

# LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

## “THE PROBLEM OF THE FLESH”

### - PART 3

#### Introduction:

- Jesus told His disciples, “...*the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*” Matthew 26:41
- Jesus also said in John 6:63 that the spirit quickeneth, but the flesh profits nothing.
- In the Bible, the flesh is identified as being that part of you that is unregenerate and at enmity with God. In your flesh is said to dwell the **law** of sin.
- In this message, we will study God's Word and discover the Christian's relationship to the flesh, why we walk after the flesh, what happens when we walk after the flesh, and how we overcome the flesh.

1. **The Christian's *identity* is no longer associated with the flesh.**
2. **The flesh cannot enslave the Christian unless the Christian *chooses* to follow the flesh.**
3. **Walking in the flesh *always* brings dreadful consequences.**
4. **A fleshly walk may look *good* to others, but *never* to God.**
  - Walking after the flesh simply means that you are living your life through your **own** abilities, strength, and power, rather than through the **life** and power of Jesus Christ.

- It is **self**-effort rather than divine empowerment.
- It is you trying to live for God rather than **trusting** God to live through you.
- When you walk after the flesh, your actions may look very good and noble to others. 1 Corinthians 1:26; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
  - You can be very busy doing things **for** God, yet all of it is stemming from the **energy** of the flesh.
  - *“Then hear thou from heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and render unto every man according unto all his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men.)*  
**2 Chronicles 6:30**
  - When you walk in the self-dependence of the flesh (no matter how noble it may look to others), it cannot **please** God. 1 Corinthians 1:29; Romans 7:18
  - *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”* **John 6:63**
  - Anything that is done **apart** from a faith and dependence on Christ is fleshly sin.

- God doesn't want to simply **help** your fleshly effort. He wants to be the source of your life in **everything**.