

Summer of Spiritual Growth: The Authority of the Believer 4 September 4, 2016 | mediaatvictory.com

The Battle with Our Bodies:

Romans 7:18-25 – ¹⁸ I know I am rotten through and through so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn I can't make myself do right. I want to but I can't. ¹⁹ When I want to do good, I don't; and when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway. ²⁰ Now if I am doing what I don't want to, it is plain where the trouble is: sin still has me in its evil grasp. ²¹ It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. ²² I love to do God's will so far as my new nature is concerned, for in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³⁻²⁵ but there is something else deep within me, in my lower nature, that is at war with my mind and wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. In my mind I want to be God's willing servant, but instead I find myself still enslaved to sin. So you see how it is: my new life tells me to do right, but the old nature that is still inside me loves to sin. Oh, what a terrible predicament I'm in! Who will free me from my slavery to this deadly lower nature? Thank God! It has been done by Jesus Christ our Lord. He has set me free.

Tempted by Your Flesh or Tempted by Evil:

Romans 12:1-2 – ¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world or don't let the world squeeze you into its mold, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. If we don't possess the ability "In Christ" to present our bodies as living sacrifices, then God would be unjust.

We have authority over our bodies and the world.

Our minds must be renewed with the knowledge of the love of our Father.

I Corinthians 9:26-27 – ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. ²⁷ No, I beat and keep under my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

I Corinthians 10:13 – No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Your body is under your authority.

God calls our bodies an “it.”

James 1:13-15 – ¹³ When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

II Corinthians 11:3 – But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

The deception was that there was something good outside of God’s plan for their lives.

The age-old deception still plagues us all today, “Has God said?”

Everything I need, want, and desire will be provided in the “Garden of Eden” that is found in Him.

Titus 2:11-12 – ¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹² It [the grace of God] teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age.