

The Normal Christian Life

The Path of Progress: Walking in the Spirit

The Manifestation of the Law of Life

- Even older Christians do not realize **how great a part willpower plays in their lives**.
 - Many Christians **force** themselves to **be what they are not**.
 - If we have to exert so much **effort** in our Christian living, it simply says that **we are not really like that at all**.
 - Christians use willpower to try to please God because they have not **learned** to **trust in the new life within them**.
- **Rom. 6:23** and **Rom. 8:2** indicate that we have not received something fresh from God's hand, but a **new unveiling** of what He has already given
 - If we **let go** of our own wills and **trust Him**, we shall not fall to the ground, but we shall fall into the law of the Spirit of life.
 - Our will only **interferes** with the law of life.
- If we will let ourselves **live in the new law** we shall be **less conscious** of the old law.
- It is this **spontaneous** life that is the Christian life.
 - It **manifests itself** in love for the unlovely.

The Fourth Step: "Walk... After the Spirit"

- **Rom. 8:3-4** – For that which the law could not do, in that it was **weak through the flesh**, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, **condemned sin** in the flesh, 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**.
 - The flesh is weak – the ordinance of the law **cannot** be fulfilled in us.
 - Because of our inability **God took two steps**.
 - He **dealt with** the heart of our **problem** (condemned sin in the flesh).
 - He gave the **further provision** of the indwelling Holy Spirit (walk according to the spirit).
- What does it mean to **walk** after the Spirit?
 - It is **not a work**; it is a walk.
 - Implies **subjection** to the Spirit. We must be **completely dependent** on Him.

(The Normal Christian Life – Chapter 10)