

Why Do We Need The Holy Spirit?

Read: Romans 7:15-25

According to Paul, there are at least 4 Spiritual Laws that apply to our lives

- 1.) God's Law
- 2.) Law of The Mind
- 3.) Law of Sin
- 4.) Law of The Spirit

I. God's Law—Romans 7:16, 7:22

A. Indicated what God required:

1. what we should do and what we should not do
2. in Old Testament, performance determined righteousness
3. Non-performance resulted in guilt and condemnation

B. Problem: in the OT, none were found to be righteous, no not one...

1. Why? Because performance of the law was based on "Self Effort"
2. Self effort is problematic because it relies on the mind which is subject to the whims, lusts of the flesh.

II. Law of The Mind—

A. Romans 7:16—the mind gives consent (it agrees that God's Law is good)

B. Romans 7:22—the mind delights in the law (it rejoices and produces positive impulses to do good and right things according to the law).

Note: the mind works overtime to meet the requirements of the law. But, in reality, cannot continue because it, by itself, is not equipped to fight the spiritual fight that has been waged against it by the law of sin.

III. The Law of Sin- Romans 7:20-21, 23

A. Causes war in the mind through lust, temptation, disobedience to God's Law

B. it lodges itself in the flesh—that part of self which produces impulses.

1. Sin produces evil impulses
2. evil impulses generates perpetual inner struggle
3. since our un-regenerated, human nature is sinful, it becomes more powerful than the good impulses produced by the mind's acceptance of the law.

IV. The Problem

A. Because Paul really wanted to do right but couldn't because the evil impulses were too strong, he found himself in the state(s) of:

1. Discouragement
2. Defeat
3. Dis-Ease (guilty, condemned)

- B. Note: most Christians dwell here for the most part in one way or another
1. most want to do good
 2. most want to be righteous
 3. but like Paul (Rom 7:23) we find another law warring in our minds ...

V. The Solution—The Law of The Spirit—Romans 8:1-4

A. In the midst of Paul's Struggle he remembered—he wasn't under the law anymore but under grace, by Christ Jesus—that it wasn't about self effort anymore it was about surrender. Romans 7:25

B. The Spirit overcomes condemnation of not measuring up—Romans 8:1

C. The Spirit makes us free from the effects of sin—Romans 8:2

D. The Spirit fulfills the law and makes us righteous—Romans 8:4

E. Our Job—

1. Acknowledge that there is a sin problem and that we cannot solve it with self effort. Romans 7:25
2. Activate the Spirit with faith in Jesus Christ
3. Allow (mind gives consent and then yields) to the working of The Spirit