ACCEPTING THE NEW CHRISTIAN'S LIFE-CHALLENGE

Why isn't all my Bible reading, church attendance, Christian books, and me putting an all-out effort, helping me live a better Christian life?

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Since you know about salvation, have you heard about sanctification?

Accepting The
New Christian's Life-Challenge

Chapter One

Its Always Worked Before!

Rom 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I *want* to do I do not do, but what I *hate* I do. Because new and untrained Christians come into Christianity not know how Christianity works, they use the only system they know. Up to the moment they are born again, human effort, human reasoning, and world training has worked for them. So, they apply what they know and what they have had the best success with *and fail* at living the Christian life.

I do not understand: The new Christian is in for a shock; all those things that worked in their human life are failing them. They are believing in themselves; they are determined; they are giving it their best efforts; they are applying all their self-help books; and they examined their spiritual progress, breakthroughs, and successes, as a Christian, and got disappointing results.

- Is it because Christianity isn't real? Well, that can't be true, because they see too many people winning with it.
- Is it because they didn't really get saved? That can't be true, because they did what the Bible and their Christian friends told them would save them.
- Have they done something in their life that got them cut off from God? That couldn't be true because something really did happen in their life.
- Are they just not doing it the right way? The truth is; they are right where they are supposed to be. Things are progressing just the way they are supposed to.

Does This Happen To All New Christians?

Your Normal First Experience

I do not understand what I do: When you get to this place in your Christianity, a miracle has taken place in your life; and, you are all set up to take the next dynamic step in Christianity. The good new is, the fact that you are concerned is your proof that you *are* a true Christian. All new Christians get to this place; but, not all of them know how to move on from here. And, you do need to start winning as a child of God. But, before you learn how to win, be willing to take out some time to understand where you are now and what's so great about it.

Normal Experience Two

For what I *want* to do: If this weren't true of you, you would not be a true Christian. Jesus' Christianity *always* gives true Christians a **want** to do the right things. So, you just passed your first test and can know that you have been born again and are right on schedule. Never underestimate your desire to do the right things. This is your number one responsibility, as a Christian. If you lose your **want** to treat yourself, other people, and God's plan with right, good, and righteous things, start praying with great concern and intensity.

Normal Experience Three Part One
For what I *want* to do <u>I do not do</u>: This isn't good news, but it is very typical of all new Christians. Seldom does a new Christian become a Christian knowing how to function in the spirit realm or live as a child of God. But, how you react to that is very, very important. Jesus doesn't expect you to be able to do it; but <u>He does expect you to **want** to live the Christian life</u>.

Normal Experience Three Part Two
But what I *hate* <u>I do</u>: Jesus expected you to have trouble with your body and the sinful nature in it. But, He expected you to not like that either. He expects you to **hate** it. So, while you are **wanting** to do the right things and **hating** doing the wrong things, He is ready to bring you into a study time that leads you out of the Romans 7:15-25 life into the Romans chapter eight life.

As you struggle with your body and some of the things in your past, the first thing you need to know is, how will Jesus help you win over your body, some of your past friends influences, your world training, and the devil's temptations?

Heading Into Victory

Turning To Prayer For Help
Rom 7:24 (NIV) What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? When you *try* to live the Christian life, you are looking to yourself, your abilities, your skills, and your efforts. When you *pray*, you are looking outside yourself for help. For as long as you think you can do it, Jesus will keep waiting for you to use your God-given free will to cry out to Him. Always keep in mind that <u>God honors your free will with a great intensity</u>. If you don't pray and ask for the things you need, even though Jesus wants to give them to you, He will wait until you use prayer to invite Him into that situation.

Turning To Jesus For Help
Rom 7:25 (NIV) Thanks be to God--<u>through Jesus Christ our Lord</u>! So then, I myself <u>in my mind</u> am a slave to God's law, but <u>in the sinful nature</u> a slave to the law of sin. Your mind is in your spirit; the sinful nature is in your body. You and your body are currently in a war; and, Jesus is ready to help you win. Don't forget, your body is willing to have sex outside marriage. It is willing to get drunk. It is willing to do drugs. It is willing to keep eating foods that taste good until it is really, really fat. It is willing to do anything that brings it pleasure and keeps it from experiencing pain.

You, the spirit person on the inside of it, are the only reason why it may not be doing these things. Plus, the Holy Spirit has been speaking to your conscience from the moment you were old enough to be responsible for knowing the difference between right and wrong. So, if you aren't overweight or addicted to sex, drugs, and alcohol, you have been fighting a pretty intense battle. But, that battle is an ongoing, difficult and never ending war, without Jesus' help.

You Have A Perfect Record With God

Rom 8:1 (NIV) Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For as long as you **want** to be treating yourself, other people, and God's plan the right way and **hate** it when you treat yourself, other people, and God's plan with wrong, bad, or evil deeds, you have a perfect record *with God.* As long as you don't do anything wrong, bad, or evil *on purpose,* you have a perfect record *with God.*

But, you don't have a perfect record with yourself or the people around you. You are currently thinking, feeling, saying, and doing things to yourself and others that aren't right. And, you are neglecting to do good things that you should be doing. However, **there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** Why? Because you **want** to be doing the right, good, and righteous things with yourself and others. And, you **hate** it when you do wrong, bad, and evil things to yourself, others.

You Have Jesus Ready To Help You

Rom 8:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, *because* through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. You were sinning because you were breaking God's laws. And, you were breaking God's laws because you weren't powerful enough to stop it.

Rom 7:18 (NIV) I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the *desire* to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For as long as you have the **desire,** you have Jesus ready and willing to train and empower you to **carry it out.** And, as long as you aren't doing wrong things *on purpose* He is available to work with you.

Jesus Has Already Helped You

Rom 8:3 (NIV) For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in sinful man. The Holy Spirit was telling you, through your conscience, that you were doing things that were hurting and trying to destroy you. But, your body's desires, cravings, addiction to pleasure, and animalistic character, overpowered you. So, Jesus came and died in your place. But, you had to use your God-given free will to accept His salvation. And now, you are having to use your God-given free will to accept His sanctification.

Jesus Will Keep Helping You

Rom 8:3-4 (NIV) For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

Having A Perfect Record With God

What Are The Righteous Requirements Of The Law?

In order that the righteous requirements of the law: You have a perfect record with God so Jesus and the Holy Spirit can come inside you and train and empower you to live **the righteous requirements of the law.** God's law is all about how you treat yourself, other people, and His plan. God is all about relationships. When you do things to yourself, others, and His plan that are wrong, bad, or evil, you have hurt people. Your relationships have gone wrong. **The righteous requirements of the law** are those things that never hurt people or relationships.

Good Luck With That!

In order that the righteous requirements of the law <u>might be *fully* met in us</u>: This is talking about you never doing anything wrong, bad, or evil against yourself, other people, or God's plan. If you do, you *cannot* enter into God's eternal Kingdom. If He allows one sin in, it would totally destroy it. So, what can be done to get you, who aren't perfect, into God's eternal Kingdom. You know you are going to do something that is wrong, bad, or evil. Sure, Jesus forgave you for everything you ever did. But, what about now? What about in the future?

All It Takes Is One Sin

Who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit: Living **according to the sinful nature** is to commit one sin *on purpose*. Living **according to the Spirit** is to not commit one sin *on purpose.* But, haven't you already done that? Or, have you lived a perfect life up to now? That's the way it has been with all Christians. **Rom 7:19 (NIV) <u>For what I do</u> is not the good I *want* to do; no, <u>the evil I do not *want* to do</u>--this I keep on doing.**

You Aren't Committing Even One Sin

Rom 8:3 (NIV) For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. <u>And so He condemned sin in sinful man</u>. This has to be continuously repeated: For as long as you don't sin *on purpose,* you have a perfect record with God, because Jesus **condemned sin in sinful man.** As long as you **want** to do what is right, Jesus **condemned sin in sinful** you. As long as you **hate** doing wrong, Jesus **condemned sin in sinful** you.

But, What If I Lose My Want And Hate?

1 John 1:8 (NIV) If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If you sin on purpose, you have damaged your perfect record with God. **Gal 6:7 (NIV) Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. <u>A man reaps what he sows</u>.** If you try to explain it away, thinking it wasn't all that bad, you are claiming **to be without sin.** If you have the slightest doubt that what you did was questionable. Don't take a chance! Bring it to Jesus and admit that you did something you should have brought for Him to examine.

1 John 1:9 (NIV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just <u>and *will* forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness</u>. If you get the slightest indication in your conscience that you are doing something questionable, do this. Tell Jesus you are sorry you didn't get His help with it. Ask Him to forgive you. Ask Him to help you never do it again. And, go make it right with anyone you hurt in the process. Then ask Jesus to strengthen and empower your **want** and **hate**, so you will be motivated to keep looking to Him for the power to do right.

Growing Spiritually Through Sanctification

It's What You Think About

Rom 8:5 (NIV) Those who live according to the sinful nature <u>have their minds set</u> on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit <u>have their minds set</u> on what the Spirit desires. If you find yourself thinking about the "benefits" or pleasures of those things in your past, you are yielding to your body, the world, and the devil. If you are thinking about how to grow in your relationship with Jesus, you are yielding to your spirit and to the Holy Spirit. The fact that you are reading this is a good indication. But, it is always a decision moment-by-moment and issue-by-issue all during your day.

Phil 4:8 (NIV) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--<u>think about such things</u>. As you go through your day, ask Jesus to help you obey this command. When you notice that you are thinking about a different type of thought, keep asking Jesus to help you stay inside the parameters of this verse. Your emotions will greatly respond to whether or not you are obeying this verse. Jesus wants you to have the fruit of the Spirit flowing like a river through you all day long.

Gal 5:22-23 (NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. You will notice a great difference in your day and in your relationships, when you think Philippians 4:8 thoughts. These emotions flow out of you, when you do. Your thoughts, your feelings, your words, and your deeds will be wonderfully influenced by having your **mind set on what the Spirit desires.**

It's An Easy Decision To Make

Rom 8:6 (NIV) The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. Since you are made in God's image and likeness, you have incredible freedom and power. You can have a **mind of sinful man** or a **mind controlled by the Spirit.** It's *your* decision to make; you will have **death** or **life and peace.** Jesus is exposing you to this verse, because *you* must decide what you want. But, this isn't a once-in-a-lifetime decision. It is the decision you make, as you go through your day. But, if you *try* to think the right thing, you won't. If you *pray* and *ask* Jesus to train you and empower you to think the right thing, *He will!*

This Is The Way It Is

Rom 8:7 (NIV) The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. As long as you and your body are getting along, it just matters what you want, what you like, what's best for you, and what you can get out of life. You are embracing the world's philosophies of "It's all about you." "You deserve it." "Believe in yourself." "Some win and some lose." "Not everyone can be a winner." "Do what it takes no matter what." But, sooner or later you will run into someone bigger, better, smarter, or more sinful than you. If you live by "The survival of the fittest." you will get hurt. God's laws are all about love in relationships.

Isn't This What You Have Been Working On?

Rom 8:8 (NIV) Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. Haven't you been trying to not be **controlled by the sinful nature?** Haven't you been trying, wanting, and doing everything you know how to not be **controlled by the sinful nature?** Haven't you gone to church, read your Bible, read Christian books, and gone to small groups trying to not be **controlled by the sinful nature?** But, since it is a condition that **cannot please God,** you can be sure that Jesus is completely desirous to train you and empower you to not be **controlled by the sinful nature.**

Now That Is Scary!

Rom 8:9 (NIV) You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

What about all those things you think, feel, say, and do that you know you shouldn't? Isn't that you being **controlled…by the sinful nature?** No! **Rom 7:20 (NIV) Now *if* I do what I do not *want* to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.** This is why you must not do wrong, bad, or evil things *on purpose.* The only way **it is no longer** you **who do it, but it is sin living in** you **that does it** is, ***if*** you **do what** you **do not *want* to do!**

What Do You Believe?

1. **You, Living By Faith**

2 Cor 5:7 (NIV) We live by faith, not by sight. Do you believe this: **You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit?** If you do, you are heading in the right direction. When the Bible says something like this, if you believe what it says, it will speak that truth into you. So, read it again; but, read it as being true of you.

2. **You, Speaking The Truth**

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit. This is how you are going to start living the victorious Christian life! You **live by faith, not by sight.** Sure, you *see* yourself living different than this. But, if you don't want your future to be based on your past, you must believe Jesus is now changing your future. Say it out loud with total faith in Jesus and His Word: **"**I am **controlled *not* by the sinful nature but by the Spirit."**

3. **You, Believing The Truth**

If the Spirit of God lives in you: If you believe He **lives in you,** then He does. If you don't, then He won't. **We live by faith, not by sight.** You *must* believe that what Jesus and His Word says is true. If you don't, pray and *ask* Him to speak faith into you. Ask Him to help you not feel like He and the Bible are lying to you. **Rom 10:9 (NIV) That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.** Did you do this? Then you can say: **"The Spirit of God lives in** me**."** This is the only way for you to start experiencing the realities and power of Christianity.

4. **You, Knowing The Truth**

If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, <u>he does not belong to Christ</u>: This is true; but, if you believe in Jesus and the Bible, it isn't true of you. **John 1:12 (KJV) But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.** Is this what you did? Then you are ready to say out loud: **"**I **have the Spirit of Christ;** therefore, I do **belong to Christ!** Only those who *won't* believe that John 1:12 is true *of them*, will fail to live the victorious Christian life. **We live by faith, not by sight.**

Living By Faith All The Time

It's The Same Issue

Rom 8:10 (NIV) But <u>if Christ is in you</u>, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. Do you believe that **Christ is in you?** Then you are ready to say out loud: **"Christ is in** me**!** Okay! Now you are ready to accept the truth of the rest of this verse. **Your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.** By **dead** it is using God's definition of **dead.** His definition means separation. When you die, you, the spirit being, are separated from you body and goes to immediately be with Jesus.

Your body is dead because of sin: Since your body didn't get saved, when you did, it is **dead.** It is separated from God. So, it is giving you a lot of trouble. It doesn't like spiritual things; it likes sinful things. Spiritual things keep it from committing adultery, which brings it pleasure. It keeps it from lying, when it needs to keep itself out of trouble, which causes pain. It keeps it from cheating, so it can get what it wants, even though it doesn't belong to it. But, you want to spend eternity in God's eternal Kingdom. You want to do what is right, so you can have true friends, who are involved in win/win solutions and situations.

Yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness: Your spirit has been **wanting** to do the right things and **hating** doing the wrong things from the beginnings of salvation. But, because of your **dead** body, it has been **making** you **a prisoner of the law of sin at work within** your **members.** And, since you are now willing to start totally **living by faith, not by sight,** Jesus is ready to take all these confessions of faith you have made and change your body.

It Keeps Coming Back To This!
Rom 8:11 (NIV) And *if* the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He Who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, Who lives in you.

And *if* the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you: It's back to faith again: **John 3:16 (NIV) For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.** Did you do this? Then you are ready to say out loud: **"The Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead is living in** me.**"** It isn't until you are able to speak this first part in faith that you can get the second part. This entire Christian life works like this. Jesus will be helping you to practice **living by faith, not by sight** for the rest of your life.

He Who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, Who lives in you: You have to have this in order to live the Jesus-life of victory. But, if you hadn't been able to make all those confessions of faith, you wouldn't be ready to make this confession of faith. But, you are now going to have to learn how to read your Bible in faith.

I've Already Done That
John 3:18 (NIV) Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. You can't do what it takes to be born again and then read verses like this as if you didn't. If you keep having to read the Bible, about certain things that have already happened to you, as if they haven't, then you are reading the Bible in unbelief. You must read, in faith, verses that no longer apply to you because Jesus has already fulfilled them in you.

Since you believe and know you are born again, the **"if"** in: ***if* the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you** is no longer an **"if."** It is now a "since" for you. If you are going to express the truth, as to what Jesus has done in you, then you must say out loud: "Since **the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead is living in** me, **He Who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to** my **mortal body through His Spirit, Who lives in** me**.** Every time you read verses like this, you must read them base on what Jesus has already done in you. The words in the Bible aren't going to change; but, they must change in you.

Starting Spiritual Growth

This Happened So That Could Happen
He Who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, Who lives in you: Now this hasn't happened yet. This is a **"will also give life to your mortal bodies".** Salvation consists of the grace and mercy of God crediting right, good, and righteousness to your record *with God*. This made it possible for **the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead** to be **living in you.**

Even though you are thinking, feeling, saying, and doing things you shouldn't, **the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you.** And since this is the case, God is going to **give life to your mortal body through His Spirit, Who lives in you.** This, however, is a process, a training, and an empowering from Jesus. This is where Jesus took His earthly disciples and walked them through a spiritual and ministerial training program. He was giving life to their mortal bodies by revealing to them how to live the victorious Christian life.

You Have A Job To Do
Rom 8:12 (NIV) Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it.

Therefore: This word is saying: "Seeing how all the above statements are true." Since all those other miracles have happened in you, this next statement is ready to be expressed.
Brothers: This is only addressing true Christians. It is also addressing those true Christians, who have come this far in their Biblical training.

- You are now convinced that human effort and reasoning do not work in Christianity.
- You are now convinced that apart from Jesus you can do nothing in the spirit realm or as a child of God.
- You are now convinced that you are going to have to live all of your Christian life by faith and not by sight.
- You are now convinced that you must read the Bible based on what Jesus has already fulfill from the Bible in you.
- You have learned how to make confessions of faith that express what you know to be true about you, based on what Jesus and the Bible say are true of you.
- You are ready to accept responsibility, but not through *trying* but through *praying* and asking Jesus to train and empower you to do your part.

Your Motives Are Being Changed
We have an obligation: At this point, all the good things have been credited to your record with God. If you have been a nice person through human effort, it was done for manipulative purposes, so as to get appreciation, respect, or good back. Whether you can believe it or not, Jesus said that you can't, didn't, and won't do anything without Him. And by "thing," He is talking about anything good. But now, He is talking about you actually doing some good things without expecting anything in return. And, because you are doing them through faith in Him and His training and power, they will be true, good things from your heart.

But it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it: You now have **an obligation.** That means you now have a spiritual responsibility. You are being given one of your first assignments to do something spiritually good. So, you are going to have to unlearn all those things your body, the world, and the devil taught you. Your **obligation** is to Jesus and no longer to **the sinful nature** in your body. And, it may not make your body happy, when you start fulfilling this **obligation.**

How To Live The Sanctified Life

Rom 8:13 (NIV) 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,

1. **Believe Your Body Is Your Problem**

For if you live according to the sinful nature: Up until now, you weren't living **according to the sinful nature** because God was putting the responsibility and blame on your body. **Rom 7:22-23 (NIV) For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work <u>in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members</u>.**

But now, the whole relationship with God is starting to change. The old Romans 7:15-25 life was still hurting you, the people around you, and God's reputation. You called yourself a Christian; but, many people saw you as a fake. Even though you have a perfect record with God, all those inconsistencies in your behavior made you look like a hypocrite. Now, Jesus is going to solve that with you and your behavior. He is leading you into a relationship with the Holy Spirit that empowers you to **put to death the misdeeds of the body.**

2. **Believe In Your Perfect Record**

For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die: Your perfect record with God has been keeping you from dying in your sins. But, just like the clock starts ticking on the age of a baby at birth, so does it start keeping time from when you were born again. **Heb 5:12 (NIV) In fact, though <u>by this time</u> you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!** It's time for you to start treating yourself, other people, and God's plan with better behavior.

3. **Believe In This Procedure**

But if *by* the Spirit *you*: This is the procedure for starting to get a better record with yourself and other people. You already have a perfect record with God and are *not* living **according to the sinful nature**. Therefore, you won't **die.** But, Jesus is now trying to take you into improving your record with yourself and other people. This requires faith in the fact that the Holy Spirit is empowering you to **put to death the misdeeds of the body.** When you are facing an issue, during your day, which is pressuring you to do a wrong thing, stop and ask Jesus to empower you to yield to the Holy Spirit to force your body to do the right thing.

4. **Believe The Holy Spirit Is Inside You**

***By* the Spirit:** Jesus will speak faith into you, so you can believe that the Holy Spirit is inside you giving you power to do the right thing. Just keep waiting on Jesus to give you that assurance that you can do the right thing by means of the power of the Holy Spirit. If you are feeling great pressure from other people, your body, or the devil, don't do anything until you feel the faith from Jesus and the power from the Holy Spirit. If you go ahead and try to do the right thing on your own, you will fail.

5. **Believe The Holy Spirit Is Empowering You**

If *by* the Spirit *you* put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live: This is moving you into taking on the responsibility of yielding to the Holy Spirit. This is going to take a lot of practice; but, you must *try* to resist a temptation to do something wrong. But, this *try* is different than human effort. You *ask* Jesus to empower you to yield to the Holy Spirit. You believe the Holy Spirit is helping you do the right thing. With faith in Jesus and the Holy Spirit, you *try* to do the right thing. If you fail, you repeat the process. Practice, practice, practice!

Understanding The Holy Spirit

It's A Gentle Leading

Rom 8:13-14 (NIV) 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, <u>because those who are *led* by the Spirit of God are sons of God</u>. The Holy Spirit **leads** you; He doesn't drive you, force you, overwhelm you, or make you **put to death the misdeeds of the body.** If you are waiting for a power that takes control and makes you do the right thing, you are misunderstanding your relationship with the Holy Spirit. Even if you don't feel any power to do the right thing, go ahead and *try* to think the right thing, say the right thing, and do the right thing.

Who Are You Believing In?

Those who are *led* by the Spirit of God are sons of God: This is very different from human effort because the Holy Spirit is doing the **leading.** But, you may feel just like you did when you *were* using human effort. <u>The difference is in your faith</u>. Human effort is being used, *when* you are believing in yourself. You are doing it **by the Spirit,** *when* you are believing in the Holy Spirit.

Led By The Spirit Of God

2 Cor 5:7 (NIV) We live by faith, not by sight.

- As you are facing a moment of pressure or temptation, let your mind go to the fact that the Holy Spirit is inside you waiting for you to make your move.
- Believe that Jesus has given you the faith to trust the Holy Spirit.
- Make your decision to do the right thing in your mind.
- Then with faith that the Holy Spirit is leading you into doing the right thing, make your move.

Conclusion

These and many other Biblical procedures are presented on the wctlc.com website. This is especially true with the **"Starting Your Day With Jesus"** book series. Just go to the website and select: **"I would like good BOOKS to read."** Then take out the time to read all the introductory information on the **"Books For Successful Living"** page. And then select: **"I'm Ready To Go To The Book List."** Let the information there explain to you how to start a progressive spiritual growth system with Jesus.