

Romans 8:12-17, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - A Battle to the Death.

Romans 8:13

The Word of God declares, "For if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live" (Rom. 8:13). The battle with the flesh is a fight to the death. Either you or your sin must die. And so, we cannot deal gently with our own transgressions. What did Jesus mean when He said to pluck out our eye or cut off our hand if they offend us? (Matt. 18:8-9). These are metaphors to explain how brutally we must deal with our own sins. Christian, your sins must be put to death, not once, but every day. The apostle Paul declared, "I die daily" (1 Cor. 15:31).

Read Matthew 16:24

☐ Tuesday - The Sanctifying Work of the Spirit.

Romans 8:13

Once again we read, "If you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live" (Rom. 8:13). Notice, *how* the Christian is to put to death the deeds of the body: [1] Personal desire or resolve do not work (Mt. 26:41; Rom. 7:18-24). [2] Rules and regulations are of "no value against fleshly indulgence" (Col. 2:20-23). No, the only hope for the Christian in his personal fight against sin is the sanctifying power of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9). "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16).

Read Galatians 5:16-17

☐ Wednesday - The Spirit is Leading the Fight.

Romans 8:13-14

Paul, the apostle writes, "If by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. *For* all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God" (Rom. 8:13-14). The word "for" connects verses 13 and 14 in this way: Putting to death the sinful deeds of the body (v. 13), proves that one is being led by the Spirit of God, which in turn proves that one is a child of God (v. 14). In other words, the evidence that we are true children of God is that the Holy Spirit is leading us into an all out war with our sin.

Read 1 Peter 2:11

☐ Thursday - No More Fear.

Romans 8:15

"For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!'" (Rom. 8:15). The "spirit of adoption" mentioned here is the Holy Spirit (cf. Gal. 4:6) whose work in the Christian's life is to replace any remnants of the fear of God's wrath with joyful affection for God as his Father. And even though God disciplines His children for their sanctification (Heb. 12:5-11), the Christian need never fear God's wrath (Rom. 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10, 5:9). But removing such fear *does not* strip the Christian of any motivation for godly living, for now the overwhelming sense of God's lovingkindness leads us to repentance (Rom. 2:4). While the fear of punishment can produce outward obedience, only love for God can produce real inward repentance and holiness. Read 1 John 4:18; Romans 2:4

☐ Friday - Abba! Father!

Romans 8:15

The apostle declares, "For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!'" (Rom. 8:15). In ancient times, the king's wrath fell swiftly upon any who approached his throne without summons (cf. Esther 4:11). But the Christian has no such fears, for he is the King's favorite child (Psa. 5:12). And so, with joyful confidence, yet reverence, the Christian may approach the throne of His Heavenly Father, which is no longer a throne of judgment and wrath, but to him has become a throne of grace, and there he calls to Him, "Abba, Father!"

Read Hebrews 4:16