

Sunday, April 23, 2023
LAW OF THE SPIRIT
PART 2: WHY CAN'T I STOP?

We have been talking for a couple of weeks about the power of the resurrection of Jesus. We know that Jesus' resurrection from the dead provided for deliverance from hell for those who accept Him as Lord. Did you know that the resurrection provided for victory in the life you live now? Let's recap by looking at this scripture:

Romans 6:1-12 (NKJV)

These passages open our eyes to the liberty provided for you through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. How is that liberty provided?

Through Jesus' death:

1. The life controlled by sin died.
2. The life controlled by sin was buried in the grave.

Through Jesus' resurrection:

1. I live a brand-new life not controlled by sin.
2. I live a new life controlled by the Spirit of the Lord.

Therefore, when tempted by sin I do not have to sin but can choose to obey God.

Romans 8:2 (NKJV)

Law: the force and influence of an entity.

The force and influence of the Spirit has set me free from the force and influence of sin and death.

Romans 8:11-13 (NKJV)

Yes, you continue to live in a mortal body but the Spirit gives "life" to your body enabling you to reject sin.

zōopoiéō (from /zōgréō, "alive" and /poiéō, "make") – properly, make alive (zōos); i.e. "quicken," vivify ("animate"); (figuratively) cause what is dead (inoperative) to *have life*; *empower with divine life*.

/zōopoiéō ("make alive, enliven") is particularly used of God *infusing His life in the believer*. The Lord infuses eternal life (zōē) into us each time we receive (obey) *faith from Him*. This enables *living with God* – not just *for Him* (cf. Gal

2:20; Ro 8:28-30; 1 Jn 5:4). His *self-existent, all-powerful life* overcomes all the deadly effects of sin.

Why do I continue in sin?

Romans 8:6 (NKJV)

According to scripture, we continue to sin due to a mindset that is carnal.

(sarks) is generally negative, referring to making decisions (actions) *according to self* – i.e. done *apart from faith* (independent from God's inworking). Thus what is "*of the flesh (carnal)*" is by definition displeasing to the Lord – even things that *seem* "respectable!" In short, *flesh* generally relates to *unaided human effort*, i.e. decisions (actions) that originate from self or are empowered by self. This is *carnal* ("of the *flesh*") and proceeds out of the *untouched (unchanged)* part of us – i.e. what is *not* transformed by God.

A carnal mindset can be sustained by many things:

1. A sense of unworthiness or self-hatred.
2. A refusal to trust fueled by fear.
3. Desire for or familiarity with something contrary to the will of God.
4. Pride that rejects truth.

Romans 8:7-8 (NKJV)

You can't do what you have always done and expect something different to happen. It doesn't matter what vies for control of you, Jesus has set up all you need for your freedom.

Romans 8:29-31 (NKJV)

Everyone: "I am dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus!"

Today's Scriptures:

- Romans 6:1-12 (NKJV)
- Romans 8:2 (NKJV)
- Romans 8:11-13 (NKJV)
- Romans 8:6-8 (NKJV)
- Romans 8:29-31 (NKJV)