

# Daily in Christ 2019

**Daily Battles** — Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.  
2 Timothy 2:3-4

In our daily walk with Christ we need to recognize that there are battles, skirmishes ... a reason for the Christian who desires to live for Christ to engage an unseen enemy. To do that, we need to be able to recognize what the enemy is and what it is trying to do. We need to awaken and refresh our minds as to what it means to walk with Christ as a soldier.

There is a real enemy; **Satan**, his forces, and their **work**. We fight **spiritual** battles. Our enemy's work does not require his **personal** presence or **involvement**.

Our enemy is in control of this **world** and works **in** this world, **tempting** me to adopt its **ways** and **thinking**. Part of the ways of the world is to follow the **lust** of the **flesh**, 1 John 2:16.

If I am going to work to recognize the battles, I will need to understand the workings of **the flesh**. We have a "**flesh**" or **sin nature**. It is a set of **desires** (lusts) and **thoughts** (mind, affections) naturally inclined to go against what God says (His Word) and what He desires (His will).

The Christian is to live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit. The point of conflict (battle) comes when my flesh wants something that the Spirit does not. Galatians 5:16-17; 1 Peter 2:11.

The **mind** of the flesh processes "life" in a way that results in fruits (**works**) of the flesh.

- **Fleshly** mind: Col. 1:21; 2:8, 18. Reprobate Mind: Rom. 1:28;
- **Works** of the flesh, Galatians 5:19-21, Romans 1:28-32.

The fleshly mind thinks the things of the Spirit are **foolishness**, 1 Corinthians 2:14.

The man controlled by the flesh seeks to **fulfill** the **desires** of the flesh, Ephesians 2:3.

In Christ, the **power** of the flesh over me is broken, Galatians 5:24; Romans 6:1-14. The power of the flesh being broken, the Christian is able to Walk in newness of life, Romans 6:4.  
Live unto God, 6:9.  
Not obey my fleshly desires, 6:12.  
Serve righteousness, not uncleanness, 6:19.

The Christian still needs to "do battle" with fleshly desires. When I see the conflict:

- Romans 6:11 - I **reckon** myself dead unto sin, realizing I have a choice and the power to choose righteousness and to not choose the flesh. I do not have to obey my desires, I can follow God's desires.
- Romans 6:13, 16,19 – I **yield** myself to God. I walk in the Spirit, Galatians 5:16, 25, yielding my will to the conviction of the conscience and to the prompting to do right that the Spirit brings.

Food for thought:

Increasingly immorality (works of the flesh) is justified by the presence of "natural desires" or desires I have had for a long time. Fulfilling those desires is just the natural course of life.

Are there desires that are wrong and should not be fulfilled? How do I decide which ones are wrong? Are desires ever meant to be restrained and left unfulfilled? What is "self-control"?

What other behaviors are acceptable as long as one has "always" desired them or considers them a natural orientation? How will I know which desires are to be controlled and which ones are to be acted on?

Some seeking biblical support, claim "against nature", Romans 1:26, means that it is wrong to go against the natural orientation you were born with. It doesn't mean that. God's intention for human behavior is clearly seen in nature, in the complementary functions of male and female.

Those arguing in our day on the basis of desires and orientation are not submitting their reasoning to logical or rational thought processes. Their reasoning is simply to justify the fulfillment of their own desires.

Those naming the name of Christ and thinking and acting in this fashion are not walking in the Spirit, but are following the flesh – they are carnal and indeed their profession of new life may not be real.

Unsaved  
Natural Man, 1 Corinthians 2:14  
Old Man, Colossians 3:9,10

REGENERATION

Saved  
Spiritual, 1 Corinthians 2:15 (cp. **Indwelling**)  
New Man, Colossians 3:9,10

This man is governed by an "old nature."

The **FLESH** ("sin nature")  
**CARNAL** (governed by the FLESH)  
Ephesians 2:2,3

Romans 6:6  
Ephesians 4:20-24

This man has a "NEW NATURE." (new influence)

The Holy Spirit  
**SPIRITUAL** Romans 8:6-9

The FLESH is not eradicated, but its power is broken. I no longer need to be a slave to the FLESH. Romans 6:6-7, 14, 17-18, 20; Galatians 5:24 (a result of **Spirit Baptism**).

Two "struggling principles" or "contrary urgings": Galatians 5:16,17; Romans 7:14-25

FLESH

SPIRIT

If one's life evidences a consistent yielding to (**walking** with, **filled** with) one of these competing "influences", then that life could be said to be:

**CARNAL**

"Carnal Christian"

**1 Corinthians 3:1-4**

**FULL OF THE SPIRIT**

"Spiritual Christian"