

GALATIANS

**The Battlefield Of
The Gospel**

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

Galatians 5:16-17

For the **desires** of the **flesh** are
against the Spirit, and the desires of
the Spirit are against the flesh

And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, "thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, and foolishness. "All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

Mark 7:20-23

Man's very nature is fallen. Man is wrong at the center of his being, and therefore everything is wrong. He cannot be improved, for, finally, nothing will suffice but a radical change, a new nature. Man loves the darkness and hates the light. What can be done for him? Can he change himself? Can he renew his nature? Can man change the whole bias of his life?

Give him new clothing, provide him with a new house in new surroundings, entertain him with all that is best and most elevating, educate him and train his mind, enrich his soul with frequent doses of the finest culture ever known, do all and more, but still he will remain the same essential man, and his desires and innermost life will be unchanged.

– Martin Lloyd Jones



Ezekiel 36:26-27

I will give you a **NEW HEART** and put a **NEW SPIRIT** within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a **HEART OF FLESH**. "I will put **MY SPIRIT WITHIN YOU** and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

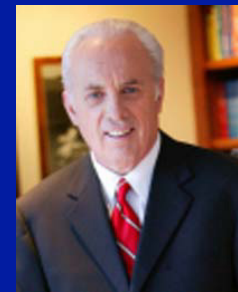
John 3:7

Romans 6:5-7

For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that **OUR OLD SELF WAS CRUCIFIED** with Him, that our **BODY OF SIN MIGHT BE DONE AWAY WITH**, that we should **NO LONGER BE SLAVES TO SIN**; for he who has died is **FREED FROM SIN.**

If you are a Christian, it's a serious misunderstanding to think of yourself as having both an old and new nature. We do not have a dual personality!

– John MacArthur



A widespread but misleading line of teaching tells us that Christians have two natures: an old one and a new one.

– J. I. Packer



For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my **flesh**. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

Romans 7:18

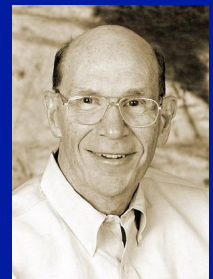
In what sense has Christ defeated sin in the believer? The answer is that he has overthrown its rule, weakened its power, and even killed its root so that it cannot bear the fruit of eternal death in a believer. Still-and this is amazing but true-sin is sin; its nature and purpose remain unchanged; its force and success still grab us by the throat.

Kris Lundgaard



Sin is like a defeated army in a civil war that instead of surrendering and laying down its arms continues to wage a guerilla war. Sin as a reigning power is defeated in the life of the believer, but it will never surrender. It will continue to harass us and seek to sabotage our Christian lives as long as we live.

– Jerry Bridges



For the desires of the flesh are **AGAINST** the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are **OPPOSED** to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

For to be carnally minded is death,
but to be spiritually minded is life and
peace. Because the carnal mind is
ENMITY against God; for it is not
subject to the law of God, nor indeed
can be. So then, those who are in the
flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:6-8

If there were the least thing about God that the flesh could appreciate, the believer could have a constant shelter and retreat from sin and its hatred. If the flesh didn't mind God's wisdom, for example, the soul could meditate on the mystery of the gospel day and night without tiring, and find constant strength in God's plan to save him. But the flesh hates everything about God.

Since it resists everything about God,
it resists every way we try to taste him
and know him and love him. And the
more something enables us to find
God and feast on him, the more
violently the flesh fights against it.
– Kris Lundgaard



I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, 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.

Romans 7:21-23

Do not despair if you feel the flesh battling against the Spirit or if you cannot make it behave. For you to follow the guidance of the Spirit in all things without interference on the part of the flesh is impossible. You are doing all you can if you resist the flesh and do not fulfill its demands.

– Martin Luther



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Galatians 5:16-17

A Christian is not a person who experiences no bad desires. A Christian is a person who is at war with those desires by the power of the Spirit. Conflict in your soul is not all bad. Even though we long for the day when our flesh will be utterly defunct and only pure and loving desires will fill our hearts, yet there is something worse than the war within between flesh and Spirit—namely, no war within because the flesh controls the citadel and all the

outposts. Praise God for the war within!
Serenity in sin is death. The Spirit has
landed to do battle with the flesh. So take
heart if your soul feels like a battlefield at
times.

– John Piper

