

“Grace & Peace to You”

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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ROMANS LESSON 49 PART 1: “HELP FROM WITHIN: THE HOLY SPIRIT”

ROMANS 8:5-13 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** set their minds on the things of **THE SPIRIT**.⁶ For to set the mind on **THE FLESH** is death, but to set the mind on **THE SPIRIT** is life and peace.⁷ For the mind that is set on **THE FLESH** is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.⁸ Those, who are in **THE FLESH**, cannot please God.

⁹ You, however, are not in **THE FLESH** but in **THE SPIRIT**, if in fact **THE SPIRIT OF GOD** dwells in you. Anyone who does not have **THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST** does not belong to him.¹⁰ But if **CHRIST** is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, **THE SPIRIT** is life because of righteousness.¹¹ If **THE SPIRIT** of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through **HIS SPIRIT** who dwells in you.

There is only ONE way for the Believer who has died with Christ, been buried in death with Him, and has risen in Christ Jesus to live to god's glory. The KEY to this “Life of FREEDOM” that Paul declares for the Believer is The Holy Spirit.

- The Law cannot help us for it is limited to “the Flesh” and only brings Condemnation
- The “New Man” has been created to be in Union with God through the Indwelling Holy Spirit
- HE is now present to bring our lives into alignment with God's Holy Purposes – Sanctification

Just a glance at the above verses shows that the true subject IS the Holy Spirit. Whereas **THE FLESH** occurs **5x's**, **THE SPIRIT** is found **10x's**.

GOD'S WAY TO SANCTIFICATION: NOT BY THE LAW BUT BY THE SPIRIT...

Notice how Paul ended the previous sentence:

ROM 8:4 “...in order that the righteous requirement of **THE LAW** might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

- Here is the fulfilment of JEREMIAH's prophecy of the New Covenant: (**JER. 31:33** / **EZK 36:26-27**)
‘I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts’
- And re-stated in Paul's words: **HEBREWS 8:10-12**

¹⁰ *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 (Learn the way of) the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.*

¹² *For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."*

- It is the Holy Spirit IN us that brings the "inner witness" of God's Laws and His Ways

ROMANS LESSON 49 PART 2: "HELP FROM WITHIN: THE HOLY SPIRIT"

The Contrast:

For those who live according to THE FLESH set their minds on the things of THE FLESH.

"According to..." - Kata - under the influence

"Set their minds..." - to be intensely interested in / occupying their thoughts and desires...

- Non-Believers –
- Believers who have "given control" to the "Old Nature" – they live as they did before they were saved – "Carnal" – (1 COR 3:1-3)
- Believers who TRY to live by The Law – their concentration is continually upon their "flesh" – trying to fulfill the Law they NEVER could... NEVER will

but those who live according to THE SPIRIT set their minds on the things of THE SPIRIT.

- Believers ONLY!
- The more their "minds are renewed" ... the more they will be "transformed" (ROM 12:2)
- They have become "Slaves of Righteousness" (ROM 6:19; 22)

⁶ *For to set the mind on THE FLESH is death,*

- For Unbelievers: Spiritually / Eternally...
- For Believers: "Death" in some realm or dimension / Separation from that which is good / productive / beneficial to self and others

but to set the mind on THE SPIRIT is life and peace.

- The "fruit" of the "Spirit-led" Life is produced in numerous ways and dimensions...
- Can ONLY be attained by allowing OUR life to be "occupied" with God's purposes...

⁷ *For the mind that is set on THE FLESH is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.*

- The Unbeliever has taken a position of "Hostility" to God... even though God has "reconciled Himself to them through Jesus' blood..." THEY must now reconcile themselves to HIM...

- The Believer who is occupied with the “flesh” sets himself outside the “circle” of God’s Blessing – they are not “walking in the light as God does” (1 JOHN 1)

⁸ *Those, who are IN THE FLESH, CANNOT please God.*

The Reality:

⁹ *You, however, are not IN THE FLESH but IN THE SPIRIT, if in fact THE SPIRIT OF GOD dwells in you.*

- *Dwells...* – to take-up permanent residence / make a “home / habitation”
- It is the “In-dwelling presence of the Holy Spirit” that confirms that we are HIS...
- NOT our actions...

Anyone who does not have THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST does not belong to him.

****The inverse: Those who DO belong to Him... HAVE THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST**

¹⁰ *But if [and it is TRUE] CHRIST is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, THE SPIRIT is life because of righteousness.*

- *Although...* – You body still exists in the realm of the “natural world” and will NOT be changed UNTIL it is “glorified” at the Rapture...
- The Spirit is the witness of our NEW Life ... and is the very “source” of the righteous life we can have before God and the World...

¹¹ *If THE SPIRIT of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through HIS SPIRIT who dwells in you.*

HERE is the MASTER POINT of Paul’s words...

- It is NOT the BODY that proves we are of GOD...
- It is The Spirit that dwell IN us that is the evidence...
 - IF it was BY God’s Spirit that Jesus was raised and made alive... AND SINCE
 - YOU have been raised to Life IN Him... THEN
 - That SAME Spirit (from God) DWELLS in you... THEREFORE
 - IT will “GIVE LIFE” to your Body SO THAT you may LIVE to God’s glory

OUR HELPER

There are Two Ways that have been used to interpret how Christians fulfill “the righteous requirement of the law”:

- HE Speaks... But WE must Listen...
- HE Teaches... But WE must Learn...
- HE Leads... But WE must Follow...