

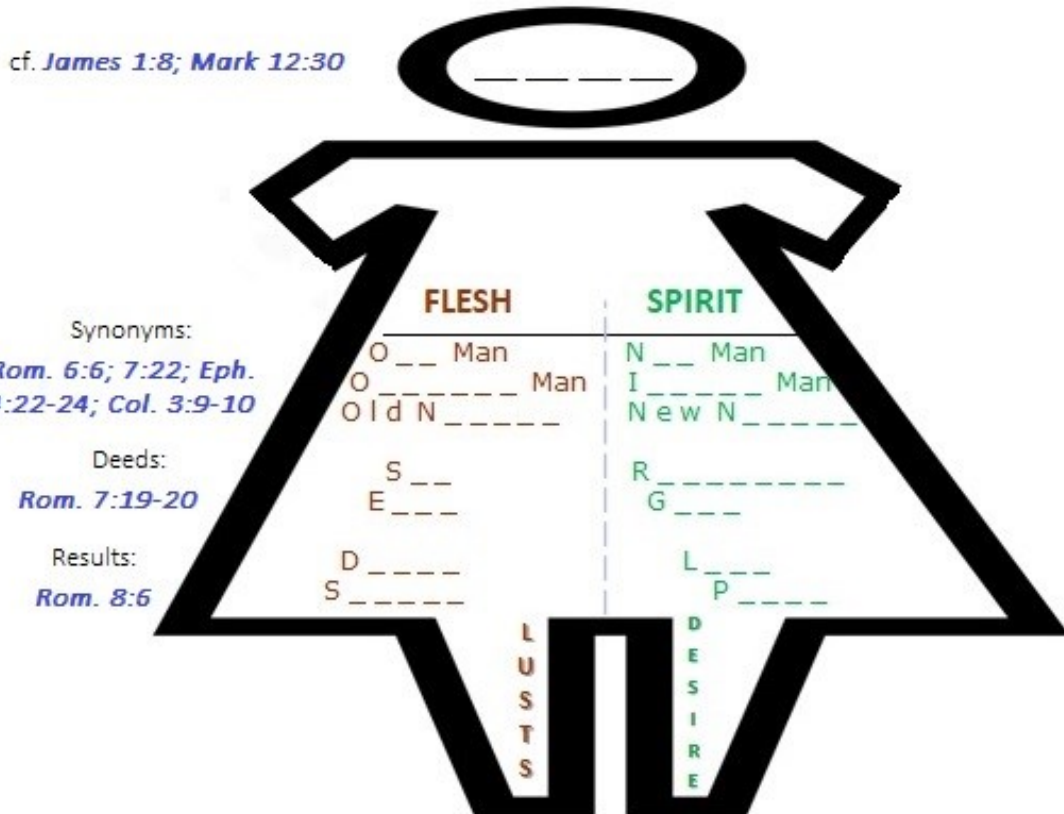
Spiritual Life

- I. Introduction.
 - A. How many know for sure you are Eternally Saved?
 - B. How many of you are perfect?
 - C. How many believe a Christian can live perfectly or a sinless life?
 - D. What are our 3 greatest enemies (cf. **1Jo. 2:15-17; Eph. 6:10-12**)?

- II. Scripture—Man’s Problem.
 - A. **Romans 7:15-25—***“15-For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 16-If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. 17-Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18-For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. 19-For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. 20-Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 21-I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. 22-For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23-But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24-O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25-I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”*
 - B. Brief Summary:
 - ✓ Our Problem is that sin dwells in our _____.
 - ✓ Things I do not want to do, _____.
 - ✓ Things I do want to do, _____.

- III. Scripture—God’s Solution.
 - A. **Romans 8:3-4—***“3-For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4-That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”*
 - B. Brief Summary:
 - ✓ God’s solution is found in living or walking in the Spirit.

- ✓ The _____ does not have the power to overcome sin and live perfectly.
- ✓ The _____ has the power to overcome sin and to live perfectly.



IV. Scripture—Solution Discussion.

A. ***Romans 8:5-13***—“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. 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. 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. 10-And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11-But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you. 12-Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13-For if ye

live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."

B. Brief Summary:

- ✓ There are only 2 ways of thinking—**Fleshly** or **Spiritual**.
- ✓ **Fleshly**—Thinks about fulfilling fleshly lusts only in fleshly ways. It is the only mind the unsaved have. It is enmity or hatred with God. It leads to death. It cannot please God.
- ✓ **Spiritual**—Thinks about fulfilling spiritual desires only in spiritual ways, the ways of God, and His perfected glory. It is 1 of 2 minds the saved have. It is reconciled with and loves God. It leads to life and peace. It will quicken or give life to our body. It is at war with the thinking and works of the flesh.

C. An ongoing battle rages between your flesh and the Spirit.

1. Who will win?
2. Who do you want to win? Why?
3. Can people see your lusts/desires by your choices?

D. Why do we do the things we do?

E. Your mind is at the center of your thinking, feeling, beliefs, and choices.

1. **Rom. 7:23, 25; 8:5-7; 12:2**—*"the law of my **mind**;" "with the **mind**, I myself serve...;" "**mind** the things...;" "**carnally minded is...;**" "**spiritually minded is...;**" and "**be ye transformed by the renewing of your **mind**..."***
2. **Acts 17:11; 20:19**—*"received the Word with all readiness of **mind**" and "serving the Lord with all humility of **mind**."*
3. **Col. 1:21; 3:10**—*"alienated and enemies in your **mind** by wicked works" and "renewed in **knowledge**."*
4. **Php. 3:5, 8, 10, 15-16**—*"Let this **mind** be in you;" "for the excellency of the **knowledge** of Christ;" "that I may **know** Him;" "**be perfect, be thus minded;**" and "**let us **mind** the same thing**."*
5. **Eph. 2:3; 4:17, 23**—*"fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the **mind**;" "the vanity of their **mind**;" and "be renewed in the spirit of your **mind**."*
6. **Tit. 1:15; Heb. 8:10; 1Pe. 1:13; 4:1**—*"their **mind** and conscience is defiled;" "I will put my laws in their **mind**;" "**gird up the loins of your **mind**;**" and "**arm yourselves likewise with the same **mind****."*

F. What are the Top 10 currently effecting your thinking most and what Top 10 do you want to affect your thinking and choices most.

#	Currently—Top Impact to Thinking	#	Desired—Top Impact to Thinking
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	
6		6	
7		7	
8		8	
9		9	
10		10	

G. What changes would you need to make to get your desired Top influences to your thinking?

H. Are you going to make those changes today?

V. Conclusion.

The key to understanding how to spiritually grow is living in the Spirit. You can do the same things in the flesh or in the Spirit. If you are doing things yielding your mind, heart, and will to God, you are living in the Spirit and will spiritually grow. It starts in the heart/mind. As a man **"thinks in his heart, so is he"** (**Pro. 23:7**). The way you think determines the way you feel, the way you think and feel determines the way you choose to live. **"Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life"** (**Pro. 4:23**). So, let's not be **"conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind"** (**Rom. 12:2**). That way we can think, feel, and do the spiritual things or live in the Spirit; do the things that please God, and grant us an **"abundant life"** (**John 10:10**). Satan wants to "mind-control" you. You should practice mind-control. That is letting your mind be controlled by the Spirit of God. **Romans 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."** Think about how you can practically **"live in the Spirit."**