

The Deeds of the Body

(Carnal desires) Body vs. Spirit (God's Word)

Ever had this problem?

*"For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I."
Romans 7:15*

This is from the Apostle Paul's letter to the believers at Rome . The truth is, for every believer there is, was, and shall be, until the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, the ever present struggle between carnality and spirituality, but there's hope. The Apostle Paul admits that he, too, tried to do right, but ended up doing wrong.

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not." Romans 7:17, 18

"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? {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." Romans 7:24-25

Carnal Man Is God's Enemy

Fact 1 The carnal or natural man is God's enemy. (Carnal = flesh/body)

"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. {6} For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. " Rm. 8:5,6

The unbeliever can only obey the flesh, or carnal lusts. It's all he knows. The way of eternal damnation.

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Pr. 14:12

The believer has The Holy Spirit helping him to understand the new way of eternal life.

"In him [Jesus/The Word] was life; and the life was the light of men." John 1:4

Born-Again Of The Spirit

Fact 2 A true “born-again believer” is a new person in Christ.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17

We must trust God's Word, and continue to search the Scriptures for the truth we need to solve basic conflicts of life. I would hasten to add, if you are not “born again”, if you have not come to Jesus Christ as a repentant sinner and trusted His Word, then there is no hope for you until you do.

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:14

Until you trust God’s Word, and The Holy Spirit dwells in your life, you can't ever hope to understand the Bible. You can't come to God with an open mind; you must come with an open heart. Jesus loves you, and gave Himself to purchase your redemption from the curse and power of sin, and to give you eternal life. He will save you, and He will keep you. Salvation is like birth. It is the beginning of many steps for the believer. The Saviour is always ready and willing to save all who call on Him!

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13

Our Guide

The Holy Spirit helps us to conquer the “Deeds of the Body” if we obey. The Holy Spirit is the “gift” that every believer receives, God Himself dwelling in you. God does the work, if we obey His Word.

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Phil 2:13

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Colossians 3:16

The word "let" implies that we can hinder the work of The Holy Spirit, in our hearts and minds. We choose to do what is carnal over what He directs us to do through God's Word. This is why we are told to:

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:" Philipians 2:5

"Quench not the Spirit." I Thessalonians 5:19

In other words, "Obey God's Word!" we are commanded to renew our minds.

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:2

How do we renew our mind? Saturate your mind & soul with God's Word.

A New Creature

As a believer I am a new person in Christ. Before salvation my mind was physical. The Holy Spirit now guides and teaches the new "me." I must obey. I must "grow" in the wisdom of God. I am a new "me" that God has created. I must walk and talk as this new "me." God's Word tells us to kill bodily deeds. (Carnal) God wouldn't tell me to do what He doesn't enable me to do. What's the Key? The Holy Spirit.

"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Romans 8:13-14 "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Ephesians 6:16

Faith is key to victory, and faith comes by hearing & obeying God's Word. "Fiery darts" are thoughts from the devil. The real battlefield is my mind, the conflict of ideas & imaginations, the carnal against the Holy Spirit. A fiery dart will burn down your house if you let it burn!

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" II Corinthians 10:5 "Let the Word of Christ dwell richly." Colossians 3:16

This is why we saturate our minds with the water of God's Word. To hear the voice of God, I must know God's Word. How do I know what to "cast down" and what is right? Know God's Word, it is the standard. Knowing God's Word lets The Holy Spirit guide me.

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:..." Jn. 16:13

A "Hearing" Child

The Word of God prepares me to be a "hearing" child of God.

Saturate your mind with God's Word. Let the Holy Spirit guide you. Your faith will increase and you will please God. God's Word enables you to know the "darts of the wicked" (see Ephesians 6:16) and the voice of God. All thoughts seem to be yours until you learn the difference. The more you learn, the more your faith increases. Recognizing the Voice of God is a supernatural event! You have to be diligent, not half-hearted! God only rewards the "diligent seeker." He is His own reward.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6

I need to choose "spirituality" over "carnality," if I truly desire God's power over sin in my life.

*"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."
Philippians 2:13*

God wants to work in me and will work in me unless I "quench" the Spirit by "letting" impulses and carnal desires rule my mind.

"Quench not the Spirit." I Thessalonians 5:19

An Obedient Child

The Holy Spirit teaches me who I will be for eternity.

I can choose victory or defeat. Notice the condition.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7

Why should we do all this? We will stand before Him, and be judged by Him! What an incentive to do right! Not everything is good in your life, but even bad will work for your good if you love God. He said so.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

There is much more to be said. Learning to be Christ-like, requires 2-way communication. You obey. God answers your prayers. God can answer our prayers if we obey. Answered prayer will keep you realizing the awesome power of God! You just obey. He'll do the rest. We trust, and humbly obey the Word of God.

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:" Psalms 66:18