

The Ark
Wednesday – March 16, 2022
Romans 8 – Spirit/Soul/Body

Stewardship:

Habakkuk 2:4 NKJV “Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.”

This verse is quoted in several places in the New Testament:

- *Romans 1:17 – “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”*
- *Galatians 3:11 – “But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, “The just shall live by faith.”*
- *Hebrews 10:38 – “Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him.”*

If God says something once, it’s very important. If God repeats the same statement four times, we better pay attention to it.

I love the Living Bible translation of Hebrews 11:1, which defines faith:

“What is faith? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead.”

NKJV: Now faith is the ^[a]substance of things hoped for, the ^[b]evidence of things not seen.

Substance – the material God uses to create our promise.

Shall live = Order their lives by.

My confident expectation that God will do what He promises is the motivating factor in my life.

How This applies to our Giving

Hebrews 10:38 – “Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him.”

It's God's desire for you to live under an “Open Heaven” and in Malachi he gives you the keys (secret) that opens that window of Heaven... it is our giving, but not just any kind of giving... it is a giving with expectation. Giving with the faith that our God will always meet our financial needs because we trust in Him.

- It's giving with the excitement of faith.
- It's giving with the expectation of faith
- It's giving with the confidence of faith

If you are not being blessed in your giving... change your giving attitude to one of faith.

Romans 8 – Spirit/Soul/Body

ROMANS 8:1 NKJV *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit*

Condemnation = Greek “katakrima. Punishment following sentence – penal servitude (imprisonment with hard labor). There is no reason for those who are in Christ Jesus to serve sin as if they had never been pardoned and never been liberated from the prison-house of sin. (F.F Bruce.). Compare to liberated slaves who continue to serve, not realizing they have been freed.

This chapter begins with “no condemnation and ends with no separation”

Some translations don't include the last line of verse 1 (*who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit*), However, I feel this line is vital to understanding the entire chapter and in fact gives the **theme of the entire chapter.... "Walking in or living by the Spirit rather than the flesh."**

- We are really a spirit being
- We have a soul
- We live in a body.

Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins. We were made alive by the Holy Spirit.

VERSE 2-4 – THREE LAWS

² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

- The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus (Overpowers the other two laws.
- The law of sin and death

- The Law of Moses

The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit's working in our lives. When we become "born of the spirit" through trusting in the work of Jesus Christ, (who became sin, died on the cross, and conquered death, hell and the grave,) the Law of the Spirit of Life begins to operate in our life. However, we must learn to be led by the spirit.... Rather than our mind and emotion. This isn't easy since all our lives we have been led by our intellect and emotion.

- The real you is a spirit
- You have a soul (will, mind and emotion)
- You live in a human body

The Law of Sin and Death. This is the law that is operating in the earth since the fall of man. *Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* This is the law the entire world lives under and many believers continue to operate under this law even after they are freed from this law. It's like a dog that has been chained for a long time and then the chain is removed. The dog continues to act as though he is chained because he doesn't know he is free.

The Law of Moses. “For what the law could not do” refers to the laws given Moses included in the first five books of the Hebrew Bible and including the ten commandments, moral laws, dietary laws, etc. The problem with the Law of Moses was not the law, but the inability of the people to keep the law.

Romans 8:³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit

How do we know whether we are Living or Walking by the Spirit or the Flesh?

Romans 8: 5 For those who “live” according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Your body has been dominated by your mind and emotion from your natural birth until being born again, so your body tries to follow the flesh, **unless your spirit becomes stronger than your mind and emotion. This strength comes from time spent with God and the Word of God.**

1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, for because God's seed remains in them and they cannot sin because they are born of God....

Believers have a new life-source inside, but they can still **choose** to listen to their mind and emotion, rather than the Spirit of God. **You can know to what extent your old nature is influencing you by what your mind likes to dwell on.**

**Why is it important to
Develop a Spiritual Mind?**

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Mind is The Greek word “phroneo” occurs in verse 5 and 6. It means to have understanding, to feel or think, to **direct the mind**, to seek or strive for.

The mind uses the brain, but it cannot be completely identified with the brain. We are not discussing the brain. The brain is physical and is not necessarily changed by the new birth. It could be said that “the mind” is the way humans use the brain to reflect the basic attitude of the heart.

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace

Carnal is the Greek word “Pronema”, (Proneo = to direct the mind) Pronema, which literally means “mind of the flesh”. It means the pattern of thought and motive; the interest and aims dominated by the flesh.

Notice the contrast- For life and peace we must direct our focus:

“For to be carnally minded is death”, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace

- The word **carnal** pertains to or is characterized by the flesh or the body, it is passions and appetites. The word used here actually means the pattern of thought and motive, the interests and aims....it is literally the mind dominated by the flesh or lower nature.
- Thinking that is inspired by your lower needs and desires
- natural thinking will lead to death (*Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*)

- *Spiritual thinking will lead to life and peace (Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you because then he trusts in you.)*

A renewed spirit will result in a renewed mind, the Mind of Christ, as we learn to walk after the Spirit (*Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*)

Why this is true:

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

“Enmity” = in rebellion against; an enemy of

“Not subject to the law of God nor can be” = In our own power we cannot obey God’s law. Because God’s law is spiritual and our old nature is “carnal”. Always desiring selfish things that oppose the law of God

Your “old nature” will fight against your new nature (*Galatians 5:16 NKJV I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do*

the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.) This is speaking of the Law of Moses, because the “Law of the Spirit of Life has set us free from the law of sin and death.)

- Our old nature constantly questions God’s love for us and causes us to try to “do it ourselves”.
- We excuse our bad behavior and talk ourselves into disobedience.
- We focus on our weakness and therefore do not walk in God’s power and Peace.

From today, let’s focus on God and our time with Him and in His Word and begin to Walk in the Spirit on purpose!

Romans 8:9 NKJV But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

If you have received Christ Jesus as your Savior, then you have His Spirit dwelling in you and you have the potential to learn to walk and live from the Spirit within.

¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Your body is subject to death because of sin – Because of the original fall of man, death entered the earth and with it disease and violence.

, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. – Your spirit is not subject to the law of sin and death. YOUR SPIRIT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH. RATHER THE **LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS IS OPERATING IN YOUR SPIRIT MAN.**

NOW LISTEN TO THIS LAST VERSE I'M GOING TO SHARE TONIGHT...

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

- God's Spirit will heal you
- God's Spirit will empower you
- God's Spirit will guide you

The Spirit of God is the Power of God: **Ephesians 1:19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places:**

Four Greek words are used for power in these verses:

- Huperballon – superiority, excellence power that is beyond measure, more than enough, surpassing power.
- Energeia – energy speaks of the energy put forth in operation. The operating power. The divine energy of his power.
- Dunamis – dynamite power... miracle working, explosive power
- Kratos – “mighty” - manifested strength.

That’s the power God used to raise Jesus from the dead and it is the same power that lives inside you and me!

Bookstore shelves are filled with books on how to live long lives; how to overcome weaknesses; all sorts of self-help books. When in truth the Bible is the ultimate guide to life and peace and health. READ IT ... MEDITATE ON IT... OBEY IT!!!

*Psalm 119:130 The entrance of Your words gives light;
It gives understanding to the simple*