

THE FLESH VERSUS THE SPIRIT**13/3/16**

We all know that without the spirit our body is dead, but equally, without God's intervention our spirit also faces permanent death. Thus, there is an unseen battle raging between life and death every day. It revolves around substance and ignorance, proof and theory, humility and pride. Despite overwhelming human indifference, God still offers a life preserving covenant, that links his spirit with ours. This covenant gives us an effective solution where the limitations of our humanity are counter balanced by His spiritual input.

The original and only battle of significance... life verses death. GEN 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, **lest ye die.** **4** And the serpent said unto the woman, **Ye shall not surely die:** *Of the two statements made here, which has proven to be true? Our choice can be made on credible proof... do people die or not? Would it be a better choice to live, if that is possible? Should we reject God's offer, we automatically choose death whether we want it or not.*

ROM 8:5 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. *Choices need to be made because life and death are still an option for us.* **7** Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. **8** So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. *God's covenant offers a provable alternative that works.* **9** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. *This was proven in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost. They that chose to obey God received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues... the evidence of being saved. Those without this experience can't be part of the new covenant, thankfully this opportunity still remains a valid choice at the moment. Jesus Christ has made eternal life possible in the simplest of ways and has paid the debt needed for all sins of all ages, past and present.*

All past sacrifices were an overdraft against the sacrifice of Christ. HEB 10:4 For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. **&11** And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can **never** take away sins: **&14** For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are **sanctified.** **&16** This *is* the **covenant** that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my **laws into their hearts,** and in their minds will I write them; **17** And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. *A safe and permanent way of dealing with human weakness is offered... a way where the failings of the flesh can be cleansed by the power of the indwelling spirit.* **18** Now where remission of these *is,* *there is* no more offering for sin. *Once spirit filled... we obey the spiritual formula to keep us safe and acceptable in God's sight. No other sacrifice outside of committed obedience is effective.*

&26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth **no more sacrifice** for sins, *To 'sin wilfully' is not talking about singular sins or failures. Rather, it refers to abandoning God, or His formula of keeping effective fellowship, by addressing all our weaknesses in a scriptural manner.*

Sins are a reflection of the disconnect between flesh and spirit. *Thus, God's covenants, were always offered to bridge the gap between our mortality and His immortality.* **ROM 3:10** As it is written, There is none righteous, **no, not one:** *No matter how hard we try, none can please God through their natural or spiritual ability... it is Christ's sacrifice alone, that has given us the mechanism to remain righteous in the sight of God.*

Ongoing sins should be minimised, but still need to be dealt with... 1JOH 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light (*in the spirit*), we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. *John rejects the argument that spirit filled people remain righteous by not sinning.* **8** If we say that we **have no sin** (*present tense... while walking in the spirit*), we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. *Rather, sin is dealt with, through repentance and adherence to biblical laws.* **9** If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to **cleanses us from all unrighteousness.** *We are not free to sin, but freed from sin.* **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. **2:1** My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: *We avoid sin as much as possible, while serving God in the spirit.*

Sin on its own is not the problem... it is how we live our life and how we serve the Lord. GAL 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the **lust of the flesh.** **17** For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. **18** But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. *God knows that there in an ongoing battle between the flesh and spirit and knows that we will make mistakes (some known and some not so). However, he still requires us to be active participants in spiritual matters while he cleanses us from sin.*