

THE GOSPEL OF GOD IN ROMANS

Message Six

The Key to Being an Overcomer— the Law of the Spirit of Life for the Body Life

Scripture Reading: Rom. 7:15—8:2, 4, 6

- Rom 7:15 For what I work out, I¹ do not acknowledge; for what I will, this I do not practice; but what I hate, this I do.
Rom 7:16 But if what I do not will, this I do, I agree with the law that it is good.
Rom 7:17 Now then *it is*^a no longer I *that* work it out but sin that¹ dwells in me.
Rom 7:18 For I¹ know that in me, that is, in my² flesh, ³nothing good dwells; for ⁴to will is present with me, but to work out the good is not.
Rom 7:19 For I do not do the good which I will; but the evil which I do not will, this I practice.
Rom 7:20 But if what I do not will, this I do, *it is*^a no longer I *that* work it out but sin that dwells in me.
Rom 7:21 I find then¹ the law with me who wills to do the good, that is, the² evil is present with me.
Rom 7:22 For I delight in the¹ law of God according to the inner man,
Rom 7:23 But I see a different^{1a} law in my members, ²warring against the law of my mind and making me a³ captive to the law of sin which is in my members.
Rom 7:24 ¹Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from ²the body of ³this death?
Rom 7:25 ^aThanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then¹ with the mind I myself² serve the³ law of God, but with the flesh, the law of sin.
Rom 8:1 There is¹ now then no² condemnation to those who are³ in Christ Jesus.
Rom 8:2 For the^{1a} law of the² Spirit of ³life has ⁴freed⁵ me in Christ Jesus from the⁶ law of sin and of death.
Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be¹ fulfilled in us, who do not^{2a} walk according to the flesh but according to the³ spirit.
Rom 8:6 For¹ the mind set on the flesh is² death, but³ the mind set on the spirit is^a life and^b peace.

I. The key to being an overcomer is the law of the Spirit of life in Romans 8, a chapter for desperate seekers—7:24—8:2, 28-29:

- Rom 7:24 ¹Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from ²the body of ³this death?
Rom 7:25 ^aThanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then¹ with the mind I myself² serve the³ law of God, but with the flesh, the law of sin.
Rom 8:1 There is¹ now then no² condemnation to those who are³ in Christ Jesus.
Rom 8:2 For the^{1a} law of the² Spirit of ³life has ⁴freed⁵ me in Christ Jesus from the⁶ law of sin and of death.
Rom 8:28 And we know that¹ all things ²work together for ³good to those who ⁴love God, to those who are ^acalled according to *His*⁵ purpose.
Rom 8:29 Because those whom He¹ foreknew, He also ^{2a}predestinated *to be*³ conformed to the ^bimage of His Son, that He might be the ^{4c}Firstborn among ⁵many ^dbrothers;
- A. Romans 7 is the experience of being "in the flesh"; Romans 8 is the experience of being "in the spirit" (the divine Spirit dwelling in our human spirit and these two mingled together to be one spirit)—vv. 4, 9-10, 16; 1 Cor. 6:17; 2 Tim. 4:22.
- Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be¹ fulfilled in us, who do not^{2a} walk according to the flesh but according to the³ spirit.
Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the^{1a} Spirit of God ²dwells in you. Yet³ if anyone does not have the⁴ Spirit of Christ, he is not⁵ of Him.
Rom 8:10 But if^{1a} Christ is ²in you, though the³ body is ⁴dead because of sin, the⁵ spirit is ⁶life because of ⁷righteousness.
Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.
1 Cor 6:17 But he who is ^{1a}joined to the Lord is ^{2b}one spirit.
2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your ^{1a}spirit. ^{2b}Grace be with you.
- B. The enjoyment of the law of the Spirit of life in Romans 8 ushers us into the reality of the Body of Christ in Romans 12; this law operates within us as we live in the Body and for the Body—8:2, 28-29; 12:1-2, 11; Phil. 1:19.
- Rom 8:2 For the^{1a} law of the² Spirit of ³life has ⁴freed⁵ me in Christ Jesus from the⁶ law of sin and of death.
Rom 8:28 And we know that¹ all things ²work together for ³good to those who ⁴love God, to those who are ^acalled according to *His*⁵ purpose.

- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He ¹foreknew, He also ^{2a}predestinated to be ³conformed to the ^bimage of His Son, that He might be the ^{4c}Firstborn among ⁵many ^dbrothers;
- Rom 12:1 ¹I ^{2a}exhort you therefore, brothers, through the ^{3b}compassions of God to ^{4c}present your bodies a ⁵living ^dsacrifice, holy, ^ewell pleasing to God, *which is* your ⁶reasonable ^{7f}service.
- Rom 12:2 And do ¹not be ^afashioned according to ²this ^bage, but be ^{3c}transformed by the ^{4d}renewing of the ^emind that you may ^{5f}prove what the ^{6g}will of God is, that which is good and ^hwell pleasing and perfect.
- Rom 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, *but* be ^{1a}burning in spirit, ^{2b}serving the Lord.
- Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to ^{1a}salvation through ²your ^bpetition and *the* ³bountiful ^csupply of the ^{4d}Spirit of Jesus Christ,

C. The whole key to our living and service in the Body of Christ is the law of the Spirit of life, which operates within us:

1. The law of the Spirit of life makes us God in life, nature, and expression but not in the Godhead, shaping us into the image of the firstborn Son of God so that we may become His corporate expression—Rom. 8:2, 29.

Rom 8:2 For the ^{1a}law of the ²Spirit of ³life has ⁴freed ⁵me in Christ Jesus from the ⁶law of sin and of death.

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He ¹foreknew, He also ^{2a}predestinated to be ³conformed to the ^bimage of His Son, that He might be the ^{4c}Firstborn among ⁵many ^dbrothers;
2. The law of the Spirit of life constitutes us the members of the Body of Christ with all kinds of functions—Eph. 4:11-12, 16.

Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave ¹some as ^aapostles and some as ^bprophets and some as ^cevangelists and some as ²shepherds and ^dteachers,

Eph 4:12 For the ^{1a}perfecting of the saints ²unto the work of the ^{3b}ministry, unto the ^{4c}building up of the ^dBody of Christ,

Eph 4:16 ¹Out from whom ^aall the Body, being ^{2b}joined together and being knit together through every ^{3c}joint of ⁴the rich supply ⁵and *through* the ⁶operation in the ^dmeasure of ⁷each one part, ⁸causes the ^{9e}growth of the Body unto the ^fbuilding up of itself in ^{10g}love.

II. In order to experience the indwelling Christ as the law of the Spirit of life, we must see the three lives and four laws in Romans 7 and 8:

- A. The created human life with the law of good is in our soul; this law derives from the natural human life, that is, from man himself—7:21-23; Gen. 1:31; Eccl. 7:29.
- Rom 7:21 I find then ¹the law with me who wills to do the good, that is, the ²evil is present with me.
- Rom 7:22 For I delight in the ¹law of God according to the inner man,
- Rom 7:23 But I see a different ^{1a}law in my members, ²warring against the law of my mind and making me a ³captive to the law of sin which is in my members.
- Gen 1:31 And God saw everything that He had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.
- Eccl 7:29 See, this alone have I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.
- B. The evil satanic life with the law of sin and of death is in our flesh; this law derives from Satan, who as sin dwells in the believers' flesh—Rom. 6:6; 7:15-20, 23-24; 1 John 3:10; John 8:44; Matt. 13:38; 23:33; 3:7; Rom. 3:13.
- Rom 6:6 ¹Knowing this, that our ²old man has been ^{3a}crucified with *Him* in order that the ^{4b}body of sin might be ⁵annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;
- Rom 7:15 For what I work out, I ¹do not acknowledge; for what I will, this I do not practice; but what I hate, this I do.
- Rom 7:16 But if what I do not will, this I do, I agree with the law that it is good.
- Rom 7:17 Now then *it is* ^ano longer I *that* work it out but sin that ¹dwells in me.
- Rom 7:18 For I ¹know that in me, that is, in my ²flesh, ³nothing good dwells; for ⁴to will is present with me, but to work out the good is not.
- Rom 7:19 For I do not do the good which I will; but the evil which I do not will, this I practice.
- Rom 7:20 But if what I do not will, this I do, *it is* ^ano longer I *that* work it out but sin that dwells in me.
- Rom 7:23 But I see a different ^{1a}law in my members, ²warring against the law of my mind and making me a ³captive to the law of sin which is in my members.

- Rom 7:24 ¹Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from ²the body of ³this death?
- 1 John 3:10 ¹In this the ^achildren of God and the ^bchildren of the devil are manifest. Everyone who does not ^cpractice righteousness is not of God, neither he who ^ddoes not ²love his brother.
- John 8:44 ^aYou are of *your* ¹father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a ^bmurderer from the beginning and does not stand in the ^ctruth, because there is no truth in him. When ^dhe speaks the lie, he speaks *it* out of his own ²possessions; for he is a liar and the ³father of it.
- Matt 13:38 And the field is the world; and the ¹good seed, these are the ^asons of the kingdom; and the tares are the ^bsons of the evil one;
- Matt 23:33 Serpents! Brood of ^avipers! How shall you escape the judgment of ^bGehenna?
- Matt 3:7 But when he saw many of the ^{1a}Pharisees and ^{2b}Sadducees coming to his ^cbaptism, he said to them, Offspring of ^dvipers, who prompted you to flee from the coming ^ewrath?
- Rom 3:13 ^aTheir throat is an opened grave; with their tongues they practiced deceit; ^bthe poison of asps is under their lips;

C. The uncreated divine life with the law of the Spirit of life is in our human spirit; this law derives from God, who as the Spirit dwells in man's spirit—8:2, 9-10, 16; John 1:4; 10:10b; 14:6a; 1 Cor. 15:45b:

- Rom 8:2 For the ^{1a}law of the ²Spirit of ³life has ⁴freed ⁵me in Christ Jesus from the ⁶law of sin and of death.
- Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the ^{1a}Spirit of God ²dwells in you. Yet ³if anyone does not have the ⁴Spirit of Christ, he is not ⁵of Him.
- Rom 8:10 But if ^{1a}Christ is ²in you, though the ³body is ⁴dead because of sin, the ⁵spirit is ⁶life because of ⁷righteousness.
- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.
- John 1:4 In Him was ^{1a}life, and the life was the ^{2b}light of men.
- John 10:10b ... I ^ahave come that they may have ¹life and may have *it* abundantly.
- John 14:6a Jesus said to him, I am the ¹way and the ^{2a}reality and the ^blife; ...
- 1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam *became* a ^clife-giving Spirit.
- Every life has a law and even is a law; God's life is the highest life, and the law of this life is the highest law—cf. John 1:4-5; 12:24; 14:6a; 10:10b; 1 Cor. 15:45b.

John 1:4 In Him was ^{1a}life, and the life was the ^{2b}light of men.

John 1:5 And the ^alight shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, ^aUnless the grain of wheat ¹falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears ^{2b}much fruit.

John 14:6a Jesus said to him, I am the ¹way and the ^{2a}reality and the ^blife; ...

John 10:10b ... I ^ahave come that they may have ¹life and may have *it* abundantly.

1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam *became* a ^clife-giving Spirit.
 - The Triune God has been processed through incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension to become the law of the Spirit of life installed in our spirit as a "scientific" law, an automatic principle—Rom. 8:2-3, 11, 34, 16.

Rom 8:2 For the ^{1a}law of the ²Spirit of ³life has ⁴freed ⁵me in Christ Jesus from the ⁶law of sin and of death.

Rom 8:3 For that which the ¹law could ²not do, in that it was ^aweak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the ³likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,

Rom 8:11 And if the ¹Spirit of ²the One who raised Jesus from the dead ^{3a}dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also ^{4b}give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? ¹It is Christ Jesus who ^adied and, rather, who ^bwas raised, who is also ^{2c}at the right hand of God, who also ^{3d}intercedes for us.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.
 - The law of the Spirit of life is the spontaneous power of the divine life; it is the natural characteristic and the innate, automatic function of the divine life—12:2; Phil. 2:13; Ezek. 36:26-27; Isa. 40:28-31; Heb. 12:2a; Phil. 4:13; Col. 1:28-29; cf. Prov. 30:18-19.

Rom 12:2 And do ¹not be ^afashioned according to ²this ^bage, but be ^{3c}transformed by the ^{4d}renewing of the ^emind that you may ^{5f}prove what the ^{6g}will of God is, that which is good and ^hwell pleasing and perfect.

Phil 2:13 ¹For it is ²God who ^{3a}operates in you both the ⁴willing and the ⁵working for His ^{6b}good pleasure.

Ezek 36:26 I will also give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

Ezek 36:27 And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and My ordinances you shall keep and do.

Isa 40:28 Do you not know, Or have you not heard, That the eternal God, Jehovah, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Does not faint and does not become weary? There is no searching out of His understanding.

Isa 40:29 He gives power to the faint, And to those who have no vigor He multiplies strength.

Isa 40:30 Although youths will faint and become weary, And young men will collapse exhausted;

Isa 40:31 Yet those who wait on Jehovah will renew their strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles; They will run and will not faint; They will walk and will not become weary.

Heb 12:2 ¹Looking away ^aunto ²Jesus, the ^{3b}Author and ⁴Perfecter of our faith, ...

Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things ¹in Him who ^{2a}empowers me.

Col 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man ^{1a}full-grown ²in Christ;

Col 1:29 For which also I labor, ^{1a}struggling according to His ^boperation which operates in me in ²power.

Prov 30:18 There are three things which are too wonderful for me, Indeed four which I do not know:

Prov 30:19 The way of an eagle in the sky, The way of a serpent upon a rock, The way of a ship in the midst of the sea, And the way of a man with a maiden.

D. These three parties with the three laws are now present in the believer in much the same way that they (God, man, and Satan) were present in the garden of Eden (Gen. 3).

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than every other animal of the field which Jehovah God had made. And he said to the woman, Did God really say, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?

Gen 3:2 And the woman said to the serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.

Gen 3:4 And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die!

Gen 3:5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil.

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make oneself wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate.

Gen 3:7 And the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Gen 3:8 And they heard the sound of Jehovah God walking about in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Jehovah God among the trees of the garden.

Gen 3:9 And Jehovah God called to the man and said to him, Where are you?

Gen 3:10 And he said, I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I am naked; so I hid myself.

Gen 3:11 And He said, Who told you that you are naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?

Gen 3:12 And the man said, The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.

Gen 3:13 And Jehovah God said to the woman, What is this that you have done? And the woman said, The serpent deceived me, and I ate.

Gen 3:14 And Jehovah God said to the serpent, Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all the cattle And more than all the animals of the field: Upon your stomach you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life.

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman And between your seed and her seed; He will bruise you on the head, But you will bruise him on the heel.

Gen 3:16 To the woman He said, I will greatly multiply Your pain in your childbearing; In pain you will bring forth children. And your desire will be to your husband, And he will rule over you.

Gen 3:17 And to Adam He said, Because you listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree concerning which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat of it; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil will you eat of it All the days of your life.

Gen 3:18 And thorns and thistles it will bring forth for you, And you will eat the herb of the field;

Gen 3:19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread Until you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.

Gen 3:20 And the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

Gen 3:21 And Jehovah God made for Adam and for his wife coats of skins and clothed them.

Gen 3:22 And Jehovah God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever—

Gen 3:23 Therefore Jehovah God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to work the ground from which he was taken.

Gen 3:24 So He drove the man out, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword which turned in every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

E. In addition to these three laws within the believer, there is the law of God outside of him—Rom. 7:22, 25.

Rom 7:22 For I delight in the ¹law of God according to the inner man,

Rom 7:25 ^aThanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then ¹with the mind I myself ²serve the ³law of God, but with the flesh, the law of sin.

III. While we remain in touch with the Lord, staying in contact with Him, the law of the Spirit of life works automatically, spontaneously, and effortlessly:

A. We must cease from our own struggling and striving—Gal. 2:20a; cf. Rom. 7:15-20:

Gal 2:20 I am ^{1a}crucified with Christ; and *it is* ²no longer I *who* live, but *it is* ^{3b}Christ *who* lives in me; ...

Rom 7:15 For what I work out, I ¹do not acknowledge; for what I will, this I do not practice; but what I hate, this I do.

Rom 7:16 But if what I do not will, this I do, I agree with the law that it is good.

Rom 7:17 Now then *it is* ^ano longer I *that* work it out but sin that ¹dwells in me.

Rom 7:18 For I ¹know that in me, that is, in my ²flesh, ³nothing good dwells; for ⁴to will is present with me, but to work out the good is not.

Rom 7:19 For I do not do the good which I will; but the evil which I do not will, this I practice.

Rom 7:20 But if what I do not will, this I do, *it is* ^ano longer I *that* work it out but sin that dwells in me.

1. If we have not seen that sin is a law and that our will can never overcome this law, we are trapped in Romans 7; we will never arrive at Romans 8.

2. Paul willed again and again, but the result was only repeated failure; the best that a man can do is to make resolutions—7:18.

Rom 7:18 For I ¹know that in me, that is, in my ²flesh, ³nothing good dwells; for ⁴to will is present with me, but to work out the good is not.

3. When sin is dormant within us, it is merely sin, but when it is aroused in us by our willing to do the good, it becomes "the evil"—v. 21.

Rom 7:21 I find then ¹the law with me who wills to do the good, that is, the ²evil is present with me.

4. Instead of willing, we should set our mind on the spirit and walk according to the spirit—8:6, 4; Phil. 2:13.

Rom 8:6 For ¹the mind set on the flesh is ²death, but ³the mind set on the spirit is ^alife and ^bpeace.

Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be ¹fulfilled in us, who do not ^{2a}walk according to the flesh but according to the ³spirit.

Phil 2:13 ¹For it is ²God who ^{3a}operates in you both the ⁴willing and the ⁵working for *His* ^{6b}good pleasure.

B. We must cooperate with the indwelling, installed, automatic, and inner-operating God by prayer and by having a spirit of dependence, calling upon the Lord to maintain our fellowship with Him—Rom. 10:12-13; 1 Thes. 5:17; Eph. 6:17-18.

Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between ^aJew and Greek, for the same ^bLord *is Lord* of all and ^{1c}rich to all who ^dcall upon Him;

Rom 10:13 For ^a"whoever ¹calls upon the name of the Lord shall be ^{2b}saved."

1 Thes 5:17 ¹Unceasingly ^apray,

Eph 6:17 And receive the ^{1a}helmet of salvation and the ^{2b}sword of the Spirit, ³which *Spirit* is the ^{4c}word of God,

Eph 6:18 ¹By means of all ^{2a}prayer and petition, praying at ^bevery time in ^{3c}spirit and ^{4d}watching unto this in ⁵all perseverance and ⁶petition concerning all the saints,

C. We must care for the sense of life in our spirit in order to remain in the fellowship of life, the flowing of the divine life, for the operation of the law of the Spirit of life—Rom. 8:6, 16; 1 John 1:2-3, 6-7:

Rom 8:6 For ¹the mind set on the flesh is ²death, but ³the mind set on the spirit is ^alife and ^bpeace.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.

1 John 1:2 (And the ^{1a}life was ^{2b}manifested, and we have seen and ^ctestify and report to you ³the ^deternal life, which was ^{4e}with the ⁵Father and was ⁶manifested to us);

1 John 1:3 That which we have ¹seen and heard we report ²also to you that you also may have ^{3a}fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the ⁴Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we ¹have fellowship ²with Him and yet ³walk in the ^adarkness, we ^{4b}lie and are not ⁵practicing the ⁶truth;

1 John 1:7 But if we ^awalk in the light as He ¹is in the light, we ²have fellowship with one another, and the ^{3b}blood of ⁴Jesus His Son ⁵cleanses us from every ⁶sin.

1. The sense of life, on the negative side, is the feeling of death—weakness, emptiness, uneasiness, restlessness, depression, dryness, darkness, pain, etc.
2. The sense of life, on the positive side, is the feeling of life and peace—strength, satisfaction, peace, rest, release, livingness, watering, brightness, comfort, etc.
3. The sense of life is related to the consciousness of the conscience according to the life of God—Eph. 4:18-19.

Eph 4:18 Being ^{1a}darkened in their understanding, alienated from the ^{2b}life of God because of the ^{3c}ignorance which is in them, because of the ^{4d}hardness of their heart;

Eph 4:19 Who, ^{1a}being past feeling, have ^bgiven themselves over to lasciviousness to work all uncleanness in greediness.

D. We must take heed to our spirit and guard our heart; the spirit is the organ to contact the life of God, and the heart is the key, the switch, the strategic point, which allows the life of God to be dispensed into us and freely operate in us—Psa. 78:8; Mal. 2:15-16; Prov. 4:23; Ezek. 36:26; Eph. 3:17; cf. Ezek. 14:3.

Psa 78:8 That they might not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not set their heart right, And whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Mal 2:15 But did He not make them one? And the remnant of the Spirit was His. And why the one? He sought the seed of God. Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one be treacherous to the wife of his youth.

Mal 2:16 For I hate divorce, says Jehovah the God of Israel; and he who does it behaves in violence, says Jehovah of hosts. Take heed then to your spirit, and do not be treacherous.

Prov 4:23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, For from it are the issues of life.

Ezek 36:26 I will also give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His ^ahome in your ¹hearts through ²faith, that you, being ^{3b}rooted and grounded in ^{4c}love,

Ezek 14:3 Son of man, these men have set their hearts on their idols and have put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I be inquired of at all by them?

E. We must walk according to the spirit—live in the spirit—Rom. 8:4, 16; cf. 1 Cor. 2:14:

Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be ¹fulfilled in us, who do not ^{2a}walk according to the flesh but according to the ³spirit.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.

1 Cor 2:14 ¹But a ^{2a}soulish man does ^bnot receive the ^{3c}things of the Spirit of God, for they are ^dfoolishness to him and he is ⁴not able to know *them* because they are ^{5c}discerned ⁶spiritually.

1. The secret of experiencing Christ is to be in Him, the One who empowers us to do all things, and the secret of being in Him is to be in our spirit—Phil. 4:12-13, 23.

Phil 4:12 I know also how to be ¹abased, and I know how to ²abound; ³in everything and in all things ⁴I have learned the secret both to be ⁵filled and to ^ahunger, both to ⁶abound and to ^{7b}lack.

- Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things ¹in Him who ^{2a}empowers me.
 Phil 4:23 The ^{1a}grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your ^{2b}spirit.
2. In order to live in our spirit, we must take time to behold the Lord, praying to fellowship with Jesus to bathe in His countenance, to be saturated with His beauty, and to radiate His excellence—2 Cor. 3:16, 18; cf. Matt. 14:23.
 2 Cor 3:16 But whenever ¹their heart turns to the Lord, the ^aveil is taken away.
 2 Cor 3:18 ¹But ²we all with ³unveiled face, ^{4a}beholding and reflecting like a ^{5b}mirror the ^{6c}glory of the Lord, are ⁷being ^dtransformed into the ⁸same ^eimage ⁹from glory to ^fglory, even as ¹⁰from the ¹¹Lord Spirit.
 Matt 14:23 And after He sent the crowds away, He went up to the mountain privately to ^{1a}pray. And when ²night fell, He was there alone.
3. In order to live in our spirit, we must pray without ceasing—1 Thes. 5:17; cf. John 20:22; Lam. 3:55-56; Rom. 10:12-13.
 1 Thes 5:17 ¹Unceasingly ^apray,
 John 20:22 And when He had said this, He ^abreathed into *them* and said to them, ^bReceive the Holy ^{1c}Spirit.
 Lam 3:55 I called upon Your name, O Jehovah, From the lowest pit.
 Lam 3:56 You have heard my voice; do not hide Your ear at my breathing, at my cry.
 Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between ^aJew and Greek, for the same ^bLord is Lord of all and ^{1c}rich to all who ^dcall upon Him;
 Rom 10:13 For ^awhoever ¹calls upon the name of the Lord shall be ^{2b}saved."
4. In order to live in our spirit, we must remain in the fellowship of the divine life to walk in the divine light—1 John 1:2-3, 6-7.
 1 John 1:2 (And the ^{1a}life was ^{2b}manifested, and we have seen and ^ctestify and report to you ³the ^deternal life, which was ^{4e}with the ⁵Father and was ⁶manifested to us);
 1 John 1:3 That which we have ¹seen and heard we report ²also to you that you also may have ^{3a}fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the ⁴Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
 1 John 1:6 If we say that we ¹have fellowship ²with Him and yet ³walk in the ^adarkness, we ^{4b}lie and are not ⁵practicing the ⁶truth;
 1 John 1:7 But if we ^awalk in the light as He ¹is in the light, we ²have fellowship with one another, and the ^{3b}blood of ⁴Jesus His Son ⁵cleanses us from every ⁶sin.
- F. We must mind the things of the Spirit—set our mind on the spirit—Rom. 8:5-6:
 Rom 8:5 For those who are according to the flesh mind the ¹things of the flesh; but those who are ²according to the spirit, the ³things of the Spirit.
 Rom 8:6 For ¹the mind set on the flesh is ²death, but ³the mind set on the spirit is ^alife and ^bpeace.
1. We must pay attention to the sense of our spirit in order to not grieve the Spirit and not quench the Spirit—Mal. 2:15-16; Eph. 4:30; 1 Thes. 5:19.
 Mal 2:15 But did He not make them one? And the remnant of the Spirit was His. And why the one? He sought the seed of God. Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one be treacherous to the wife of his youth.
 Mal 2:16 For I hate divorce, says Jehovah the God of Israel; and he who does it behaves in violence, says Jehovah of hosts. Take heed then to your spirit, and do not be treacherous.
 Eph 4:30 And do not ^{1a}grieve the Holy ²Spirit of God, ³in whom you were ^{4b}sealed ⁵unto the day of ^{6c}redemption.
 1 Thes 5:19 Do ¹not quench the ^aSpirit;
2. We can set our mind on the spirit by setting our mind on God's words, which are spirit and life—John 6:63; Isa. 55:8-11.
 John 6:63 ^aIt is the ¹Spirit who gives life; the ²flesh profits nothing; the ³words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.
 Isa 55:8 For My thoughts are not your thoughts, And your ways are not My ways, declares Jehovah.
 Isa 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So My ways are higher than your ways, And My thoughts higher than your thoughts.
 Isa 55:10 For just as the rain comes down And the snow from heaven, And does not return there, Until it waters the earth And makes it bear and sprout forth, That it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater;

Isa 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me vainly, But it will accomplish what I delight in, And it will prosper in the matter to which I have sent it.

3. To mind the things of the Spirit, that is, to set our mind on the spirit, is also to be one with the Lord to care for the church with all the saints in the inward parts of Christ Jesus—Phil. 1:8; cf. 2:21.

Phil 1:8 For God is my ^awitness how I ^blong after you all in the ^{1c}inward parts of Christ Jesus.

Phil 2:21 For all ^aseek their own things, not the things of ¹Christ Jesus.

- G. We must put to death by the Spirit the practices of our body—Rom. 8:13; Zech. 4:6; Gal. 5:16:

Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh, you must ¹die, but if by the Spirit you ^{2a}put to death the ³practices of the body, you will live.

Zech 4:6 And he answered and spoke to me, saying, This is the word of Jehovah to Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says Jehovah of hosts.

Gal 5:16 But I say, ^{1a}Walk ^bby the ²Spirit and you shall by no means ^cfulfill the ^dlust of the flesh.

1. We must allow the Spirit to inhabit and reside in our inward being—Rom. 8:9, 11.

Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the ^{1a}Spirit of God ²dwells in you. Yet ³if anyone does not have the ⁴Spirit of Christ, he is not ⁵of Him.

Rom 8:11 And if the ¹Spirit of ²the One who raised Jesus from the dead ^{3a}dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also ^{4b}give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

2. We must remain in the church life, where the God of peace crushes Satan under our feet—12:1-2, 11; 16:20.

Rom 12:1 ¹I ^{2a}exhort you therefore, brothers, through the ^{3b}compassions of God to ^{4c}present your bodies a ⁵living ^dsacrifice, holy, ^ewell pleasing to God, *which is* your ⁶reasonable ^{7f}service.

Rom 12:2 And do ¹not be ^afashioned according to ²this ^bage, but be ^{3c}transformed by the ^{4d}renewing of the ^emind that you may ^{5f}prove what the ^{6g}will of God is, that which is good and ^hwell pleasing and perfect.

Rom 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, *but* be ^{1a}burning in spirit, ^{2b}serving the Lord.

Rom 16:20 Now the ^aGod of peace will ^{1b}crush Satan ^cunder your feet shortly. The ^{2d}grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

- H. We must be led by the Spirit as the sons of God—8:14:

Rom 8:14 For as many as are ¹led by the ²Spirit of God, these are ^{3a}sons of God.

1. To be led by the Spirit is to take care of the inner anointing, the moving and working of the indwelling, compound Spirit—1 John 2:20, 27.

1 John 2:20 And you have an ^{1a}anointing from the ^bHoly One, and ^{2c}all of you ^dknow.

1 John 2:27 And as for you, the ¹anointing which you have received from ²Him ³abides in you, and you have ⁴no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing ^{5a}teaches you concerning ⁶all things and is ⁷true and is not a ^blie, and even as it has taught you, ⁸abide in Him.

2. To be led by the Spirit is to care for the rest in our spirit, that is, to be led as a captive in Christ's triumphal procession—2 Cor. 2:12-14; 7:5-6.

2 Cor 2:12 ¹Furthermore, when I came to ^aTroas for the gospel of Christ and a ^bdoor was open to me ²in the Lord,

2 Cor 2:13 I had no rest in my ^{1a}spirit, for I did not find ^bTitus my brother; but taking leave of them, I went forth into ^{2c}Macedonia.

2 Cor 2:14 But ^athanks be to God, who always ¹leads ²us in ^btriumph in ³the Christ and manifests the ^{4c}savor of the ^dknowledge of Him through ⁵us in every place.

2 Cor 7:5 For even when we came into ^aMacedonia, our ¹flesh had no rest, but *we were* ^bafflicted in everything; without were ^cfightings, within were fears.

2 Cor 7:6 But He who ^acomforts those who are ¹downcast, *that is*, God, ^{2b}comforted us by the ³coming of ^cTitus;

- I. We must cry to the Father in the spirit of sonship—Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6:

Rom 8:15 For you have not received a ^{1a}spirit of slavery *bringing you into fear again*, but you have received a spirit of sonship in which we ^bcry, ²Abba, Father!

Gal 4:6 And because you are ^asons, God has ^bsent forth the ^{1c}Spirit of His Son into our ²hearts, ³crying, ^{4d}Abba, Father!

1. When we cry "Abba, Father!" (Rom. 8:15), "the Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God" (v. 16).

Rom 8:15 For you have not received a ^{1a}spirit of slavery *bringing you* into fear again, but you have received a spirit of sonship in which we ^bcry, ²Abba, Father!

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.

2. To cry "Abba, Father!" expresses the sweetness of our intimate relationship with our God—cf. Matt. 18:3.

Matt 18:3 And said, Truly I say to you, Unless you turn and become like ^alittle children, you shall by no means ^benter into the kingdom of the heavens.

J. We must groan in the interceding Spirit for our full sonship, which is the redemption of our body—Rom. 8:23, 26-27:

Rom 8:23 And not only *so*, but we ourselves also, who have ¹the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves ²groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting ^{3a}sonship, the ^bredemption of our body.

Rom 8:26 Moreover, ¹in like manner the Spirit also joins in to help *us* in our ²weakness, for we do not know for what we should pray as is fitting, but the Spirit Himself ^aintercedes for *us* with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Rom 8:27 But He who searches the hearts knows what the ¹mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints ²according to God.

1. In our groaning the Spirit groans also, interceding for us.

2. The interceding Spirit prays for us that we may be conformed to the image of Christ as the firstborn Son of God—vv. 28-29.

Rom 8:28 And we know that ¹all things ²work together for ³good to those who ⁴love God, to those who are ^acalled according to *His* ⁵purpose.

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He ¹foreknew, He also ^{2a}predestinated *to be* ³conformed to the ^bimage of His Son, that He might be the ^{4c}Firstborn among ⁵many ^dbrothers;

K. We must love God and be constrained, restricted, and motivated by the love of Christ to more than conquer in all things—vv. 31-39:

Rom 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who *can be* against us?

Rom 8:32 Indeed, He who did not spare His own Son, but ^adelivered Him up for us ^ball, how shall He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Rom 8:33 Who shall bring a ^acharge against God's chosen ones? ¹It is God who ^bjustifies.

Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? ¹It is Christ Jesus who ^adied and, rather, who ^bwas raised, who is also ^{2c}at the right hand of God, who also ^{3d}intercedes for us.

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the ^alove of Christ? Shall tribulation or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

Rom 8:36 As it is written, "^aFor Your sake we are being ^bput to death all day long; we have been accounted as sheep for slaughter."

Rom 8:37 But in all these things we ¹more than conquer through Him who loved us.

Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers

Rom 8:39 Nor height nor depth nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the ^{1a}love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. By loving God, we participate in all the riches contained in God—1 Cor. 2:9-10.

1 Cor 2:9 But as it is written, "^aThings which ¹eye has not seen and ear has not heard and *which* have not ^bcome up ²in man's heart; things which God has ^cprepared for those who ^{3d}love Him."

1 Cor 2:10 But to us God has ^{1a}revealed *them* through the ^bSpirit, for the Spirit ²searches all things, even the ^{3c}depths of God.

2. We must be constrained by the love of Christ to love God and the saints with Christ as our love—2 Cor. 5:14.

2 Cor 5:14 For the ^{1a}love of Christ ²constrains us because we ³have ^{3a}judged this, that ^{4b}One died for ^call, ⁵therefore all died;

IV. The processed and consummated Triune God, as the spontaneous and automatic power of the law of the Spirit of life, accomplishes the following things within us:

- A. This power inclines our heart toward God—Prov. 21:1; Psa. 119:36.
Prov 21:1 The king's heart is like streams of water in the hand of Jehovah; He turns it wherever He wishes.
Psa 119:36 Incline my heart to Your testimonies And not to unjust gain.
- B. This power makes us submissive toward God—Phil. 2:13.
Phil 2:13 ¹For it is ²God who ^{3a}operates in you both the ⁴willing and the ⁵working for His ^{6b}good pleasure.
- C. This power causes us to do the good works which God has ordained for us so that we may live the church life and bear the testimony of Jesus—Eph. 2:10.
Eph 2:10 For we are His ¹masterpiece, ^{2a}created in Christ Jesus for ^bgood works, which God prepared ³beforehand in order that we would ^cwalk in them.
- D. This power causes us to labor for the Lord with all our heart and strength—1 Cor. 15:10; Col. 1:28-29.
1 Cor 15:10 But by the ^{1a}grace of God I am what I am; and His ^bgrace unto me did ²not turn out to be ^cin vain, but, on the contrary, I ^dlabored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.
Col 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man ^{1a}full-grown ²in Christ;
Col 1:29 For which also I labor, ^{1a}struggling according to His ^boperation which operates in me in ²power.
- E. This power causes our service to be living and fresh—Rom. 6:4; 7:6; 2 Cor. 3:6.
Rom 6:4 We have been ^{1a}buried therefore with Him through ²baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was ^braised from the dead through the ^{3c}glory of the Father, so also we might ⁴walk in ^dnewness of ^elife.
Rom 7:6 But now we have been ¹discharged from the law, having died to that in which we were held, so that we ²serve in ³newness of ⁴spirit and not in oldness of letter.
2 Cor 3:6 Who has also made us ^asufficient as ^bministers of a ^cnew covenant, *ministers* not of the ¹letter but of the ^{2d}Spirit; for the ³letter kills, but the ^{4c}Spirit gives life.

V. Ultimately, our enjoyment of the indwelling Spirit as the automatic law of the divine life is in the Body of Christ and for the Body of Christ with the goal of making us the same as God in life, nature, and expression but not in the Godhead to accomplish the goal of His eternal economy—Rom. 8:2, 28-29; 12:1-2; 11:36; 16:27; Phil. 1:19.

- Rom 8:2 For the ^{1a}law of the ²Spirit of ³life has ⁴freed ⁵me in Christ Jesus from the ⁶law of sin and of death.
Rom 8:28 And we know that ¹all things ²work together for ³good to those who ⁴love God, to those who are ^acalled according to His ⁵purpose.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He ¹foreknew, He also ^{2a}predestinated to be ³conformed to the ^bimage of His Son, that He might be the ^{4c}Firstborn among ⁵many ^dbrothers;
- Rom 12:1 ¹I ^{2a}exhort you therefore, brothers, through the ^{3b}compassions of God to ^{4c}present your bodies a ⁵living ^dsacrifice, holy, ^ewell pleasing to God, *which is* your ⁶reasonable ^{7f}service.
- Rom 12:2 And do ¹not be ^afashioned according to ²this ^bage, but be ^{3c}transformed by the ^{4d}renewing of the ^emind that you may ^{5f}prove what the ^{6g}will of God is, that which is good and ^hwell pleasing and perfect.
- Rom 11:36 Because ^aout from Him and ^bthrough Him and ^cto Him are all things. ^dTo Him be the glory forever. Amen.
- Rom 16:27 To the ^aonly ¹wise God through Jesus Christ, to Him be the ^bglory forever and ever. Amen.
- Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to ^{1a}salvation through ²your ^bpetition and *the* ³bountiful ^csupply of the ^{4d}Spirit of Jesus Christ,