



## CrossRoads Notes:

Turn your Bibles to Romans 8:12-14

**Title: Victoriously Living Over the Flesh**

**Theme: Mortifying the Flesh**

**Introduction:** *Donald Ballar, Reader's Digest*

**Proposition:** *I would propose to you that Christians need not wait for a potential wreck with the flesh before they try to prevent a tragedy from happening. God's Word has preventative measures that will keep the child of God from having a tragic accident with his most aggressive enemy, "The Flesh."*

Romans 8:12-14, "Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. <sup>Ro 8:13</sup> For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, <sup>Ro 8:14</sup> because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

**Interrogative Sentence:** *Where is this battle with "the flesh" fought and how is victory achieved? What are our obligations in regards to the price that Jesus paid upon the Cross of Calvary? Where is the power to overcome "the flesh" to be found?*

**Transitional Sentence:** *All great armies that are victorious in battle are made up of soldiers who know that they have an obligation to fight with all their mind, heart and strength. To whom do Christians have an obligation?*

*(The Expositors Bible Commentary)*

In Romans chapter 8, verse 12, the apostle moves from instruction to exhortation, from what God has done through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to what is expected of the child of God in way of response. There is a strong emphasis on human responsibility in regard to what is truly the reflection of a repentant heart renewed by the Holy Spirit.

"Obligation" (*opheiletes*) means to be bound by a duty. (Practical Word Studies of the New Testament) It is important to note that this is not an ambition, it is a duty (Bishop Handley Moule). The application is this. With the position that the child of God has in Jesus Christ comes an obligation to live a life worthy of the gospel. (Word meaning in the New Testament) The Christian has a debt to mortify the flesh. (Vines Dictionary of the New Testament) Because of the price that Christ paid for the Christian's soul the child of God is obligated to surrender his mind, heart, tongue and literally every part of His body to the will of God.

**Transitional Sentence:** *Before a battle can be won, there must be the recognition of an enemy. The most continual aggressive enemy the Christian has is the "sinful nature" or rather the "flesh."*

*(Galatians 5:17)*

## The Minnesota Crime Commission:

(Romans 3:23)  
 (Psalms 51:5)  
 (Galatians 5:19-21)

**Transitional Sentence:** *The first step to “Victoriously Living Over the Flesh” is to agree with God that a sinful nature lives in us and the next is to understand what the Bible says about how to walk in victory.*

(Romans 8:13)

“Mortify” (*thanatoo*). Mortification is the special ministry that enables the child of God to overcome those evil desires that could destroy the Christian’s relationship with the Lord. It means to become dead to anything that would feed and give those evil desires strength to overcome you. (The Expositors Bible Commentary; The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament) When you mortify the flesh you are deadening the desire that comes upon you. True mortification will rob sin of its debilitating and emotional distracting influences.

(Romans 6:11-14)  
 (Matthew 6:22-23)

Illustration: Ed Wood

**Transitional Sentence:** *Once we have the heart to mortify the flesh, we can trust in God’s power for victorious living.* The child of God who walks in victory is the one who realizes his sin it is not because of defeat, but because of disobedience.

Mark Bubeck wrote

(Romans 8:9-11)  
 (Romans 8:13)  
 (Psalm 139:24)  
 (1 John 1:9)

“Purify” (*katharizo*) in the spiritual sense is to cleanse from the pollution and guilt of sin.

Illustration: Mother and Four Year Old Child

The victorious Christian does not give excuses for his soiled condition. He agrees that his flesh distracted him, took his eyes off what he was supposed to be feeding himself, and in his disobedience he became dirty because of the indulgence of the flesh, the filth of the world and the lie of the devil. He just responds the Lord’s chastisements appropriately and then allows the Holy Spirit to clean him up.

**Transitional Sentence:** *Like the mother who sat the cleaned up little boy down to fill his eyes with something good until she returned to take him to church, the Word of God has truths that Christians are to be feeding themselves until Jesus returns for the church.*

Seven truths to victorious living are:

One, recognize the fact that it is only by God's enabling that you are going to be able to accomplish His perfect will for you. (Philippians 2:13)

Two, recognize the need to be filled with the Holy Spirit so you live a life that reflects being led of the Holy Ghost. The apostle exhorts you "...to be filled with the [Holy] Spirit.

Three, begin mortifying the flesh by confessing sins and claim Christ's purchased ownership on your life and body. (Galatians 2:20)

Four, saturate your mind with the Word of God and pray for Holy Spirit revelation and illumination so you can understand and live out God's will for you. (Romans 12:1-2)

Five, recognize that every life produces fruit, surrender your heart over to the Holy Spirit's cleansing so you can express the fruit of the Spirit out of your life. (Galatians 5:22, 23)

Six, recognize that your body is not evil, it is the sinful nature that is within you, therefore, present your entire body, mind and soul over as instruments to the Lord's use. (Romans 16:12,13)

Seven, recognize that you must express a life that says, "I love you Lord." (Matthew 22:37-38)

Those who are victorious over the flesh are willing to examine their lives to see if they are living according to true faith in Jesus Christ and if they have accepted the truth found in the Word of God. (Thru the Bible; Barnes Notes) (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Are you a natural person whose spirit is dead? Do your bodily senses and your natural desires control you? Are you a worldly Christian who has allowed Christ to enter your life but is still being mastered by the desires of the flesh? Is the big "I" still in control? Or are you a spiritual Christian who has been crucified with Christ and is being controlled by the Holy Spirit?

**In Closing:** *The child of God has three trucks pushing on him every day of his life. The one labeled "The Flesh" is always the one mowing him toward a collision course. He does not have to wait until he is about to be in the biggest wreck anyone has ever seen before he puts his foot on the brakes.*

Victory over the flesh, that sinful nature, is accomplished by mortifying the flesh and feeding the new life in Christ through prayerful reading of the Word of God.

Let us pray!