

4. God promises us freedom and “fruitfulness”
—as we *“live by the Spirit.”*

“...you will live...”

*“Live by the Spirit,
and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”*
(Galatians 5:16, NIV)

*“Walk by the Spirit,
and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”*
(Galatians 5:16, NASB)

“the fruit of the Spirit is...”
(Galatians. 5:22-23)

“...because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”

How are you living out this principle?

What are you now “putting to death”
—so you can “live” more fully the way God wants you to live?

Doing...

This week, look for anything “of the flesh” that keeps you from fully experiencing being led by the Spirit of God.

Depending upon the power of God’s Spirit, choose to “put to death” that sin.

Ask God to “fill” you with His Spirit—and enable you to please God in that area of your life.



romans
THE GOSPEL OF GOD

If by the Spirit
Romans 8:12-14

In “the Gospel” we find “the power of God for salvation” (1:16)

- we experience “the righteousness of God” (1:17)
—“through faith in Jesus Christ” (3:22-23)
- we are “united” with Christ—in His death and resurrection

In our “union with Christ”—we have a new “life principle”
—that we must understand... and practice

**The divine principle of “death to the old”
and
“life to the new.”**

God has called us to participate in that principle
by choosing “death to the old”
and choosing “life to the new”

Followers of Christ have been freed from the slavery of sin and “flesh” ruling their lives—and have been placed in a new realm where the indwelling presence of God’s Spirit rules.

*You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit,
if the Spirit of God lives in you.
(Romans 8:9)*

Paul says: *“This is true of you—so live this way!
Reject the rule of the flesh
and choose the rule of the Spirit.”*

How do we do this? (Romans 8:12-14)

1. We must **believe** God gives freedom from sin—and see our **obligation** to not be ruled by it.

*“...we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature,
to live according to it.”
(Romans 8:12)*

“For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die...”

2. God gives us His own Spirit to indwell us—to **enable** us to **live** as His people.

“...but if by the Spirit...”

God gives us His power—in our inner being—by the Spirit.

Ephesians 3:16, 20

Philippians 2:12-13

*“by the Spirit” = listening for His leading
obedience to His will
dependence on His power*

3. God calls us to a lifestyle of continually **choosing** to “***put to death***” the things that hold us back from God’s **best**.

“...you put to death the misdeeds of the body...”

“For sin shall not be your master...” (Romans 6:14)

“You used to walk in these ways... But now...” (Colossians 3:5-9)

“If your hand or your foot causes you to sin...” (Matthew 18:8-9)

“I beat my body and make it my slave...” (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

*“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself
and take up his cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23-25)*