

In our Christian lives, we are faced with a significant dilemma. We get saved (rescued from a life without God), and then we are faced with the reality that we must make changes to fully live the life God has planned for us. God does have a plan for us, and the roadmap for this new life has been clearly charted and mapped. Jesus said, "I am the way" (providing the path), "the truth" (providing the ultimate witness), and "the life" (providing the very nature and life of God). This is an important truth because His nature is now how everything in our lives must be governed and understood. The good news is that we can live this way because we have received His nature through being born again.

Take a look at what Paul says in **2 Corinthians 5:16-17**:

16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

The new nature that now governs our life in Christ is the very means by which we come to understand His truth and His ways. **First Corinthians 6:17**, says this: "But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him." The word **joined** carries the idea of being united, made to cohere, to cling to, or to be yoked together with something. Being joined together with Him benefits us in three major areas:

Godly discernment is developed in our lives (1 John 3:19-22).

God leads us on a daily basis. Romans 8:14 shows us how we are led as growth takes place.

God provides the proper timing for the seasons of our lives. He becomes our GPS, locating us and providing the navigation required to reach our destination.

It is through this new nature that we search out the things God has prepared for us. **1 Corinthians 2:10-12**

10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

Notice **verse 12**: "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world." Satan wants to keep us consumed with pursuing the things of this world, but God wants His Word activated in our lives. Satan knows that if he can neutralize what is taking place through our new nature, he can prevent the Word from being planted, hinder its power from working on our behalf, and keep us from knowing the things that have been freely given to us by God. **It is only through the implanted Word of God in our spirit that we can know God's plan for our lives.** Look at what Jesus says in **Mark 4:19**: "...and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful." Once we are saved, Satan has one primary goal: to keep us operating within the system he

governs rather than the system God has established. You might ask, "What system does Satan govern if God is the Creator of all things?" That is an excellent question, and one we need to explore.

Satan is called "the god of this world" (**2 Corinthians 4:4**), but he is not the believer's god—or at least he should no longer be the one dictating how we live. In the very same chapter where Paul makes that statement, he also says in **verse 6** "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." His light shines in our hearts to reveal the knowledge of God's glory, which was manifested to the Church in the face of Jesus Christ. This is why we must recognize the power at work within us. So many Christians are looking for God's power to manifest from outside of them, but His power is at work within each and every one of us. **Romans 8:2-3** says:

- 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.
- 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh.

This is what God has accomplished for us through Christ. Through our new nature, He has provided the power that the Law never could. The Law can identify sin, but it is powerless to deal with the nature of sin itself. Remember, sin is missing the mark. Satan wants us to continually miss the mark. For him, it is perfectly acceptable for those who are saved to remain governed by the flesh. "I go to church every Sunday." "I graduated from Bible school." "I serve in the children's ministry." "I am a pastor." None of those things concern Satan nearly as much as we might think. He does not love them, but **he will tolerate them as long as we remain powerless and continue to be governed by the flesh**. In fact, he will even allow us to be platformed and celebrated by the Church as examples of what is right and good, because our lack of victory and our inability to overcome the dictates of the flesh become the trophies he holds up when everything eventually comes crashing down.

Paul tells us in **Galatians 6:7**, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked." He goes on to explain that whatever a person sows, that is what he will reap. When we allow God's Word to be sown into our hearts—to our spirit—the Bible declares that it produces everlasting life. Do not let the devil deceive you, and do not surrender any authority to him. You have the victory in Christ, and you have the power to overcome the nature at work within your flesh through His nature at work within your spirit.

Jeremiah 31:33 says "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." We are God's people!

Have a blessed month,

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