

Spirit vs Flesh

Romans 8:1-25

Introduction: There two spiritual forces at work in all of our lives. We have the spiritual side of our psyche that desires holy, godly things and we have the carnal, fleshly side that desires the opposite. In the media this is often illustrated by an angel and a devil whispering ideas into our ears. In times past, it also has been described as two dogs inside each of us fighting against one another. Paul writes on this subject in his letter to the Romans.

- I. The two forces at war (*Romans 8:1-8*)
 - A. Christ brought the law of the Spirit (*8:1-4*)
 - B. The Spirit and the Flesh (*8:5-8*)
 1. Flesh
 - a) minds the things of the flesh (*Rom 8:5, Galatians 5:19-21*)
 - b) is death (*Rom 8:6, Galatians 5:21, I Corinthians 6:9-10*)
 - c) enmity with God (*Rom 8:7, Matthew 6:24, I John 2:15*)
 - d) not subject to the Law of God (*Rom 8:7, Matthew 24:37, Isaiah 59:1-2*)
 - e) nor can it be (*Rom 8:7, I John 1*)
 - f) cannot please God (*Rom 8:7, Romans 6:1-4, 15-17*)
 2. Spirit
 - a) Minds the things of the Spirit (*Rom 8:5, Galatians 5:22-25*)
 - b) is life and peace (*Rom 8:6, Romans 2:10, Philipians 4:6-9*)
 - c) friend of God (*Rom 8:7, James 2:18-24*)
 - d) is subject to the law of God (*Rom 8:7, Ephesians 5:24*)
 - e) always will be (*Rom 8:7*)
 - f) pleases God (*Rom 8:9, Hebrews 10:23, 13:8*)
- II. The Spirit that dwells in us
 - A. We must have the spirit of God within us (*Rom 8:9*)
 1. God dwelt in Christ because Christ taught what the Father asked Him to teach (*John 14:10*)
 2. The same can be true of us today (*II Timothy 1:13-14, I Corinthians 3:16*)
 - B. Being obedient to God's Word will give us new life! (*Rom 8:10-11*)
 1. Being in Christ and Him in us is very important (*Rom 8:10, Ephesians 1:13, II Corinthians 5:17*)
 2. How does one get into Christ?
 - a) Galatians 3:26-28 informs us that as many of us that have faith and have been baptized have been put into Christ
 - b) Romans 6:3-4 shows this relationship

Conclusion: Who is winning the war inside of you? Who do you listen to, the spiritual voice of godliness or the voice of self gratification? Returning to one of the illustrations we mentioned when we began, one of those dogs will eventually win. The winner will be the one that is fed the most. Which dog are you feeding?