

Walking in the Spirit

Two things are necessary for sanctification and glorification: 1) a legal change of ownership, and 2) receiving the Holy Spirit. Both of these are provided by justification. Romans 5:2, "Having been justified [our past justification] ... we had access ... into ... grace [our current sanctification] ... and rejoice in hope of the glory of God [our future glorification]."

It is easy for God to accomplish the sanctification and glorification of those who have been justified; providing the justification of sinners is what was difficult for the holy God. God was freed to express his unlimited love to us by giving us his Spirit by our justification, "the love of God is shed abroad [like a flood] in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us, for [because] ... Christ died for the ungodly [to accomplish justification]," Rom. 5:5-6. And our legal ownership was changed by our justification because it was accomplished by placing us in Christ the way we were in Adam. "If by one man's offence [Adam's], death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace [for sanctification] and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. ... That as sin hath reigned [over us as our old master] unto death, even so might grace reign [over us as our new master unto sanctification] through righteousness [justification] unto eternal life [glorification] by Jesus Christ our Lord," Rom. 5:17,21.

Those who have been justified used to be "under [the authority of] sin [as a master]," Rom. 3:9; but by being baptized into Christ at the point of his death (Rom. 6:3), they were legally emancipated from sin and enslaved to God for sanctification and glorification. "Being made free from sin [emancipated], and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness [sanctification], and the end everlasting life [glorification]," Rom. 6:22. Every justified person is, like "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ," Rom. 1:1, one of the major themes of the book of Romans.

Romans 7 explains why unregenerate Israel always has a hard time in their relationship with God, and why unregenerate people cannot walk in righteousness. An unregenerate man, like a Pharisee, as was Paul, can "delight in the law of God after the inward man," and "with the mind ... serve the law of God," Rom. 7:25. But when "I am carnal [no Holy Spirit], [and] sold under sin [no legal change of ownership]" Rom. 7:14, then sin reigns over "the law of my mind, and bring[s] me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members [flesh]," Rom. 7:23. So the mind of an unregenerate man is a "carnal [fleshly] mind [controlled by sin in the flesh, and thus]

is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be," Rom. 8:7.

But "what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh," God accomplished by "sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, ... that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, for ... they that are after the Spirit [do mind] the things of the Spirit," Rom. 8:3-5. Once the legal change of ownership and the reception of the Holy Spirit is accomplished, as it is in all those who have been justified, they cannot help but walk in righteousness. "They that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if [since] Christ be in you ... the Spirit is life because of righteousness [sanctification], ... [and] he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you [glorification]" Rom. 8:10-11.

So every believer is guaranteed to walk in the Spirit as a general way of life because salvation is God's work, "the gospel [good news] of God," Rom. 1:1, not of man. Without fail, "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new," 2 Cor. 5:17. God's purpose in justification is to produce a new walk for those who are justified, and God's purpose is always accomplished. "We are [were] buried with him by baptism into death: that [so that] like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should [shall] walk in newness of life," Rom. 6:4. So every believer is guaranteed to be fruitful because of the indwelling Holy Spirit, but each believer will produce different amounts of fruit based on his own decisions, "He that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty," Mat. 13:23. And every believer is guaranteed glorification because of the indwelling Holy Spirit, but each will shine to differing degrees of brightness based on his own decisions, "for one star differeth from another star in glory," 1 Cor. 15:41.

So every believer walks in the Spirit because of the indwelling Holy Spirit, but Paul reasons with us to motivate us to not only walk in the Spirit (which is guaranteed), but to exert every effort to make every individual step be in the Spirit also (which is not guaranteed). "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh," Rom. 8:12. "If [since] we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit [every step]," Gal. 5:25. And the

battleground is the mind. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, ... be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind," Rom. 12:1-2.