

Simply Christ
Gospel Newsletter
Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

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Serving in Newness of Spirit

In the Apostle Paul's introduction to the Roman believers, he reveals how he served the Lord. He wrote, *"For God is my witness, whom I **serve with my spirit** in the gospel of his Son..."* Romans 1:9. In truth, serving God with your spirit and in the Spirit are given throughout the scripture as the source and manner of the Christian walk. Jesus said those who worship the Father *"... must worship him in spirit and in truth."* John 4:24. We become spiritual beings when we are *"born of the Spirit"* John 3:6. It is in this new birth that we receive the *"new heart"* and *"new spirit"* that God promised in redemption. Ezekiel 36:26. It is also in this new birth that God fulfills his promise to *"...put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."* Jeremiah 31:33.

The redeemed serve God with the spirit and in the Spirit, and, as Paul said, they serve *"in the gospel of his Son."* The human mind is never the source of their walk. In fact, the gospel of Christ is foolishness to the natural mind. It is for this reason that a person must *"believe in their heart."* Paul tells us *"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness..."* Romans 10:10. The person who is transformed by the gospel has first received it in their heart. Paul says, *"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath **shined in our hearts**, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus*

Christ.” II Corinthians 4:6. Satan blinds the minds of those who believe not II Corinthians 4:4, but Christ shines into the heart of those who believe.

We hear a lot about the “renewing of the mind.” Some view the mind to be like computer that we must continually input good data onto its hard drive. They believe that as we continue to do this we are changed into the image of Christ. This sort of teaching reeks with carnality. Those who take this course become as those Paul spoke of who are “*ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*” II Timothy 3:7.

It is the Spirit of God that transforms the mind of a person from carnal to spiritual. Paul said those who have been taught by Jesus heard that you must “*be renewed in the **spirit of your mind.***” Ephesians 4:20-23. This is part of what Paul spoke of as “*the renewing of the Holy Ghost.*” Titus 3:5. The renewing of the mind is a spiritual work accomplished, not by inputting data, but by visitation of the Spirit of God! As a person serves God with their spirit, their heart, soul, and mind is continually renewed by God’s Spirit.

The Apostle Paul begins the seventh chapter of Romans saying, “*...we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should **serve in newness of spirit**, and not in the oldness of the letter.*” Romans 7:6. Those who serve in “*oldness of the letter,*” must serve through the mind. Those who serve God through Christ Jesus, “*serve in newness of spirit.*” Those who serve with the mind are partaking of “*the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*” They believe that if they input “good” then they will end up being godly, but it never gives them what it promised. Those who serve in newness of spirit are

partaking of *“the tree of life.”* The heavenly things they receive in their spirit spring up and flood their heart soul and mind.

Paul takes most of this seventh chapter describing the futility of serving in *“oldness of the letter.”* This is the testimony of his life serving the Law before he came to Christ. He tells of being *“carnal, sold under sin.”* Romans 7:14. He remembers the continual agony of wanting to do good, but evil is ever present. He loved the Law of God; he studied the Law of God; he served the Law of God with his mind. Yet all its principles, precepts, commandments, and ordinances availed him nothing. He was always being pulled downward into darkness and there was nothing he could do to change it. Finally, after he cried *“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death”* Romans 7:24, he found the deliverance he longed for through *“Jesus Christ our Lord!”* Romans 7:25.

The last sentence of this chapter is Paul’s conclusion of the whole matter. He explains why he had never been able to break free from the darkness. He says, *“So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”* Romans 7:25. The word *“So”* is from a Greek word that speaks of *“drawing a conclusion.”* Paul’s conclusion gives two reasons why he had served the law of sin with his flesh. The problem was **“how he served”** and **“what he served.”** *“With the mind”* was *“how he served.”* *“The Law of God”* was *“what he served.”* The apostle who began this epistle saying **“whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son...”** reveals the source of his darkness was that he attempted to serve **“with the mind.”** When you serve with the mind, you can only serve in *“oldness of letter.”* God is

not served with the mind. The Law is served with the mind. *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”* John 4:24. Paul gives this conclusion so everyone will know that if you serve with the mind, then you serving in *“the oldness of the letter,”* and you will be bound to serve the law of sin with the flesh.

This entire generation of the church has been programmed to serve God with the mind. This is why our generation of “believers” are more bound by sin than perhaps any since the reformation. The teachings of “renewing the mind” sound so wise and wonderful, but why is your freedom and victory always just a few more principles or precepts away?” Why does it never give you the freedom from sin that Jesus promised? **It does not because it cannot!** It can only condemn you to serve in *“oldness of letter.”*

This gospel of Christ is still foolishness to the mind. It is not reasonable. You do not figure it out. It gives you nothing to do other than believe the report. Yet when it shines into your heart, it revolutionizes your entire being. You become a spiritual being, and with that new spirit you begin a walk in *righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost!*” Romans 14:17.