



Rm.7¹⁴For we know that the Law is *spiritual*; but *I am of flesh*, sold into bondage to sin.

Spiritual- "Always connotes the ideas of invisibility and of power.

- It does not occur in the Sept. nor in the Gospels; **it is in fact an after-Pentecost word.**
- In the NT it is used as follows:
 - (a) the angelic hosts, lower than God but higher in the scale of being than man in his natural state, are 'spiritual hosts,' **Eph. 6:12**;
 - (b) things that **have their origin with God**, and which, therefore, are in harmony with His character, as His law is, are '**spiritual**,' **Rom. 7:14**;

VINES

Rm 7:14 ¹⁴*For we know that **the Law is spiritual**; but **I am of flesh**, sold into bondage to sin.*

Flesh – Usage Notes:

(a) "**having the nature of flesh**," i.e., sensual, controlled by animal appetites, governed by human nature, instead of by the Spirit of God, **Sarkinos – Carnal**
Vine's

¹⁵*For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.*



Position of natural -flesh

"having the nature of **flesh**," i.e.,

- sensual, controlled by animal appetites,
- governed by human sin-nature,
- Instead of by the Spirit of God

¹⁴But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. 1Cor.2:13-14



Position of spiritual

Has his origin from and with God, and which, therefore, are in harmony with God's character, as His law is, are '**spiritual**,'

¹³which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

Our New Position is spiritual

- ***Our position***, the source of our Christian life, is perfect.
- It is eternally established in the Father's presence.
- When we received the Lord Jesus as our personal Savior, the Holy Spirit caused us to be born into Him.
- God created us in the position that was established through Christ's work at Calvary.
- *"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature [creation]" (2 Cor. 5:17).*



- **This is the eternal position in which every believer has been placed, whether he is aware of it or not.**
- **The Christian who comes to see his position in the Lord Jesus begins to experience the benefit of all that he is in Christ.**
- **His daily condition is developed from the source of his eternal standing.**



Our condition is what we are in our Christian **walk**, in which we develop from infancy to maturity.

- Although our position remains **immutable**, our condition is **variable**.
- Through the exercise of faith, our eternal position (source) affects our daily condition, **but in no way does our condition affect that heavenly position.**

"If [since] ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God" ([Col. 3:1](#)).

"Be strong in the Lord-be empowered through your union with Him; draw your strength from Him" ([Eph. 6:10](#), Amp).



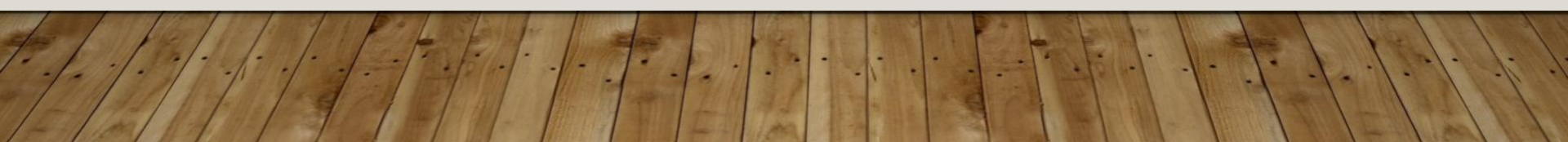
IN ADAM

Separated
from:
God

Old Man –
All of who
you were

Mind History
Ownership

Sin
Nature



The Contrast

IN ADAM

IN CHRIST

Separated
from:
God

Old Man –
All of who
you were

Mind History
Ownership

Sin
Nature

Continuity of Person

Body
Characteristics
Personal Identity

Separated
from:
Law
Sin Nature
World

New Man –
All of who
you ARE

Mind History
Ownership

New
nature

Holy
Spirit

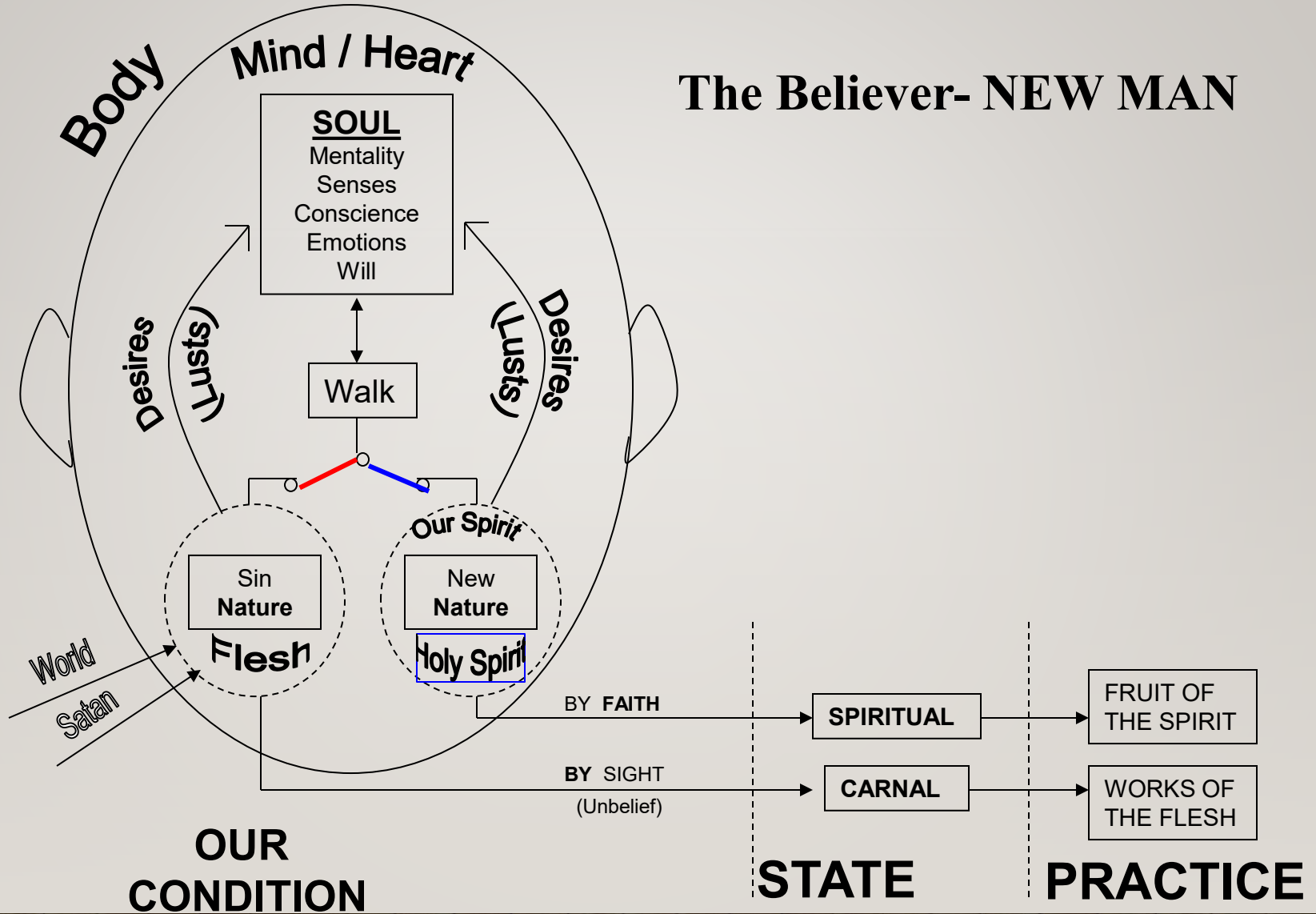
Sin
Nature



Walking in the Spirit - Gal. 5:16,17

**OLD
MAN**

The Believer- NEW MAN



¹⁵ For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

¹⁶ But if I do the very thing I do not wish to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that it is good.

¹⁷ So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me.

¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.

¹⁹ For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish.

²⁰ But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

"My mind has been greatly exercised," wrote Hudson Taylor to his sister, "for some months past, feeling the need personally, and for our Mission, of more holiness, life, power in our souls. But personal need stood first and was the greatest. I felt the ingratitude, the danger, the sin, of not living nearer to God. I prayed, agonized, fasted, strove, made resolutions, read the Word diligently, sought more time for retirement and meditation; but all was without effect. Every day, almost every hour, the consciousness of sin oppressed me. I knew that if I could only abide in Christ all would be well, but I COULD NOT. I began the day with prayer, determined not to take my eye from Him for a moment: but pressure of duties, constant interruptions apt to be so wearing, often caused me to forget Him. Then one's nerves get so fretted in this climate that temptations to irritability, hard thoughts, and sometimes unkind words, are all more difficult to control. "Each day brought its register of sin and failure, of lack of power. To will was indeed present with me; but how to perform I found not. Then came the question, 'Is there NO rescue? Must it be thus to the end - constant conflict, and instead of victory, too often defeat?' Instead of growing stronger, I seemed to be getting weaker, and to have less power against sin. I hated myself, I hated my sin. I felt that I was a child of God, but to rise to my privileges as a child I was utterly powerless."

²¹I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good.

²²For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,

²³but I see a different law (principle) in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

²¹I find then the law (principle) that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good.

The (principle) that evil is present in me. The fixed principle of sin is in the members

The one who wishes (desires) to do good.

- **Paul finds a condition that when he desires (wills) to do good, this evil nature always asserts itself against the doing of what is good.**

²¹I find then the law (principle) that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good.

- He now states as a **settled conclusion**, what he has experimentally discovered.
- He now sees that even if he has found God's way of deliverance, that evil is present and persistent.
- It is the denial of this fact that has wrecked thousands of lives! **For evil will be present until the Lord comes, bringing in the redemption of our bodies.**

22 For I delight in the Law of God after the inward man: 23 but I see a different law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity under the law of sin which is in my members.

First - **delightful joy**: in God's law

Second - **discernment**

Third - **defeat**



²²*For I joyfully rejoice with the law of God in the inner man,*

1. *"I delight" is sunēdomai, "to rejoice," "stronger than I concur). It is the understanding of moral agreement"*
delightful joy

Has his origin from and with God, and which, therefore, are in harmony with God's character, as His law is, are 'spiritual,'

And, after the inward man,—thus revealing himself as born again Christian throughout this struggle:



²³ *but I see a different law (principle) in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.*

discernment

- **"the law of my mind,"** that principle which governs the new nature in virtue of the new birth;
- **"the law of sin,"** the principle by which sin exerts its influence and power despite the desire to do what is right; **"of sin and death,"** [Rom. 8:2](#), death being the

effect

²³ *but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.*

- The law (principle) of sin which Paul speaks of as in his members
- The law (principle) in his members at war against the law (principle) of his mind is the evil sin nature.

DEFEAT

*Galatians 5:17 (NASB77) ¹⁷For the flesh sets its **desire** against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.*

where he says, "The flesh (evil sin nature) has a passionate desire to suppress the Spirit, and the Spirit has a passionate desire to suppress the flesh.

And these are set in opposition to each other so that you may not do the things which you desire

to do."

Paul does not see in his nature two normal modes in which certain forces operate:

- He sees **two authorities** saying to him,
- Do this, but the higher giving way to the lower.
- As the lower prevails, it leads him captive to the law (principle) of sin which is in his members, or in other words, to itself: 'of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.'
- The end therefore is that **man as a creature of flesh, living under law, does what sin charges. It is the law of sin to which he gives obedience.**



No unregenerate man would say, (unless profane)

²⁰ *“It is no more I that do it, but sin which dwelleth in me:”*

1. An unregenerate man is **not conscious of a moral power** which is not himself: for he has but the one nature,—he is **“in the flesh.”**
2. An unregenerate man **could not say**, *“What I hate, that I do.”* For only born-again people hate evil. *“Ye that love Jehovah, hate evil” (Ps. 97:10)*, and David could say of himself, *“I hate every false way” (Ps. 119:104)*. But of the wicked he wrote, *“He abhorred not evil” (Ps. 36:4)*.

3. An unregenerate man **could not say**, “***What I would not, that I do,—I consent to the Law that it is good.***” An unregenerate man resists the Law, that he may “**justify himself.**” A regenerate man consents to the Law’s being good, no matter how it judges what he finds himself doing! (verse 16).

4. The unregenerate man **could not say**, “***I delight in the Law of God after the inward man.***” For by nature all men are “**children of wrath,**” “alienated from the life of God”; and “the mind of the flesh is enmity against God, not subject to the Law of God.” Before his conversion, Saul, as we saw, could help to stone Stephen,—“**verily thinking he ought**” to do it; but Paul was not then seeking holiness (as the man in Romans Seven is), but was secure in his own righteousness as a legalist.



²²For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,

1. First, we have **delightful joy**;

2. Second, **discernment**: I see a different law in my members. It is the unwillingness to own this different law principle, this settled state of enmity, toward God, in my own members, that so terribly bars spiritual blessing and advancement.

As long as we think lightly of the fact of the presence with us of the fallen nature, (I speak of Christians) we are far from deliverance.

3. Third, **defeat**: There is no strength or power in ourselves against the law of sin which is in our members. God has left us as much dependent on Christ's work for our deliverance as for our forgiveness!

It is wholly because we died with Him at the cross, both to sin and to the whole legal principle, that sin's power, for those in Christ, is broken.

