

What would it be like if we were left up to ourselves to keep God's law?

Romans 7:14-20

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is* good. 17 But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

Romans 7:24-8:4

O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of 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. 1. *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 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, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

When Paul described his failure to do what he wanted & his propensity to do what he did not want, he said it was no longer him but sin that dwells in him.

That wording sounds somewhat familiar to another statement made by Paul:

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me**; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 5:16-18

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and **these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.** 18 **But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**

Walking by the Spirit & being led by the Spirit makes the difference. By living according to the Spirit, being under the law of “not being able to do what you wish” is no longer the issue.

We are free from the law of sin and death by walking in the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus!

What difference does the Spirit make in our life?

Romans 5:5

Now hope does not disappoint, because **the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit** who was given to us.

It is the Holy Spirit Who has poured out God’s love into our hearts, and it is walking in this love which is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:8-10

Owe no one anything except to love one another, **for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.** 9 For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” [a]“You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if *there is* any other commandment, are *all* summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; **therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.**

Ezekiel 36:26-27

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 **I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes,** and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.

Jeremiah 31:33

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.

John 16:13

However, **when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;** for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak & He will tell you things to come

Luke 24:49

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem **until you are endued with power from on high**

Acts 1:8

But **you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

2 Peter 1:3-4

as **His divine power has given to us** all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, **4** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, **that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.