

## Works of the Flesh

### Concept:

As we look at the Works of the Flesh, we must always keep in mind that we are a triune being. We are spirit, soul and body. Scripture also identifies my heart as being my spirit and soul and my flesh as being the combination of my body and soul. If we know that we are a triune being, then we also must remember that God is a Spirit and we will commune with Him with our spirit. Our spirit is like a projector that puts an image from the Spirit of God through our spirit onto our soul, then in our soul we interpret what the Lord is speaking to us. I am not talking about hearing voices, although scripture does say that the Lord's sheep know His voice. The Lord will give us revelation of who He is and what His will for our life is. With my mind or soul, I communicate with the rational world. God has given us such a great mind that is capable of making great decisions, especially when it has been renewed with the Word of God. My body, of course, is my earth suit, which allows me to experience the natural things of this life through my five natural senses. We certainly are fearfully and wonderfully made! God has made us to commune with Him and with each other. We can receive wisdom from the Spirit of God through our spirit, which then allows me to communicate to the naturalness of my life in a Godly way. God doesn't want you to react out of your flesh but respond as your spirit gives you insight into the spirit world. The Spirit world is where God is the King and His principles are the eternal principles that will bring us the success that we need and desire. Scripture says I must be led or directed by the Spirit and not influenced by the flesh.

In the garden, when Adam rebelled against the Lord, it allowed Satan to impart his nature into Adam and through him that sin nature to mankind. I carry around in my flesh what is commonly called the sin nature, work of the flesh, fallen nature, lower nature, and probably a lot of other names that I am not aware exist. This propensity to do things contrary to the laws of God is constantly a source of conflict in us. My sinful nature is always trying to be the controlling factor in my life but by the Word of God we are keeping it from being a dominant force in our lives. It is something that I will always have to fight until I get my resurrected body, so I need to learn how to keep the flesh in check.

If I give attention to God's word and His ways, the flesh will be a weak influence in my life. However, I can choose not to give attention to God's Word and Way and the flesh will rise up and I will be pulled into destruction by my own lusts. I always need the Holy Spirit to strength me through the inner man so I will have the inner tenacity to withstand the pressure that my flesh puts on me. As I give myself to the Word of God I will not obey the dictates of the flesh.

In Romans, Paul states what all of us have experienced. He discovers that there is a law in his flesh that wants to do what is contrary to the ways of God. The sin nature wants us to operate under the law of sin and death and the Spirit of God in us is leading us to follow the Spirit of Life that is in Christ. We have to keep reminding ourselves that we have been crucified with Christ and sin (and the sin nature) no longer has any dominion over us. The Lord came as a man and condemned sin in the flesh. Romans 8:3 states that He condemned sin in sinful man. He took the power of the flesh and nailed it to the cross. Obviously, we are still possessors of flesh but I keep reminding it that it is dead since I

have been crucified with Christ and the life that I am living I live with a faith in Christ who loved me and gave himself for me. I draw on the power of the resurrection and keep my mind focused on the promises of the Word of God. We must starve the flesh by not responding to it's prompting. Each time you deny the flesh it is easier to do it the next time. We can access the power of God by acting on His Word because the Lord will strengthen me, as I am obedient to His commands. I must learn to live by the Word of God and not on the natural tendencies in my life.

Cain saw his fleshly nature and thought his punishment was more than he could stand. Ever since Adam's betrayal there is this war going on for my mind and my responses. Life is always giving me an opportunity to show forth the abundance that is in my heart. Have you ever heard anyone say that person really makes me mad? Well that is not true, that person simply exposed what was in my heart in abundance. I need to be sure I am meditating and speaking the Word of God and getting so full of the substance of the Lord that any pressure will just bring God's nature out of me. This is a daily determination and discipline that I must be committed to make as an absolute necessity in my life. We are the ones that show the world that we are different and we act differently and walk with a different set of standards. Our reactions to situations and circumstances of life are different from the natural man who is operating out of the flesh, since we are relying on the strength of the Spirit.

### **Definitions:**

#### **Works of the Flesh**

- a. Adultery: Unlawful sexual relations between men and women, single or married
- b. Fornication: All manner of unlawful sexual activity
- c. Lasciviousness: Anything that tends to foster sex, sin, and lust. Lewd emotions.
- d. Idolatry: Extravagant admiration of the heart
- e. Witchcraft: Practice of dealing with evil spirits, casting spells, drugs, enchantments, charms, inflicting evil, and sufferings.
- f. Hatred: Bitter dislikes, ill-will against anyone, tendencies to hold grudges
- g. Variance: Discord, quarreling, and disputes
- h. Emulation: Jealousies, striving to excel at the expense of others, false religion, uncurbed rivalry
- i. Wrath: Rage, lasting anger, fierceness, turbulent passions
- j. Strife: Angry contentions, contest for superiority or advantage, strenuous endeavor to equal or pay back
- k. Seditions: Popular disorder, stirring up strife
- l. Heresies: False religions
- m. Envyings: Ill-will, and jealousy at the good fortune at someone else, degrading and disgraceful passion
- n. Murders: To kill, to spoil or mar the happiness of others, hatred
- o. Drunkenness: A slave to drink, living intoxicated
- p. Reveling: Boisterous feasting, obscene music, pleasures, carousing

### **Scripture Application:**

1. Genesis 3:4-10
2. Genesis 3:17
3. Genesis 4:13-14
4. Genesis 6:5-7
5. Genesis 8:20-22
6. Exodus 15:22-26
7. Exodus 16:1-3
8. Numbers 11:1-6
9. Numbers 14:10-12
10. Job 15:16
11. Psalms 14:3
12. Psalms 51:5,6
13. Psalms 53:2-4
14. Psalms 78:25-39
15. Proverbs 21:10
16. Isaiah 64:6
17. Jeremiah 16:12
18. Ezekiel 9:9-11
19. Ezekiel 36:24-31
20. Matthew 23:27
21. Mark 7:20-23
22. Romans 1:24
23. Romans 6:6-10

24. Romans 6:15-18
25. Romans 7:7-12
26. Romans 7:17-20
27. Romans 7:23-25
28. Romans 8:3
29. Romans 8:4-8
30. Romans 8:9-12
31. Romans 8: 13,14
32. I Corinthians 10:6
33. I Corinthians 15:50-54
34. Ephesians 2:3
35. Ephesians 5:14
36. Galatians 5:14
37. Galatians 5:13
38. Galatians 5:17
39. Galatians 6:8
40. Colossians 3:5
41. Colossians 3:8-10
42. James 1:14
43. James 4:2
44. II Peter 2:10
45. II Peter 3:3
46. I John 1:7-9
47. I John 2:16

**Summary:**

After reading all of these scriptures that expose the nature of the flesh, I think all of us realize that we have a nature in our members that wants to drive us away from God and His ways. That is why we must know the Word so we can properly discern the direction we are going. Are we going toward God or are we going away from the Lord? Just because I don't feel like doing something doesn't mean I shouldn't do it. Also, because I feel like doing something, doesn't mean I should do it. The Word of God is always my guide. I may not "feel" like praising the Lord but it is the right thing to do, so I do it in obedience and my "feelings" will line up. I might not want to love my enemies but that is what the Word says so I decide to do it out of obedience not "feeling". I know all of you have had the desire to go away from the principles of God but the Word of God pulled you back into the right place. That needs to happen in our lives more and more. It is also true that I need to call on the power of God to help me walk in the right way. Some things that the Word tells us to do are hard and I need to constantly ask the Lord to put His strength in my weakness so I can be victorious. Only as I meditate the truth will I know it and then it will make me free. The power of the Word combined with the power of the Spirit will help us all walk in victory. Remember, we need to starve the flesh by not acting on it and feed my human spirit by meditating the Word of God and then you will be able to watch the flesh's dominion in our lives die! Christ shed His blood so I could have my heart circumcised and have the power of the new creation lead me into a new quality of life called "eternal life".

**Action Point:**

Pick an area of the flesh that you want to see its dominion in your life cease. Begin to read Romans 6 and declare that you have been crucified with Christ and the dominion of the flesh is broken in your life. Expect to see change and rejoice about the change before it actually happens in the natural. Watch the Word of God change you into the image of Christ! Praise the Lord.