

## The Normal Christian Life

### The Path of Progress: Walking in the Spirit

- There are **two phrases**, each containing a contrast and each marking an aspect of Christian experience we must appreciate.
  - From **Rom. 5:12 – 8:39**
    - “In Adam” and “in Christ”
    - **Objective** and sets forth our position.
  - From **Rom. 7:1 – 8:39**
    - “In the flesh” and “in the Spirit”
    - **Subjective** and relate to our *walk* as a matter of practical experience.
- We think it enough to be “**in Christ**”, but we learn now that we must also **walk “in the Spirit.”**

### The Flesh and the Spirit

- The **flesh** is linked with **Adam**; the **Spirit** with **Christ**.
  - To **live in the flesh** is to **do something** “out from” myself as in Adam
  - To enjoy in experience what is true of **us in Christ**, we must learn to **walk in the Spirit**.
    - Though **we are in Christ**, if we **live in the flesh**, then *in experience* we find that **Adam manifests in us**.
- **Living in the Spirit** means that I **trust** the Holy Spirit to **do in me** what I cannot do myself.
  - It is not a case of **trying** but of **trusting**; not of **struggling** but of **resting in Him**.
- The **object of temptation** is always to get us to **do something**.
  - The **divine way of victory** **does not permit** of our doing anything (outside of Christ) at all.
  - Our victory lies in **hiding in Christ**, and in counting in **simple trust** upon His Holy Spirit to **overcome in us**.

### Christ Our Life

- We think of the Christian life as a “changed life”, a “substituted life”, and **Christ is our Substitute within**.
  - This is Christ’s own life **reproduced** in us.

- **Regeneration** means that the life of Christ is **planted** in us by the Holy Spirit at our new birth.
  - **Reproduction** goes further: it means that new life **grows and becomes manifest progressively** in us, until the **very likeness of Christ** begins to be reproduced in our lives.
- God has given us His Holy Spirit, and its fruit is **whatever is needed**.
  - It does not matter what our personal deficiency, or whether it is 100 different things.
  - God has **one sufficient answer—His Son Jesus Christ**, and He is the answer to every human need.

### **The Law of This Spirit of Life**

- **Rom. 8:1-2** – There is then **no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus. For the **law of the Spirit of life** has freed me in Christ Jesus from the **law of sin and of death**.
  - There are two kinds of condemnation
    - Before God
      - **Met by the Blood** through which we found peace with God.
    - Before myself
      - If we learn to **live by Christ as our life**, then we can praise God! “there is therefore now no condemnation.”
- What is a law?
  - Simply it is something which happens over and over again.
- What of the law of sin and death?
  - It is a law **opposed to that which is good**, and **crippling man’s will to do good**.
  - Man “**naturally**” sins according to the “law of sin” in his members.
    - We need deliverance from sin, and more we need deliverance from death, but most of all we need **deliverance from the law of sin and of death**.
    - We need another law **superior** in operation to **overcome** it—the **law of life**.
- The **law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus** is strong enough to deliver us from the law of sin and death.
  - The **resurrection life** that in Him has **met death** in all its forms and triumphed over it is the law of life in Christ Jesus.