

3. The Flesh & The War Within

What Is The Flesh?

The flesh is the human being in rebellion against God, which includes the body and that part of the soul where sin dwells. A Ryrie Study Bible note describes the flesh as “the personality of man controlled by sin and directed to selfish pursuits rather than the service of God.” Evidence of the flesh is described in Mark 7:20-23 and Gal 5:19-20, the source of this behavior is **Self-effort, Self-sufficiency, Self-belief, Self-dependence.**

Why Is The Flesh Still With Us?

A. The Nature of Man

B. Born again "of the Spirit."

1. Spirit—the past
2. Soul—the present
3. Body—the future

C. Getting Entangled, Ambushed Or Encircled—Five Truths About The Flesh:

- Truth #1:** The flesh won't go away.
- Truth #2:** The flesh doesn't improve over time.
- Truth #3:** The flesh won't leave us alone to be spiritual.
- Truth #4:** The flesh wants control.
- Truth #5:** The flesh doesn't become less temptable over time.

Walk By The Spirit, Not By The Flesh

A. The Holy Spirit delivers us from the **power** of sin in us.

B. The Holy Spirit offers us release from the **presence** of sin in us.

What Is Our Responsibility?

A. Recognize the need and pray:

- For humility and yielding
- For protection from myself
- Admit weakness and ask for help: “Lord, I can’t, but You can.”
- For compassion

B. Repent of wrong thoughts and behavior

C. Renew your mind with a regular input of God's Word

D. Choose to develop new habits

