

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE  
*Romans*  
**Romans 8:12-17**  
**Are You Living by the Flesh  
or by the Spirit?**  
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April 23, 2017

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**In the Flesh vs. in the Spirit**

**In the Flesh:** Refers to the moral sphere of mankind that is unaided by the Holy Spirit and in rebellion against God.

**In the Spirit:** Refers to the sphere of existence that belongs to those aided by the Holy Spirit.

8:1-4 Work of Christ + Spirit enable us to obey  
8:5-11 Belonging to the Spirit brings life  
8:12-17 We ought to live according to the Spirit

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**Obedience Reveals Those Who Are Saved**

Romans 8:12-13 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

**The Body as an emblem of the "Old Age"**

- Rom. 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free **from the body of this death?**
- Rom. 8:10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, **yet the spirit is alive** because of righteousness.

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**Believers Are Sons and Daughters of God**

Romans 8:14-15 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God 15 For you did not receive **the spirit of slavery** to fall back into fear, but you have received **the Spirit of adoption** as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

- Being "led by the Spirit" does not imply a mystical life (Gal. 5:18)!
- "Sons of God" – we are adopted sons + daughters in Christ!
- The Spirit of adoption is the Holy Spirit

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**We Are Heirs With Christ**

Romans 8:16-17 **The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit** that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

- The spirit of mankind belongs to the eternal age.
- Two witnesses corresponds to Deut. 19:15
- We don't suffer to earn salvation, but those who have salvation will suffer for Christ.

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**Applications**

1. We should know that the Holy Spirit testifies to us through the Scriptures.
2. We must understand that "being led by the Spirit" means that we govern our lives according to the terms of the New Covenant.
3. We must know that obedience to Christ is necessary to enter the Kingdom of God.

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**Holy Spirit Testifies Through the Bible**

John 15:26-27 When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He will testify about Me, 27 and you will testify also,** because you have been with Me from the beginning.

1 Cor. 2:12-13 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, **but the Spirit who is from God,** so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, **13 which things we also speak, not in words** taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

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**“Led by the Spirit” = New Covenant Christians**

- 1. Means of grace – not spiritual disciplines
- 2. Obedience to Christ’s word – not the world
- 3. Obedience to Christ’s word – not Moses

Heb. 8:10-11 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts,** and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **11** And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me...

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**“Led by the Spirit” = New Covenant Christians**

Hebrews 8:12-13 “For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.” **13 In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete.** And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

**Obsolete** (palaios) = to be old, obsolete, and therefore invalid (Louw Nida).

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**Obedience Is Necessary for  
Entering God's Kingdom**

Matthew 7:24 Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine **and acts on them**, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Hebrews 12:24 **Pursue** peace with all men, and **the sanctification** without which no one will see the Lord.

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