

## Spiritual How-to's -

### How to Please the Lord -

#### Live in the Spirit #1 – The Law of the Spirit

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**Intro-** In these video lessons we share brief, bite-sized, Bible basics on how you can please the Lord.

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#### Today's topic – The Law of the Spirit

**I. Romans 8:8-9:** “Those who are in the flesh *cannot* please God. You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if, in fact, the Spirit of God dwells in you.”

A. We see here, **two contrasting** and opposing **ways of life**.

1. Life in the Spirit
2. Life in the flesh

B. In fact, these are more than ways of life, **they are laws of nature**

Romans 8:2 “For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”

C. So then, what do we know about the laws of nature?

1. Even Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence spoke of them
2. “the law of nature and nature’s God”

**II. The laws of nature** - can you remember any, name a few?

A. Some of the most common maybe are:

1. Newtons 3 laws of motion
2. Mendel’s gene laws
3. Kepler’s planetary laws
4. Conservation of matter
5. Thermodynamics
6. I won’t revert back to my Science teacher mindset on these, don’t worry

B. According to the American Assoc. for the Advancement of Sciences, **these things are true of ALL NATURAL LAWS.**

1. **Laws of nature are impossible to break & often difficult to define**
2. **Natural laws limit what can happen**
3. **They are stronger than the laws of any country because it is impossible to violate them**
4. **It is necessary that everything obey them. Every object must obey the laws of nature**

C. **These absolutes are programmed into every natural law.** Whether we are aware of them or believe in them. They are absolute principles of natural laws. Period. Non-negotiable.

D. So then, they must **apply to the law of the Spirit and the law of sin and death.**

**III. At creation, all natural laws were** programmed as absolutes into earth and all living on it.

**A. Gen. 1:2– we see the Spirit hovering over the earth.** It is the Spirit's domain.

1. Everything created then, was under the hovering Spirit of God
2. Life in the garden, with those trees, was life in the Spirit.
3. God told them death would happen, if they ate of that one tree 2:16
4. They did eat, they disobeyed the law of the Spirit 3:6-7

**B. Gen. 3:22 – Disobedience triggered the law of sin and death.**

1. If they stayed and ate from the tree of eternal life, they would be separated forever from God – under the law of sin & death
  - a. Death was promised and could not be recinded.
  - b. It was a natural law impossible to break
2. Therefore they were expelled from the garden. Now living under the law of sin and death. NOT THE SPIRIT as how they originally started.

**C. Every person** who has lived on earth since then, **has been bound by that law** – the one of sin and death.

1. The one that is impossible to break
2. The one that limits what happens in our life
3. The one that is stronger than any American law
4. The one that every object must obey

**D. That law of sin and death** is the reason Paul said in **Romans 7**

1. The things I want to do I can't 7:18
2. When I want to do right, evil lies close at hand 7:21
3. For I delight in the law of God in my inner being but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind 7:23
4. O hopeless, man that I am, who will help me? 7:24
5. This is the law of sin and death absolutely working in Paul and in everyone of us
  - a. it is a natural law
  - b. It is impossible to break

**E. BUT THANKS BE TO GOD, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD that He fulfilled that law. 7:24**

1. The law required death – so Jesus came in the fullness of the **SPRIT** and died to fulfill it it's requirement Mark 15:37-39; Luke 23:44-46
2. Thereby releasing again the **law of the Spirit** and our access to it. Rom. 8:1-4

**IV. Now, every person on earth has the option of choosing which law they will live by.  
We can live according to the law of sin and death or by the law of the Spirit.  
Rom. 8:1-14**

<b>Sin &amp; Death/Flesh</b>	<b>Spirit</b>
Set minds on flesh v. 5 ↳ Brings death v. 6 Hostile toward God v.7 Does not submit to God	Set minds on Spirit ↳ Brings life and peace In the Spirit Spirit dwells in you You are not of the flesh v.9 The Spirit is life because of righteousness v.10
CANNOT please or submit to God Does not have the Spirit of God Christ does not belong to Him	Put to death the things of the flesh & live v. 13 Be led by the Spirit of God as Sons of God v.14

**\*\* When we receive the gift of salvation through Jesus' death, the law of the Spirit is released again and is in us. Hovering again.**

**\*\* Now we live in the Spirit, and are empowered to obey the spiritual laws of nature. Not bound to the law of sin and death**

- A. Both laws, of sin & death and of the Spirit are impossible to break.
- B. But they are hostile to one another
- C. That is why our battle is constant.
- D. They are absolute laws of nature, programmed into the universe upon creation.
- E. Choosing to live in the Spirit, according to God's ways, pleases Him. But
  - ↳ Those in the flesh CANNOT please God. It is an absolute law that cannot be violated.
  - It limits what happens in your life.
  - By which law will you live?

**Closing** – As we close, understand the laws at work in your body and mind, and the warring & the hostility. Recognize it and choose to submit to the law of the Spirit that lives inside of you (if you know Jesus)

That's your homework this week.

In the following weeks, we will talk more specifically about how to live in the Spirit.

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