

LIVING BY THE SPIRIT

Learning to live by the Spirit is learning to live according to a new operating system, one that is guided and directed by the Holy Spirit inside of us now that we are in Christ. With this completely new life in us, we are free to make the daily choice to agree with the Spirit and follow his instructions. But sometimes it doesn't feel like that.

Therefore, it is important to become familiar with the truth of Romans 8 which tells us that even though sin used to be our master, it has no power over us anymore. When we died with Christ, His death ended our relationship with sin. And now we are set free to make the choice: to live by the Spirit.

We encourage you to read the truths of Romans 8 over the next five days. For each passage of scripture, engage with the truth as it is described in each step below. As you do, let the truth of your new life settle into your spirit. And watch as you find yourself truly free to make the daily choice to live by the Spirit.

1. **Read the Truth**

Read the passage of scripture out loud and consider the words that are being spoken. What does it say about your new life in Christ?

2. **Make the Choice to Believe the Truth**

We must make the decision to agree that what the Word says about our new life is true, even if our situation, thoughts, or feelings, don't match up. Romans 12:2 says "...let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think." This change is a difference maker!

3. **Pray the Truth**

Turn the scripture into a prayer to God. Talk to Him about His truth and its implications for your life. Declare your agreement. This action will affirm your union with Him as you are beginning to live by the Spirit.

DAY 1

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. ROMANS 8:1-2

DAY 2

God sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit. ROMANS 8:3B-4

DAY 3

Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will...

But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. ROMANS 8:5-7, 9

DAY 4

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ROMANS 8:11-14

DAY 5

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ROMANS 8:15-16