit
- b. Carries the idea of because

2. From God's perspective, only two kinds of people in the world - Jo 3:6; 1Co 2:14

- a. according to
 - i. refers to basic spiritual nature, fundamental essence, bent or disposition
 - ii. Lit trans - those being according to
- b. set their minds on - 2 Pet 2:10
 - i. **phroneo** - to exercise the mind, entertain or have a sentiment or opinion; to be (mentally) disposed (more or less earnestly in a certain direction); to interest oneself in (with concern or obedience):--set the affection on, regard, savor, think.
 - ii. Refers to the basic orientation, bent, thought patterns of the mind,

3. The Two Kinds

b. The Unsaved - those who live according to the flesh - vs 5a

- i. set their minds on the things of the flesh, -
 - includes false philosophies and religions
 - whether overtly or subtly appeal to the flesh through self-interest and self-effort
- ii. For to be carnally minded - vs 6a
 - **phronema** - (mental) inclination or purpose:--(be, + be carnally, + be spiritually) mind(-ed).
 - is death:
 - note Paul doesn't say **leads** to death - Eph 2:1
 - state of being, not a consequence
- iii. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God - vs 7; 1Co 2:14
 - **echthra** - hostility; a reason for opposition, enmity, hatred.
 - for it is not subject to the law of God,
 - nor indeed can be
- iv. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. - vs 8

c. The Saved - those who live according to the Spirit, - vs 5b

- i. *set their minds on* the things of the Spirit.
 - A result of the New Covenant - Eze 36:25-27
 - but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. - vs 6b
- ii. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit - vs 9; Jo 3:6
 - if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. - **oikeo** - to occupy a house, reside (inhabit, remain, inhere); to cohabit:--dwell.
 - Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.
 - the opposite reality stated
 - where there is no evidence of the presence, power, and fruit of the Spirit, there is no legitimate claim on Christ as Savior and Lord - 2 Co 13:5
 - no desire for the things of God, no inclination to avoid sin, no passion to please God

4. And if Christ is in you, - vs 10

a. the body is dead because of sin,

i. sin dwells in me - 7:17

ii. In my flesh, nothing Good dwells - 7:18

iii. A Law

- Evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. - 7:21

- warring against the law of my mind, bringing me into captivity - 7:23

iv. Doesn't have the capacity to produce that which is glorifying to God

b. but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

5. Summing up vs 5-10 - vs 11

a. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, - Ac 2:24; Ro 6:4-5; 1Co 6:14; 2Co 4:14

b. He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

i. the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing - Jo 6:63

ii. who also made us sufficient as ministers - 2 Co 3:6

B. The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Victory Over the Flesh

1. Therefore, brethren, - reminding them of the privilege of being believers

2. Exhortations and Admonitions are based on blessings and promises of God in His word

3. The Pattern for victory

a. we are debtors -

i. *opheiletēs* - an owner, person indebted; a delinquent; a transgressor (against God):--debtor, which owed, sinner.

ii. not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. - Ro 6:7,14

- flesh - the ugly complex of human desires including ungodly motives, affections, principles, purposes, words, and actions, that sin generates in the body

- to be ruled and controlled by the ugly complex

iii. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; - Ga 6:8;

- not referring to losing salvation

- according to - See A.2.a.i.

b. but if by the Spirit

i. the only source of power to overcome the "flesh" - vs 2

- Remember A.4.a.i.-iv. (top of the page)

- consider the focus of the person that overcomes - Ga 5:16; 1 Pet 3:15; 1 Jo 4:4; 5:1-5

ii. you put to death the deeds of the body, - Eph 4:22; Col 3:5

- *thanatōō* - to kill:--become dead, (cause to be) put to death, kill, mortify.

- Requires

-a recognition of sin in our flesh - see flesh above

-a heart focused on God - 1 Pe 3:15

-meditation on God's word - Ps 1:2; 119:11 - a change of mind - Ro 12:2; 2 Co 7:9-11; Col 3:1-3

- communion with God - Heb 4:16; 1 Pe 4:7

-practice obedience

iii. you will live. - Jo 10:10