

The Deeds of the Body

Body (Carnal desire/lust of the flesh) **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. " (Romans 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."* (Proverbs 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

Fact 3: The Holy Spirit Guides believers with the Word of God.

The Holy Spirit helps us to conquer the "Deeds of the Body" if we obey the Word of God He teaches us. 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 (the Holy Spirit) which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."* (Philippians 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:"* (Philippians 2:5) *"Quench not the Spirit."* (1 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

Fact 4: Believers are New creations of God.

As a believer I am a NEW person in Christ. Before salvation my mind was only physically controlled. As I read, study, and meditate, the Holy Spirit now guides and teaches the "NEW me." If I obey, I will "grow" in the wisdom of God. As the "NEW me" God has created, I must walk and talk as this "NEW me." God's Word tells us to mortify (kill) bodily deeds through obedience to His Word. *"And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do MORTIFY (kill) the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."* (Romans 8:10-14) God wouldn't tell me to do what He doesn't enable me to do. What's the Key? Obeying God's Word with the Holy Spirit's guidance. *"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to*

quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." (Ephesians 6:16) "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! Faith, trusting obedience to God's Word, is key to victory. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." (1 John 5:4) "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8) "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 God's Word. To hear the voice of God, I must know God's Word, else I will not know when He speaks to me. 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 by bringing thoughts of Scripture to mind at the appropriate times. "Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth..." (John. 16:13)

A "Hearing" Child

Fact 5: 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 your deeds with thoughts of God's Word. Faith will increase as you obey, you will trust more and more, and you will please God. *"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) God's Word enables you to know the "darts of the wicked" (see Ephesians 6:16) and the voice of God. Unless you know the writer, a letter has little meaning, but if you do, it makes all the difference! Thoughts originate three places: You Satan, or God. However, all thoughts seem to be yours until you learn to know God's Word. Truth makes all the difference! By knowing God's Word you will know evil thoughts from God's Voice. 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. 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 and body. *"Quench not the Spirit." (I Thessalonians 5:19) "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..." (Proverbs 23:7) "*

An Obedient Child

Fact 6: 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) *"God is light..."* (1 John 1:5) Why should we do all this? We will stand before God, and be judged by Him! What an incentive to do right! Not everything is good in your life, but even trouble 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 that can be said. Learning to be Christ-like, requires 2-way communication. You obey as God guides your meditations. You learn what to ask God and He answers your prayers. *"And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us: And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him."* (1 John 5:14-15) God can answer our prayers if we obey and ask correctly. Answered prayer will keep you realizing the awesome power of God! You just trust and 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)