

Meeting the Holy Spirit
Who Is He, and Why Don't We Know Him So Well?



Meeting the Holy Spirit

- *The Spirit Before Pentecost*
- *The Explosion at Pentecost*
- *New Life in the Spirit*
- *The Spirit and the Flesh (part 3)*
- *Where the Rubber Hits the Road*
- *The Gifts of the Spirit*



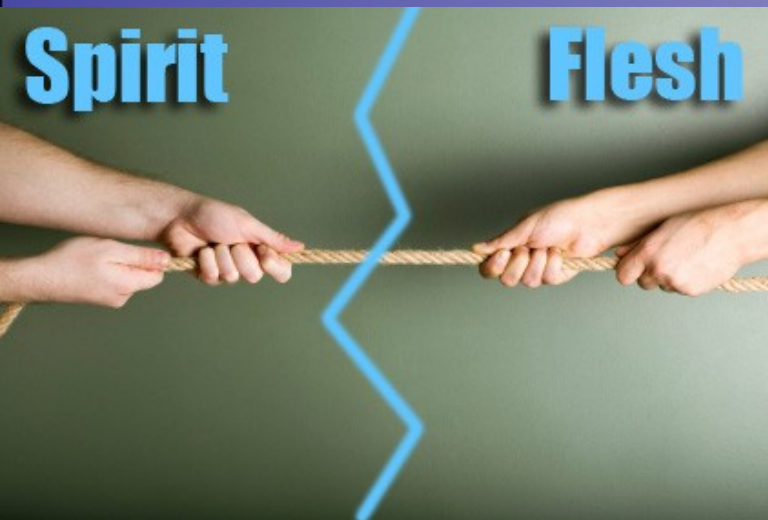
The Spirit and the Flesh

- There's a constant battle going on in us...
 - The Holy Spirit breathes “new life” into us, but our flesh too often still holds onto our old, sinful life
 - Read Romans 8, and we see that the Spirit brought us adoption into God's family and leads us to life and peace, but following the flesh leads to sin and death
 - Read Ephesians 5:17-21, and we see that following our fleshly nature ultimately leads to debauchery and self-destructive toxicity—but why *is* that?
 - Read Galatians 5:13-17, and we see that sinful self-indulgence is the antithesis to genuine, Godly love—but again, why *is* that?
 - What commonalities do you see in what Paul has been saying in these letters about the Spirit and the flesh?



The Spirit and the Flesh

- Funky little teaching moment...
 - Paul unpacks and applies this a bit in Romans 6
 - Read Romans 6:13
 - What are our two basic choices presented here?
 - What's the implicit *third*, morally *neutral* choice?
 - Why do we as humans still *live* as if there's a third, morally neutral choice so much of the time?



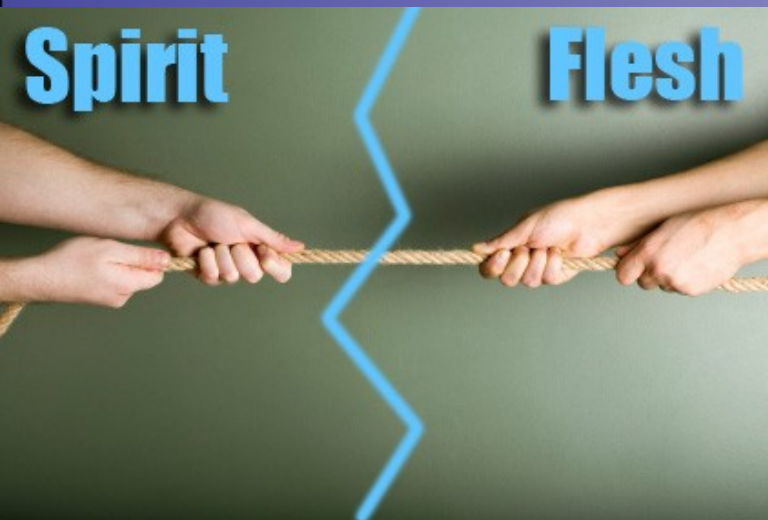
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 - Paul unpacks and applies this a bit in Romans 6
 - Read Romans 6:13
 - Read Romans 6:14
 - How do we live as slaves to sin as our master when we just live according to what makes *fleshly* sense? (isn't that just the "default setting" for humanity?)
(NOTE: Remember what Jesus had told Nicodemus about why we need to be "born again" in the Spirit back in John 3:18...)



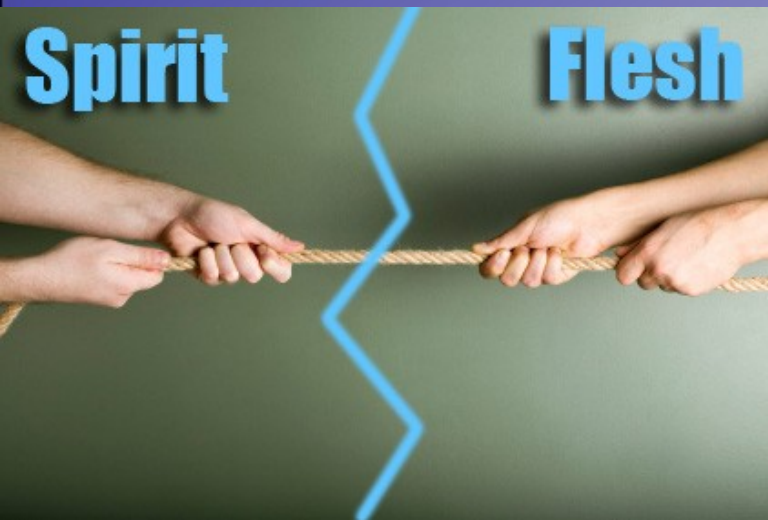
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 - Read Romans 6:14
 - Read Romans 6:17-18
 - What are our two basic choices presented here?
 - What's the implicit *third*, morally *neutral* choice?
 - How comfortable are you explaining to your friends or colleagues or children that there is no third choice? Why is that?
(i.e.; why is that *uncomfortable*, and why *is* there no third choice between living according to our flesh and living according to the Spirit?)



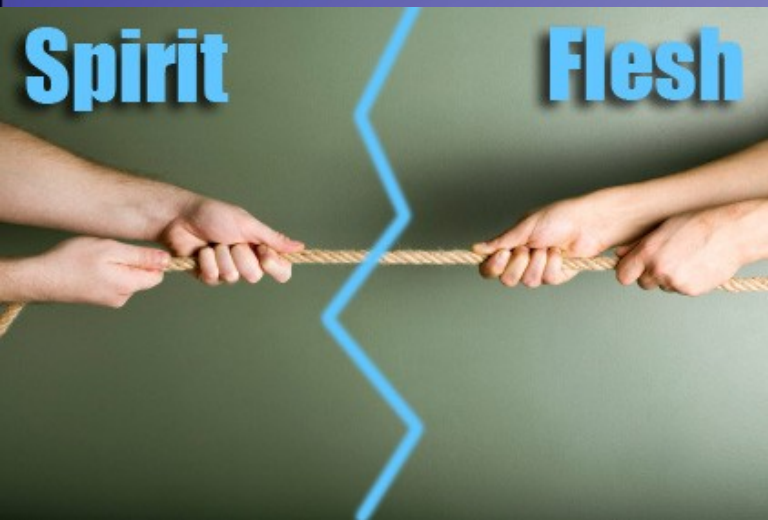
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 - Read Romans 6:13
 - Read Romans 6:14
 - Read Romans 6:17-18
 - Read Romans 6:20-23
 - What are our two basic choices presented here?
 - How does this specifically echo what we saw in elsewhere in Romans 8:6, etc.?
 - If that's the case, then why do we still often want to live as if there's a third, morally neutral choice of "well, it's not really God's *ideal* for us, but..." that *won't* lead to spiritual necrosis?



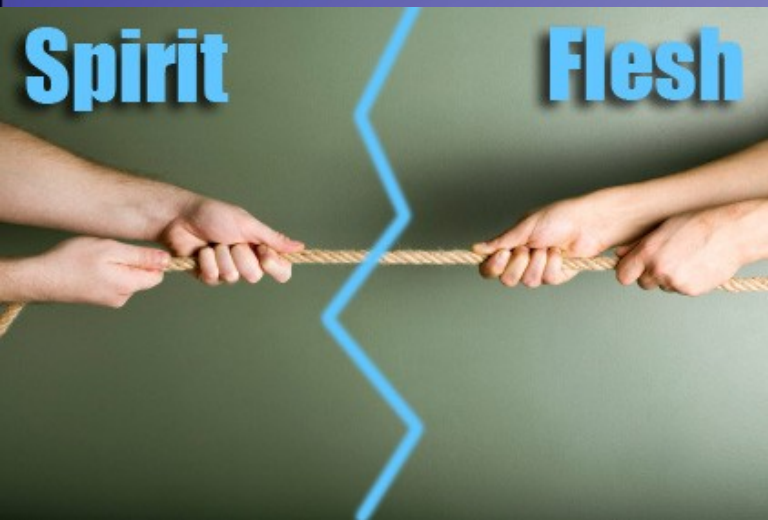
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 - Paul unpacks and applies this a bit in Romans 6
 - Read Romans 6:13
 - Read Romans 6:14
 - Read Romans 6:17-18
 - **Read Romans 6:20-23**
 - What are our two basic choices presented here?
 - What's the functional difference between a "wage" and a "gift" here in vs. 23?
 - How does that distinction affect how you perceive living according to the flesh and living according to the Spirit?



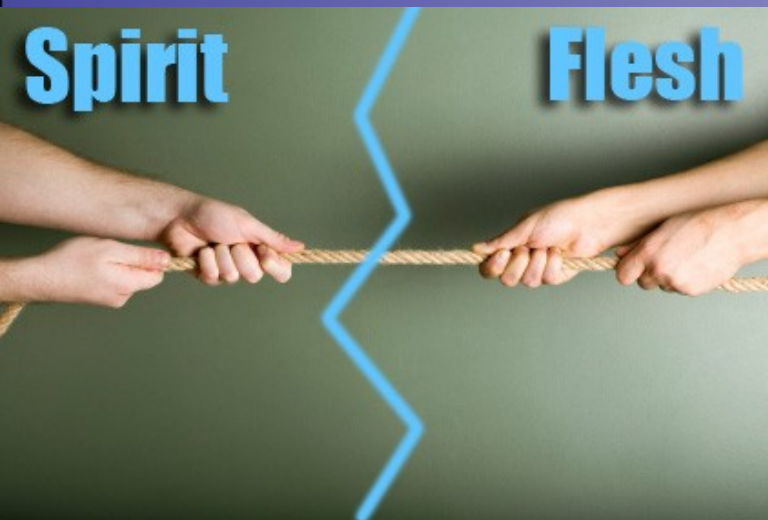
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 - Read Galatians 5:13-17
 - Read Galatians 5:19-21
 - What kind of thematic “sets” do you see in these acts?
 - “sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery”
 - “idolatry and witchcraft”
 - “hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage”
 - “selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, and envy”
 - “drunkenness, orgies, and the like”
 - How are each of these sets reflective of what it means to just slavishly live according to what our sinful *flesh* just *naturally* wants to do?



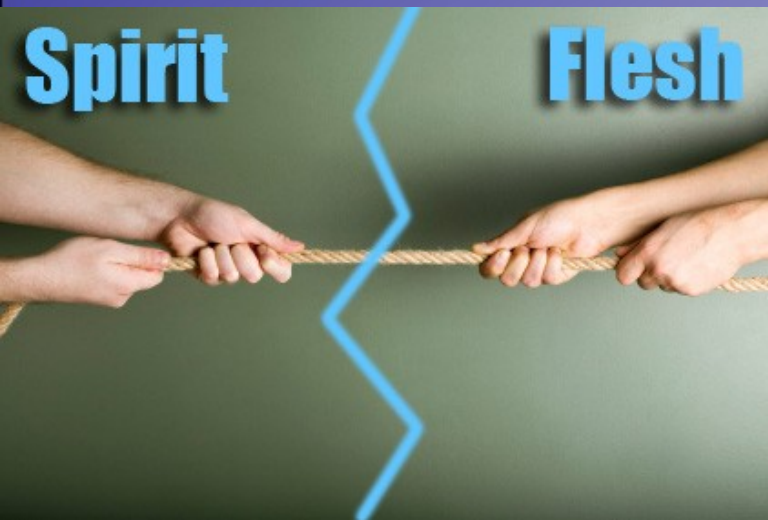
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 - Read Galatians 5:19-21
 - Read Galatians 5:22-23
 - What's the distinction between referring to these lists as “acts” in vs. 19 and as “fruit” in vs. 22?
 - How are these ~~is this~~ “fruit” of the Spirit living and growing within you?
 - How is it important to living this out that Paul sees this list as a singular “fruit” and not a plurality of “fruits”—especially since there's a plurality of “acts” that we can do?
 - Looking over this list again, people tend to think of these in passive, softer terms—but how did Paul intend these fruit to be intensely active on our part?



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 - Read Galatians 5:19-21
 - Read Galatians 5:22-23
 - **Read Galatians 5:24-25**
 - How is Paul's “one-two punch” here a perfect, concise synopsis of everything that we've been saying about the Spirit vs. the fleshly nature?
 - How does Paul present a counterpoint to the Gnostics who say that all tangibility is bad?
 - How does Paul present a counterpoint to the sensualists who say that there's nothing wrong with a little value-neutral fun?
 - How does Paul present a counterpoint to a salvation based on our works?
 - How does Paul present a counterpoint to hoping that God would just “change us,” then sitting back and passively *waiting* for that change...?



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 - How is Paul's “one-two punch” here a perfect, concise synopsis of everything that we've been saying about the Spirit vs. the fleshly nature?
 - How would you explain all of this to people—to non-Christians as well as fellow Christians who may be stuck on one part or another?
 - How can you and I consciously, actively work to live out what the Spirit is working within us on a daily basis?

