

Spiritual Life Part 1: The Spiritual Life is Possible Because “God Works!”

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I. INTRODUCTION

Every one would agree that believers need to walk with God every second of their life, but is this in fact true of believers. Do they actually live by what they know to be true? The spiritual life God calls believers to is daunting and impossible (Rom 12-16). But God has also provided a way to live it successfully through the Cross of His Son.

II. WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL LIFE AND IS IT POSSIBLE?

A. *Romans 12-16*

Romans chapter 12 has 29 commandments, chapter 13 has 7, chapter 14 has 7 more, chapter 15 has 3, and chapter 16 has 2, for a total of 48 commandments in Romans 12-16. These are impossible to fulfill and that's not all there is. God gives us many other commandments in the Gospels, Philippians, James, etc. Basically the spiritual life God expects us to live is impossible. In order to succeed it in, we need a miracle.

III. GOD MAKES THE SPIRITUAL LIFE POSSIBLE: CHRIST AND HIS CROSS

A. *Romans 6 – 8:13*

Romans 6 reveals something incredible. Through Christ's death, we were freed from the power of sin and given a new life in Christ. This present REALITY should cause us to present our whole being to the service of God in order to produce righteousness before Him instead of the sin and death our flesh desires.

Romans 7 reveals that we will still struggle with sin in our lives because our sin nature remains in every cell of our body. But it also reveals that we have an “inner man” that desires to please God. These facts are important to realize because we no longer have to wonder why we sin. We sin because we want to sin; it is the nature within us. But we also have the ability not to sin because of the new “inner man.”

Romans 8 reveals that in spite of the fact that we continue to battle our sin nature, God performs a resurrection miracle with our dead bodies of sin. Through His Spirit, He gives them new life and ability to live for Him and overcome sin.

IV. CONCLUSION

(1) The Spiritual Life is impossible; it requires a miracle. Further, there is no way that we can accomplish it by the power of our flesh, in fact all the flesh can do is cause frustration in us because while we may fool ourselves into thinking that we can make a commitment not to sin by the sheer power of our flesh, we will only sin more,

(2) Christ’s death on the Cross freed us from the shackles of sin. Therefore we should walk in newness of life and give our allegiance to our new Heavenly Master not our sinful flesh.

(3) Though we are new creatures in Christ that have a life, which enables us to live for God, we still have a sin nature that permeates our dead bodies of sin. This means that we will continue to sin. But we also have an “inner man,” which enables us not to sin.

(4) God performs a miracle with our dead bodies of sin through the Cross of His Son. So, even though the Spiritual Life requires a miracle, He makes the Spiritual Life possible. He resurrects our dead bodies and gives them new life that is capable of obeying all of His commandments for our lives.