

Devotional Thoughts :: The Law of the Spirit Of Life

The Law of the Spirit Of Life - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2019/7/7 8:12

The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2)

Let any of our old man, whether of our old temper, our old way of judging, our old disposition, any of it come up at all, if we are children of God, we know quite well that at that point a barrier is set up and we cannot get past, we are held up in our spiritual life and we have to go back and have that thing cleared up. It is as real as any other thing in the universe to us. At that moment we stand still spiritually, and the flaming sword is across our path. There is no way for that here. Bring that here and you will be judged. You will meet the judgment of God. You will be broken. It is coming up against the fact that God finished with all that long ago and we have to accept God's standpoint. When we have accepted it then the thing works out, it continually works out. We take that position, we accept the truth.

We cannot bring an actual end to the old creation ourselves, but we say in a positive way: "I reckon as God reckons." Well then we shall find as we go on that God, having put all that under death, death rests upon it and if ever it shows its head again, the sentence of death is met. If we begin to work for the Lord with our own natural strength we meet death and before long our natural strength will come under death. If we begin to use our natural judgment in the things of God we shall meet an arrest and before long we shall come to a deadlock, unable to get through. Anything which we bring of nature into the things of God will bring us up against it not some new issue, but the old issue death which was made to rest upon the old creation. In so far as we move in the newness of Life, work by the Spirit of God, and walk after the Spirit, death is done away and we are in Life and we can go on and can get through, no matter how much there may be of handicap and weakness in nature, we can get through as we go on in the Spirit. "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and death." We are free!

By T. Austin-Sparks from: Foundations - Chapter 4

Re: The Law of the Spirit Of Life - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/7/8 4:01

Hi Brother Mike,

What the author says is Scriptural. There is another verse that says we should by the Spirit put to death the misdeeds of the body. The idea of considering and trusting that our old man has been put to death is instrumental. How does this truth fit with the idea of some activity on our part to put to death the misdeeds of the body by the Spirit. Are the two ideas the same or is there a difference?

Re: Good Question! - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/7/8 9:51

Brother Robert,

Indeed what you have put forth asking, is a central & essential issue that requires our utmost attentiveness... am looking forward to this discussion:)

May the Lord Himself lead it, teaching His children, revealing the truth of His Spirit •••»

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2019/7/8 11:06

Hi Brother Robert,

The writings of Watchman Nee have been a great help to me in understanding how Romans 6:6 and Romans 8:13 work together to crucify the flesh. The former is what Christ has done in the finished work of the cross, and the latter is how we appropriate our co death with Christ to put to death the works of the old sin nature.

"But how can we have power to apply the Lord's death to our members? Romans 8:13 says that "by the Spirit you put to death the practices of the body." A believer who wants to put to death the practices of the body must depend on the Holy Spirit to make his co-death with Christ become experience. When a believer puts to death the practices of his body by the Lord's death, he must believe that the Holy Spirit will cause the death of the cross to become real in the particular matter.

er which he wants to put to death. The crucifixion of the believer's flesh with Christ on the cross is an accomplished fact. There is no need to crucify it again. Nevertheless, if the evil deeds of the body seem about to operate, then the Spirit should be there to apply the death which the cross of the Lord Jesus has accomplished for us to that very evil deed that it might be put to death by the power of the Lord's death. The evil practices of the flesh at all times and in every place are ready to come out and be manifested from our body. Therefore, unless the Spirit empowers the believer with the power of the holy death of the Lord Jesus, the believer cannot overcome. If the believer can put to death his practices in this way, the indwelling Holy Spirit will be able to accomplish God's purpose that the body of sin might be annulled (6:6). When the baby believers know the cross in this way, they can be liberated from the dominion of the flesh and be joined to the Lord Jesus in the life of resurrection."

Watchman Nee

Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/7/8 13:42

How would these Scriptures function in the idea of applying His death. The Scriptures seem to speak of us no longer being under the power of sin but also in having ongoing power to fight the temptations of sin. ??

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. - Galatians 5:16

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. - Matthew 5:29

In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. - Hebrews 12:4

Re: - posted by cup (), on: 2019/7/9 6:07

The most crucial question now is: how can we overcome? In other words, how can we reject the power and work of the old nature, and walk according to the aspirations of the new nature, and thus please the Lord? Let us read three verses:

"But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts" (Gal. 5:24).

"If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit"; "But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh" (vv. 25, 16).

These three verses tell us two ways to overcome the flesh, that is, the sinful nature, the old nature, and the old Adamic nature. Actually, the two ways are merely two aspects, or two phases, of one way. The cross and the Holy Spirit are the unique way to overcome the sinful nature. Other than this way, any human resolutions, determinations, or vows to charity are destined for failure.

We have seen that all our failures are caused by the tenaciousness of the sinful nature; we sink to such a low condition because of it. Hence, whether or not we will overcome depends on whether or not we are able to deal with this sinful nature, which is the flesh. Thank God that though we are helpless, He has the way. He has prepared a way for us on the cross. When the Lord Jesus was crucified on the cross, not only did He die for us, but He crucified our flesh with Him on the cross. Hence, all those who belong to Christ Jesus and are regenerated have their flesh crucified. When He died on the cross, our flesh was crucified there as well. Both the substitutional death and the identifying death have been accomplished by the Lord Jesus. Both are fully accomplished. Formerly, we believed in His substitutional death and were regenerated. Now, in the same way, we believe that our flesh is crucified with Him, and we are brought into the experience of the death of the flesh.

We know that the flesh is always the flesh. This is why God gave us a new life and a new nature. But what shall we do with the flesh? Since God considered it hopeless and impossible, He decided to terminate it, that is, to put it to death. There is no better way than to cause the flesh to die. Hence, "they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts." This puts the flesh to death. This is what the Lord Jesus has accomplished; He has accomplished it already. By crucifying our flesh with Him, it becomes possible now for us to put to death the sinful nature. This has been accomplished without any effort of our own.

How can this co-crucifixion become our experience? We have said that the way is by faith. Romans 6:11 says, "So also

you, reckon yourselves to be dead to sin." Sin here refers to the sinful nature which is the flesh. By ourselves, we cannot cause the flesh to die. The only way is by reckoning. Reckoning is an exercise of our will and our faith. This means that in our daily life, we should adopt the attitude that we are dead to the flesh, that we believe in God's word, and that we consider all God's words to be true. God says that our flesh has been crucified with the Lord Jesus; I believe that my flesh is indeed crucified. On the one hand, we believe that we are dead. On the other hand, we adopt the attitude that we are truly dead. If we do this, we will have the genuine experience of dying to sin.

If we reckon this way, we will see the cross freeing us, and the flesh will become powerless. It is true that once we reckon ourselves dead, we will experience instant victory. However, many people experience a gradual deliverance from the power of the flesh. This is either due to their own foolishness or to the lingering of evil spirits. If we persist in faith and if we take the proper attitude in our will, we will eventually overcome. However, this does not mean that henceforth there is no more sinful nature in us and that only the new nature remains. If we say this, we fall into heresy. Not only does this obscure the teaching of the Bible, but it betrays the experience of the saints. Until we are delivered from this body of sin, we will never be free from the "flesh"â€”the sinful natureâ€”which comes from the body of sin. Even though we have accepted the work of the cross, the fact that the flesh still exists means that we must continually "walk by the Spirit." Only by doing this, will we "by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh."

The cross is the instrument by which we crucify the flesh. The Holy Spirit is the power by which we keep the flesh from resurrecting. On the negative side, we should believe in the co-crucifixion of the cross for the elimination of a life in the flesh. On the positive side, we should walk according to the Spirit so that the flesh will have no chance to be rekindled. Many believers experience the resurrection of their flesh because they fail in this one point. Every time we walk contrary to the Holy Spirit, we give opportunity to the flesh to reign. If in everything we walk according to the Spirit, the flesh will not have any opportunity.

A person can read about this way of overcoming the flesh, the sinful nature, from the Bible; he can hear about it from others. But only when he encounters it in his experience will he realize that it is real. I often tell others that they can experience such a matter the minute they believe. Yet for myself, it took me a long time before I experienced it! What does this mean? Many times we merely strive. Although we say that we trust in the cross, thirty percent of the time we trust in ourselves and in our own "reckoning." Many times God allows us to be defeated so that in the end we would realize that nothing is trustworthy in our experience. Even our own "reckoning" with which we "reckon" ourselves dead is of no merit. This is why it is true to say that as soon as we truly reckon, we have the experience of victory, and it is equally true to say that we enter such experience only through a gradual understanding.

Brothers, by now you can understand our two natures and the way to overcome the flesh. While you are reading, you can exercise your faith to reckon yourself dead to sin, and you can pray that the Holy Spirit of the Lord will apply the cross of the Lord Jesus deeply in you, so that you can overcome sin in your experience. After this, you should resolve to walk by the Holy Spirit. Previously, you have failed in your resolution. Now, you should ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your will, so that it will be able to incline itself to the new nature. The will is like a rudder; it can turn the whole ship. However, a rudder that does not work is useless. After the Holy Spirit has strengthened you, you should exercise this will to walk according to the Holy Spirit. Remember that the flesh never disappears; it is always there. If you walk by the Holy Spirit, you will be able to crucify the flesh on the cross continually. Otherwise, the flesh will cause suffering to you. The meaning of walking by the Spirit is to trust in the Holy Spirit in a calm way in everything, so that you will bear the nine-in-one fruit of the Holy Spirit. The Lord will lead you experientially step by step into the mystery of this matter. However, on your part, you should be faithful.

Watchman Nee - THE TWO NATURES

Re: - posted by cup (), on: 2019/7/9 6:19

"I have been crucified with Christ" (Gal. 2:20).

"If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23).

What Galatians 2:20 speaks of is something accomplished once for all. After we realize that our self needs to be put to death, we should then by faith acknowledge in a definite way that "I have been crucified with Christ." The word in the original text is ego, the "I," the self. Besides the cross, there is indeed no other way to put the self to death. We should also pay attention to the words "with Christ." The crucifixion of the self is not an independent act of the believers. Believers are not to crucify the self on the cross by themselves in their own strength. The crucifixion of the self is to be joined to Christ

and in conjunction with Christ. This is not to say that we help Christ to put the self on the cross. Rather, it means that Christ has already accomplished this fact, and I now merely acknowledge and believe its reality. Here the main focus is Christ. This is why it says: "I have been crucified with Christ," and not "Christ has been crucified with me." It is not that we want to put the self to death, and that Christ comes merely to accompany us. Rather, it was Christ who in His death brought all our "ego," our self, to the cross and nailed it there. Therefore, I am not crucifying the self again but am merely acknowledging the fact. The two words "have been" show us that it is a fact and not a wish. A life that dies to the self is possible, real, and attainable. The apostles in the ancient time obtained that kind of life already; their self passed the test. Therefore, it is possible for us to obtain this life also. However, we should remember that this is "crucified with" and not "crucified alone." Apart from the Lord we can do nothing. To crucify the self with the strength of the self is an impossible task and can never be done. If we are not united with the Lord in His death, our self will never die. Christ alone brought all the old creation together with every part of it to the cross in His death. If we try to find another way besides the Lord's way, and to try to accomplish anything besides the Lord's accomplishment, we are not only foolish but are also wasting our time. Therefore, we are to do nothing but come to the Lord with full assurance of faith and acknowledge the Lord's accomplishment as ours; following this we should pray for the Holy Spirit to apply in us the work of the Lord's cross and to express this very work from us.

Watchman Nee THE WORD OF THE CROSS - DYING WITH THE LORD TO SIN

Re: watchman nee - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/7/9 10:03

The Lord has used some of this brothers writing to help me to grow in Christlikeness,... however brother Nee (no matter how well intended) isn't correct and does clearly err when he departs from the clear testimony of scripture- which he does several times in the various passages quoted in this thread.

My prayer is that all whom read this would, carefully and prayerfully read these passages from brother Nee and observing and noting where they depart from scripture. Doing this contrast and compare not to the end of laying charge of error at the feet of a brother, but rather to the end of upholding the truth with integrity giving all diligence to keeping pure what is entrusted to us.

A quick example;

Brother Nee is quoted; "To crucify the self with the strength of the self is an impossible task and can never be done."

While this appears to be correct, it is actually an affront to the testimony of scripture- as the appeal is made to simply "appropriate" what Christ has done, which again sounds good and appeals to our flesh however this leaves huge portions of the scriptural commands on the floor,... essentially removing any practical application by the Spirit on our part. (Which brother Robert has humbly submitted, asking for clarification tho only receiving more intellectual gobbledygook quotes) This is not at all what our Lord intended and will lead to catastrophe. Our Lord, by the spirit , commands us to be instant in and out of season to offer quotes from someone else when someone inquires of us the reason for our hope?? No! not once not ever, while it can be profitable for the cause of Christ to share quotes that have been used by God to grow us spiritually, it's not appropriate to respond to a question from another brother to us personally with quotes from someone else.... if we don't know or have the capacity to answer we should just be humble and say so-

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2019/7/9 10:37

Quote:
----- No! not once not ever, while it can be profitable for the cause of Christ to share quotes that have been used by God to grow us spiritually, it's not appropriate to respond to a question from another brother to us personally with quotes from someone else.... if we don't know or have the capacity to answer we should just be humble and say so-

I am sorry, brother Fletcher, but this is just your own opinion. I have no problem with this.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2019/7/9 11:28

Fletchers point is valid and the issue of long quotes is seen more commonly when this topic is discussed than any other.

I agree that it is intellectual gobbledeygook. There is a whole lot of this whenever this topic is discussed.

Simply "reckoning" something does not make it so.

Faith in Jesus Christ qualifies us to do battle. But battle we must- this is clear in scripture.

Unbelievers are not qualified to do battle. It is a hopeless cause for them. Not only that, they have no desire to do battle

It seems one of the most sure signs that someone is a true believer is their desire and willingness to do battle.

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2019/7/9 11:46

Quote:

----- Fletchers point is valid and the issue of long quotes is seen more commonly when this topic is discussed than any other.

This is your opinion, Todd. Has any SI rule been infringed?

Anyway "HOW do you battle?

Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/7/9 12:53

There are several things mentioned in Scripture that we do in addition to considering ourselves dead to the power of sin by our crucifixion to it and the world. Here are a few.

But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. - 1 Corinthians 9:27

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. - Ephesians 6:11

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars." - 2 Chronicles 16:9

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, - Philippians 1:27

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. - John 15:4

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. - John 15:7

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith-that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,
- Ephesians 3:14-20

Re: opinion - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/7/9 12:58

Sister Jade,

When a person claims to be a believer (having Jesus in them) they are called by Jesus to also be a witness and to offer /share their testimony when asked for it.

If a person claims to be a witness to an event they are saying they have a testimony regarding said event -

If in a court of law one was called to testify as a witness and after being questioned, the "witness" responded by quoting someone else giving no personal account of their experience...would that be a valid (admissible) testimony?

Would they be considered a credible witness?

So while there may not be a clear commandment regarding this, it doesn't mean it is only an opinion....

As there is a clear protocol put forth in scripture for how we are to respond-

Also the truth is not subjective... and although we experience the truth subjectively it is in and of itself objective and is itself not to be put under our subjective/personal experience-

Which is why on matters such as being examined in this thread we must make sure to preserve the objective truth in our discussion lest we fall into a ditch of either deception or disobedience and lose our footing along the narrow way.

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2019/7/9 16:22

Fletcher and Todd,

Watchman Nee is saying that it is impossible for the flesh to crucify the flesh, and when we try to do this we will find ourselves back in Romans 7.

Watchman Nee has the correct interpretation of scripture, and multitudes of Christians have learned the life that wins through getting hold of the teachings of Brother Nee.

Brothers, you would be better off saying that you don't understand Watchman Nee's teachings on the overcoming life, than to say that Brother Nee's interpretation of scripture is wrong, but yours is right concerning the overcoming life.

Brother Nee also has teachings on consecration, and I have read enough of his writings to know that the fault that you say that you are finding in his teaching is not an error at all, but either a lack of knowledge or a misunderstanding on your part of what he is actually teaching.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2019/7/9 16:47

Mike- I think that is part of the danger because only one side of Watchman Nee's teaching is presented as the end-all.

I agree that we can no more crucify ourselves spiritually than we could physically. What we must do however, is carry our cross and this is a daily operation. Nobody can do that for us.

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2019/7/9 17:47

I do not agree with Watchman Nee's writing here as well. I have read few of his books and was blessed by them. But I heard that many of his writings were being changed in new editions by Witness Lee followers. I even heard a very Godly man advise me not to read any recent editions of Watchman Nee and read those published in 1950s.

Nee is wrong, the flesh was never crucified with Christ. Paul is telling that those who stand in Christ have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires. It is current position. It is like Paul saying in Acts 20 that his conscience at that moment is perfectly clear before God and Man but when he rebuked the High Priest, it was not clear, he had to publicly apologize to clear his conscience again!

Same way, everyone who stands or abides in Christ have their flesh crucified at that moment. But crucifixion is not death

Devotional Thoughts :: The Law of the Spirit Of Life

h. No one dies immediately when Crucified. It takes time. So it is a slow death. If we had a strong flesh then our flesh tries to free itself from the cross on which we crucified it a moment back. We have to be ruthless to keep the flesh on the cross continuously.

We need to understand the difference between old man and flesh. Oldman is the guy who we were before we were born again. We had no desire to live for God and was always freely indulging in flesh. The old man was put to death when we were born again and we are born as a new man, who wants to please God. But our flesh still remains evil. That is why we need to keep our flesh continuously crucified on the cross.

The new man has to be strengthened everyday by God's word for it to fight with the flesh. It is Spirit that fights the Flesh not our strength. So the new man has to be strengthened by God's spirit to fight the flesh.

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2019/7/9 20:01

Brother Fletcher,

Quote:
-----If in a court of law one was called to testify as a witness and after being questioned, the "witness" responded by quoting someone else giving no personal account of their experience...would that be a valid (admissible) testimony?

I am not a lawyer but don't both Prosecution and Defence call in "other" witnesses and "expert opinions"?

Quote:
-----Which is why on matters such as being examined in this thread we must make sure to preserve the objective truth in our discussion lest we fall into a ditch of either deception or disobedience and lose our footing along the narrow way.

So who decides what is "objective truth"? Have you made yourself Prosecutor, Judge and Jury --- all rolled into one?

Blessings

Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/7/9 20:39

Dear sister,

No offense was intended to you....

Your first question regarding the other witness/expert confuses me... it literally doesn't make sense to me in the context that analogy was offered, why one would ask what you did ? Could you please help me to understand what you are asking?

Regarding your question "who decides what "objective truth" is?"

The answer; God and He chose to express this to us by the record (scriptures) - that is what qualifies it as objective. This is in contrast to our interpretation/use of scripture which is by definition subjective.

So the quote by Nee that states; "To crucify the self with the strength of the self is an impossible task and can never be done."

Is itself a misrepresentation of the objective truth of the record of scripture,... this is an objective fact in that the scriptures never command us to attempt that-

Re: brother Mike - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/7/9 20:55

Firstly I love you & I truly do and very much appreciate your contributions here on SI as they have been on more than one occasion a blessing to me.
And as stated earlier, the Lord used brother Nee in a wonderful way and continues to get returns on His investment! Praise God! :)))
We are in agreement on this (hopefully)

However just because God uses someone in a mighty way doesn't mean that person has it all worked out perfectly.. .. if that's the measure then what would you say to all the saints God has used in magnificent ways to lead souls to Christ and bring them to full maturity that would straightway be in disagreement with Nee on many issues??
Is it not fair to say that even tho Nee, Spurgeon, Roberts, Wesley, Whitfield, Luther, Calvin, Finney, etc...were used by God to lift up His Son, it was in spite of their failings and not because they had it all figured out?

The point being,... Watchman Nee was/is an amazingly gifted saint and we are all better for his ministry, however Nee (as good as he is) is not scripture and therefore not above being questioned.

Mike honestly, if a young brother came to you and asked how does he practically overcome the flesh in his daily walk and you give him the quotations cited in this thread by Nee- do you honestly believe that will help him or confuse him?

Re: brother Fletcher - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2019/7/9 21:07

What Watchman Nee said is another area of discussion.

I was addressing your vehement objection to quoting another writer in responding to a post.

I am not offended. Just disagreeing with you.

Re: brother Robert - COG - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/7/9 22:15

Let me apologize to you...

You have posed honest and legitimate questions,... important questions that need to be asked, prayerfully considered and hopefully answered in a straightforward practical way & it seems my enthusiasm and injection of myself into the discussion has unfortunately only served to be a detraction from the point.

Having said this may I offer this brothers take on the subject... (while this is only a small portion being addressed, it seems to be adequately covered and this brothers ministry has been a great blessing to me)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vITBTMP4J7o>

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2019/7/10 3:28

Mike wrote:

Quote:
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Watchman Nee has the correct interpretation of scripture, and multitudes of Christians have learned the life that wins through getting hold of the teachings of Brother Nee.

Brothers, you would be better off saying that you don't understand Watchman Nee's teachings on the overcoming life, than to say that Brother Nee's interpretation of scripture is wrong, but yours is right concerning the overcoming life.

Brother Nee also has teachings on consecration, and I have read enough of his writings to know that the fault that you say that you are finding in his teaching is not an error at all, but either a lack of knowledge or a misunderstanding on your part of what he is actually teaching.

I AGREE.

There are some teachings of Watchman Nee that I do not agree with, but I agree with these teachings of his that have been posted on this thread. They have scriptural support and have practical value for me.

Re: Some reflections on our co-operation with the Spirit - posted by makrothumia (), on: 2019/7/10 6:48

Putting to death the practices of the body is a co-operation with the working of the Holy Spirit guiding us from within the abiding union with our spirit.

The practice of the body was to be drawn away by a desire and in yielding to that desire, sin was conceived. When we become aware of the desire sin is producing in a time of temptation, the Holy Spirit speaks the truth of God to us showing us the way of escape is by receiving the word of truth.

Naturally, temptation involves conscious thought and we practiced following those thoughts while we lived under sin's dominion. The Holy Spirit reproves our natural thoughts by speaking the truth, thus exposing the lies and enabling us to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart. Through this living and active word, we are able to discern good from evil and choose the way of escape.

Our part is to receive the love of the truth that the Holy Spirit speaks and to take the tempting thoughts captive and bring them under obedience to Christ. Thus we overcome temptation and the former practices of the body by the hearing of faith. This is how we receive the Spirit and "obedience" to overcome temptation and the attacks of the enemy. When we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Following the leading of the Holy Spirit is simultaneously denying ourselves.

Through this process, taking thoughts captive and bringing them into obedience to Christ, our mind is renewed and our lives are transformed. This is sowing to the spirit and we grow in this like Jesus and John the Baptist did. They grew and were fortified in spirit. Believer who experience this growth, become more and more spiritual, less and less carnal.

Just some thoughts from mak

Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/7/11 10:11

This sermon sets forth the clearest Biblical path and strategy for defeating sin.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=dXxmSDhvbHY>

John Piper. Living Hope in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Being confirmed to His image and having all your love and affection set on Him has an expulsive impact on sin.

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2019/7/11 10:59

"What the author says is Scriptural. There is another verse that says we should by the Spirit put to death the misdeeds of the body. The idea of considering and trusting that our old man has been put to death is instrumental. How does this truth fit with the idea of some activity on our part to put to death the misdeeds of the body by the Spirit. Are the two ideas the same or is there a difference?"

Brother Robert,

I would like to get back to your question that you asked after the original post was made on The Law of the Spirit of Life.

Knowing that our old man has been crucified with Christ, and reckoning ourselves to be dead to sin but alive unto God is all necessary if we are going to live a victorious life, no longer having the flesh dominate us and being free from sin.

Although the old man or sin nature has been crucified, because of our identification with Christ in His death, our self life or the life of the soul is still very much alive, and if we want to follow Jesus and be His disciple, we must deny ourselves, take up our cross, and then follow the Lord.

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20).

Truly, truly, I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a seed; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (John 12:24).

We are in Christ and He is in us, and we are partakers of His divine nature, new creations in Christ Jesus. Now we no longer walk after the flesh but after the Spirit.

"So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16)

"For in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life has set you free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:2).

Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/7/11 20:11

Thanks Mike. Blessings.