

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

A brief summary of life “by the flesh” under Law, and “life in the Spirit”.

Living by the flesh / under Law	Living in the Spirit
Guilt now Fear of judgment to come <i>(see minor prophets & attitude to the “Day of the Lord”)</i>	No condemnation now
Trajectory towards death Focus on preserving our physical life (throughout OT) Attitude is often: “Save me, Lord, from evil men” (Psalm 140)	Trajectory to ever-increasing life No fear of physical death (throughout NT) Attitude characterised as: “I am an abundant bringer of life to others” (John 7:38-39)
Focus on what we do	Focus on what Christ has done In Christ, we are sat on such a store of treasure that we can neither spend it all, nor appreciably add to it.
Committed to a doomed rebellion	Bound to a glorious kingdom
Trying to act as though we belong	Inhabited by the Spirit of God
Live for your own needs: → your body will die – death will overwhelm life.	Live for God’s desires: → your body will die; but you will receive a resurrection body like Christ’s – life will overwhelm death. <i>The hope of the Christian is not the immortality of the soul, but the resurrection of the body!</i>
Slaves, living in fear	Adopted children – sons and daughters! God doesn’t just leave us to remember it – He gives us the Holy Spirit to testify with ours. What does this mean? It doesn’t just mean that we know it’s true. The Spirit testifies! That’s active . Here’s some of what it’s meant to me: what’s your story? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has stilled anxiety and turmoil when situations overwhelm me • He has spoken to discipline me out of bad habits • He has sent me messages via other people when my head wasn’t in a place to hear Him clearly • He has brought me to laughter and to tears in worship, because I’ve known that He’s close (NB – not just the music – His presence!) What does this mean for you? What’s your story? Do not quench the Spirit! (1 Thess 5 makes clear an incredible truth – despite being God, the Holy Spirit can be quenched!) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This means not only receiving the comforting stuff. Which good parent just tells their kids nice stuff and lets them be comfortable all the time? • We should expect the Holy Spirit to challenge us and make us uncomfortable sometimes.
No future	Heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Christ endured the cross for the joy set before Him → We endure whatever God sets before us for the joy set before us God gave us His only son – why would He withhold anything from us? <i>Do we understand this? Every good thing that God owns, knows, has access to, enjoys – He will share with us forever!</i>

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

1. Repentance – have we quenched the Spirit?
 - a. Have we become so set on how we “do faith” that we don’t allow God’s Spirit to communicate God’s parenting to us and enact it in us?
 - b. We’re not talking about anything outside the Scriptures, but quite the opposite: things that are everyday in the Scriptures. God speaking to guide His people. God bringing rebuke to rescue His people. God overcoming circumstances human opposition supernaturally. God confirming His Gospel with miracles. God making timid or hesitant people bold and articulate.
 - c. Have we given Him any space to do this? When we’ve heard of this happening elsewhere have we said, “that won’t happen here” or “I don’t believe it”?
 - d. ***Have we boxed up God into a package where He can’t surprise us and can’t disappoint us?***
2. Ask for filling
 - a. Pray through Ephesians 3:14-19
 - b. Ask God to help us know and better understand the glory to which we are heirs