



Part 2 (Lesson 4)

Crucifying the Flesh and Living By the Spirit

There is a battle that takes place daily within the life of each Christian. This battle is not seen with physical eyes but is just as real as any battle fought in the wars and conflicts of this world. The stakes are high and the results have long lasting effects. There are keys to success in this battle. They are given to us in the Word of God. Let's examine the battle and means for succeeding in the battle.

I. Identifying the Battle

- A. In Galatians 5:17 the battle is described. What is it? **(The battle between the flesh and the spirit)** (The terms “the flesh” and “the sinful nature” are interchangeable)
1. The deeds of the flesh are (Galatians 5:19-21) **(Immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these)**
 2. The fruit of the Spirit is (Galatians 5:22-23) **(Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control)**
- B. Galatians 5:16 tells us to **(Walk in the spirit and not carry out the deeds of the flesh)**
- C. Describe the battle Paul spoke of within himself in Romans 7:18-25 **(Paul recognized this battle within himself, understanding that his flesh wanted to live for sin and his spirit wanted to live for God.) (Note – He refers to his “spirit” as his “inner man”)**

D. In your own words, describe the battle within every believer.

(As Christians our spirits have been redeemed (Galatians 3:13; Colossians 1:14; 1 Peter 1:18) but the body we live in has yet to be redeemed (Romans 8:23; Ephesians 4:30). Our flesh, or sinful nature, wants to sin and must be put to death daily. Our spirit wants to please God and is strengthened by prayer and God's Word to defeat the flesh.)

E. Note the differences between the mind set on the flesh and the mind set on the spirit in Romans 8:6-8. **(The mind set on the flesh is death and the mind set on the spirit is life and peace. The mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God and does not subject itself to the law of God. The mind set on the flesh cannot please God.)**

F. Note the three areas of temptation within the fleshly nature (1 John 2:15-16).

(The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life)

[Notice how these same 3 areas of temptation are seen in Genesis 3:6 (Adam & Eve) and in Matthew 4:1-11 (The Temptation of Jesus)]

II. The Effects of Salvation

A. What things were true of us before we accepted Jesus? (Rom. 6:20) (Ephesians 2:1-3)

(We were slaves of sin. We were dead in our sins and trespasses. The prince of the power of the air was working in us. We were living in the lusts of the flesh, engaged in its' desires. We were by nature children of wrath along with the rest of the world.)

B. What according to Paul happens to us when we get saved? (Galatians 2:20)

(We are crucified with Christ. We die to the flesh and our selfishness.)

C. In Romans 6:11-13, notice the immense difference in our lives when we accept Christ.

What admonishment are we given? **(Before Christ we are allowing sin to reign in our mortal body. After we accept Christ we present our bodies to God for righteousness.)**

III. The Continuing Battle

After we get saved the battle doesn't end. For the rest of our lives the battle rages on.

A. What was the desire of the disciples in their spirits? (Matt. 26:33-35)

(They wanted to be faithful to Jesus and stand with Him, no matter what)

B. What did Jesus tell them later that night in Matthew 26:41? **(They needed to watch**

and pray because their spirit was willing but their flesh was weak)

C. What did they all do? (Matthew 26:56) **(They fell asleep and did not pray)**

D. What did Jesus say we must do every day? (Luke 9:23) **(Deny ourselves daily, take up**

our cross & follow Him. That is, put our flesh to death daily, choosing to follow Jesus.)

E. What does Galatians 5:24 say about this? **(Those who belong to Christ Jesus have put**

the flesh to death with its passions and desires)

F. In order to walk by the spirit and not the flesh we need to feed the spirit in us daily.

1. We feed our flesh by **(viewing, listening to and participating in fleshly things)**

2. We feed our spirit by **(prayer)** (Matthew 26:40-41) (Jude 20) and by **(the Word of God) (reading, meditating upon, memorizing, etc.)** (Matthew 4:4) (Deuteronomy 8:1-3)

G. We need to build up our spirit man and not our flesh. Galatians 6:7-8 warns us - **(Those who sow to the flesh will from the flesh reap corruption but those who sow to the spirit will from the spirit reap eternal life.)**

“It is critical to remember that the battle against the flesh does not end when we become a Christian. Rather, it will continue until we see Jesus face to face!”

