



Living in the Spirit

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Romans 8:14).

Bulletin VCRM20

01 April 2026

“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. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.” (Romans 8:5-17).

Introduction

Beloved, the passage before us draws a clear and life-altering distinction between the life governed by the flesh, and the life led by the Spirit. It is not merely a theological contrast—it is a lived reality that shapes our peace, identity, and eternal destiny. Let us walk through this text with clarity and encouragement, embracing the fullness of what God has prepared for His children, as we consider these 7 points that highlight the great transition from bondage to sonship - resulting in living in the Spirit:


- 1) Mindset Determines Destiny
- 2) The Conflict Between Flesh and God
- 3) The Indwelling Spirit Is The Mark of Belonging
- 4) Our Obligation To Live by the Spirit
- 5) Being Led by the Spirit Is The Identity Mark of God's Children
- 6) From The Bondage Of Fear to The Liberty Of Sonship
- 7) The Witness of the Spirit and Our Glorious Inheritance

1. Mindset Determines Destiny

“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. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Romans 8:5–6).

Here we see that the battlefield is the mind. What we set our thoughts upon determines the trajectory of our lives. A fleshly mindset leads to spiritual death and separation from God; whereas a Spirit-led mind brings life and peace - hence the admonition in **Colossians 3:2** - *“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”*

As an illustration, think of a compass. If it is even slightly off, the longer the journey, the greater the deviation from the intended destination. So it is with the mind—if it is fixed on the flesh, it



drifts further from God. But when aligned with the Spirit, it leads steadily toward life.

2. The Conflict Between Flesh and God

"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:7–8).

The natural, unrenewed mind is not neutral—it is in opposition to God. This explains why mere human effort alone cannot produce righteousness. **Galatians 5:17** reinforces this - *"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."*

We must not underestimate this conflict. Victory is not achieved by strengthening the flesh, but by yielding to the Spirit.

3. The Indwelling Spirit Is The Mark of Belonging

"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" (Romans 8:9–11).

The presence of the Holy Spirit is the defining mark of a true believer. It is not external religion but internal transformation. **1 Corinthians 6:19** declares *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"*

The Bible equips the believer with the promise of resurrection power: *"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" (Roman 8:11).* The same power that raised Christ is at work in you. This is not symbolic—it is divine empowerment for holy living.

4. Our Obligation To Live by the Spirit

"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 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" (Romans 8:12–13).

We owe the flesh nothing. It has never served us well. Instead, we are called to "mortify"—to put to death—the deeds of the body through the Spirit. **Colossians 3:5** echoes this: *"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry."*

As an illustration, a gardener does not negotiate with weeds—he uproots them. Likewise, sin must not be managed; it must be put to death through the Spirit's power.

5. Being Led by the Spirit Is The Identity Mark of God's Children


"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14).

Being led by the Spirit is not an occasional experience—it is the defining characteristic of God's children. **John 10:27** says: *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."*

To be Spirit-led is to be attentive, responsive, and obedient to God's guidance in daily life.

6. From The Bondage of Fear to The Liberty of Sonship

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15).



The Spirit does not enslave—it liberates. We are not driven by fear, but drawn by relationship.

2 Timothy 1:7 affirms that: *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."* A servant obeys out of fear of punishment but a son obeys out of love and trust. God has made us sons.

7. The Witness of the Spirit and Our Glorious Inheritance

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together" (Romans 8:16–17).

The Spirit assures us inwardly of our identity. This assurance is not based on feelings alone but on divine testimony. **1 John 3:1** declares: *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not".*

This is followed by the powerful promise: *"If so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together" (Romans 8:17).*

We are not merely saved—we are heirs. Our future is bound up with Christ's glory.

Conclusion

This passage calls us upward—to live not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. It reminds us that we are:

- no longer bound, but adopted;
- no longer condemned, but empowered;
- no longer strangers, but heirs.

Let us therefore:

- Set our minds on the Spirit
- Yield daily to His leading
- Walk confidently as children of God

For in doing so, we step fully into the life and peace that God has so graciously provided.

Always remember Galatians 5:25: *"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

Amen.