

This is the law of sin. Here's the law of sin working with the weakness of the flesh. And poor little Joni is wanting to do good. This is you. Are you with me? Do you understand? Okay, one more time. Now, Joni, go to the good. I'm taking you to the new villain: death. And here's Joni, wanting to do good. There's a Baptist preacher over here yelling, "You can do it, you can do it!" Well, y'all sitting here, you're not trying hard enough. This is why the gospel is so ineffective in our Christian lives.

Those of you on the tape don't know what's going on here, do you? I'm looking at the video camera. Joni was trying to move over here toward the law of good, but three, one person about her size first, and it was a pretty even struggle, but then, the law of sin and death drew Joni away from her desire to do good. Now, Joni, you've had that experience. Say amen. And, you know, it's not just good and bad. It's other things. You just want to stop worrying and getting despondent and moody and all those things. And I'm not sure that that's the law of sin and death. That is probably nothing in the world but the enormous damage that Joni experienced in the fall. I want to explain this to you.

When God created us, He created us with a spirit, a soul, and a body. When the spirit died, the soul ascended. The spirit went from first place to third place because it had died. Now the soul was in first place, but the body is indwelt with sin. Now, I'm not going into all the verses on this, but please make sure you understand that I'm speaking of the body and the body alone. Sin which indwells your members. Sin, a living thing. It has been called the embodiment of satanic life. Sin: a form of life, if you please, angelic life form, expressed in the expression of sin.

This foreign element has come into your body. Your spirit refused to live in the same triplex with it. And rather than live there, this holy thing simply died. The soul, that which is you, ascended but became very different. Enlarged. One of the reasons was that it had to fill up the hole where the spirit had once functioned. It enlarges into the things of the spirit. But there's no spirit there. You get a lot of false signals. There's damage to you. The soul is not functioning properly; it is damaged. And the spirit's down here dead and inoperative. The flesh, the body, is indwelt by sin and ceases to be your body any longer but becomes a mutation. It becomes your flesh. It moves from body to flesh.

Saints, there are dozens of scriptures that make this evident and clear in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Sin dwells there and enlarges its conquest of the body. Love becomes lust. Imagination becomes vain imagination. The love of serenity becomes, for some, a love to be a monk, and for others, the desire to just feast themselves on a constant, you know, sunsets and all that. Someone else's love of music, and yet an insatiable desire for more and more music, ends up with acid rock. I mean, it just goes on and on. The natural desire or need for food turns into gluttony; obesity, and gluttony. And what happens is the flesh ascends to the highest place. It is now in control. And this is what we saw in Joni a minute ago. The flesh pulls Joni away from the law of good. And you have an inversion. It was once like this: spirit, soul, and body. Now it is flesh, soul, and the spirit's on the bottom.

That which was to be in the ascendancy is now in the lowest place. And that which was to have the least place now has the greatest strength; now has the greatest strength.

What shall we do, oh wretched man that we are? What shall we ever do? Precious little. Would you all please come back up here again? We have a sister in big trouble. Let's see if we can get her out of this. Would you all come back up here, please, again? Okay. I tell you what, this is very weak flesh. If she fails anymore, we're going to put sin and death over there. Okay, and Joni's a very strong-willed person, by the way, and I'm not kidding you. Now, Joni, you're looking over here to the law of good and God's law, and your inner man is after this. This is—the soul is—the inner man. The soul wishes to do good and can't. Every time Joni looks over here at these things, she goes and does the opposite thing.

Now then, thank God, there comes the cross. The cross of Jesus Christ. And puts to death the law of sin. And with death, puts death to death. You two are gone. Alright. Now, praise the Lord. Amen. Rejoice. Praise the Lord. Look what God in Christ has done for you. Amen.

Now then, we have a problem here, saints. And even though this too has been put to death in a way that I cannot understand and has been confined to her body, and it is no longer Joni but sin that dwells in her. And Christ has dealt with this; in His viewpoint, He has totally made Joni righteous. Nonetheless, the deeds of the flesh are there. Joni has to put those deeds away. But now there—Joni. Just Joni. There's Joni, who in herself has many, many needs. Now Joni is saved, but Joni cannot still live the Christian life. She does not have the engine within her to be divine. The Christian life is a divine activity.

Now what is going to happen? And I'm going to tell you that there is going to be a battle in Joni's mind. Now two things are going to happen to Joni. One of them is that the flesh is going to be put away. Nonetheless, there's something that's still here. Joni, reckon it dead. Reckon it's dead. That's fine, sister, go ahead. Reckon it dead, Joni. Okay, that's fine. Vicki, come here. There is still something hanging around. And sometimes, Joni, you really want to go this way. Not really, you want to go this way. It's a very confusing thing, and I'm not going to try to mix it up with terms, because I have to tell you frankly, I don't fully understand this. I can only understand that in the eyes of God, this has been dealt with. But I am told that if Joni will set her mind on the things of the flesh, she will obey the things of the flesh. But if she sets her mind on the things of the Spirit, she will follow the things of the Spirit.

Sometimes Joni doesn't do either one. She doesn't set her mind on the flesh or on the Spirit. She just sets her mind on getting dishes done. Now, what kind of situation is she in at that moment? When she's doing the dishes? Huh? Vulnerable? Ha ha ha. No, dear saint. Oh, I mean, vulnerable, perhaps, but let me tell you something. Joni's got to understand that she's as righteous as Jesus Christ at that moment. That there is nothing in the world wrong with doing the dishes. And this is wonderful. But Gene, her mind is not set on Spirit. And you're too religious. And, you know, I'm going to say this, remind you again. Joni, if we can succeed in getting you to truly be, according to your own standard, in Spirit - your standard, not God's - and your standard in Spirit, fifteen minutes a day, we're headed for a revolution. A

real revolution. That's fourteen minutes and fifty-eight seconds more than most believers. Fifteen minutes a day would be great. Just great.

But, Joni, even when you don't sense that you're in the Lord's Spirit, you are in Him. You are in Him, and you are righteous. And there's a lot of ground that has to be taken in you, Joni, to really appreciate these simple things. Just an awful lot. Nonetheless, something wonderful has happened. Something wonderful has been added to Joni's life, and that is a higher form of life. A higher form of life than the flesh with its sin and death. Because this was a higher form of life than Joni, and therefore, Joni didn't stand a prayer, because Joni is human. But when Christ came into Joni's life, unfortunately, nobody told Joni this; now you're being told. And you're being told that in that moment, the Spirit of God came and lived in you. And what happened when the Spirit of God came and dwelt in you? What happened? You don't remember. In the moment that the Spirit of Christ came, the Spirit of the Lord came and dwelt in you. What happened? Our spirits became alive. Your spirit became alive, and you were made one with Him, and then you were put in the Spirit. You are in the Spirit, if the Spirit is in you.

Alright. Dirk, come here, and we will use Brother Dirk here for just some, oh, now, I will tell you. Joni, help is on the way. Alright, Brother Dirk, if you simply, this is anti-climactic, you all know. No, two hands, Brother Dirk. Okay, to the host of you who are listening to the recording, we have Joni, a rather average-sized person, here. Vicki's very small over here. Dirk is about ten feet tall. Alright, the Spirit of God has come into her, and she is in the Lord's Spirit, but I want you to look at this. Here is illustrated for us: this is the difference between divine life and sin - angelic fallen life in your flesh.

You see, a human being is two life forms removed from God, not one. That's right. It's not like a fish becoming a bird, but a fish becoming a lion, and he passes the bird. Or it's not like the bird becoming a dog, but the bird becoming a human. It's not like a human becoming an angel, but a human skips over and goes yet to the higher and the highest, in this case, life form.

Now, Joni, you have the engine of the Christian life within you. Joni, you're not going to be able to do any better than you did the day before you were saved. But, Joni, look over there to the law of God, would you? Okay. Joni, do you love the law of God? You're never going to live up to it. You're never going to perform it. Brother Dirk, would you please move her in that direction? Vicki, resist. Oh, that is beautiful. Praise the Lord. Amen. Now you may all sit down. Wonderful. I hope you got that on camera, brother.

You know, now then, I just want you all to understand that there has been a realm put in you, in your spirit—a life put in you, another form of life, and I know what everyone of you is asking: How do I get Christ to live the Christian life instead of me? Because I want to do that. And that in itself must go to the cross. I don't know any more than that, I really don't. I admit my inadequacy here. I don't know how to tell you any more than that, but you can't walk out of here tonight saying, "Hot dog, now I know how to live by the life of God. Now I

know how to live by a higher life form. Now I know how to live in Spirit." Some of the brothers and sisters who originally heard me speak many years ago, and this is my gospel, that you cannot live the Christian life; only Christ can live the Christian life. You can live by a higher life form than your own. And yet, brothers and sisters have come to me and said, "Gene, does your experience live up to that? What you preached to us - did we really begin living by a higher life?"

I have given a lot of thought to that. Did I oversell? Did you get the impression that you were going to go out here and life was going to be one great big hallelujah for all the rest of your life, and there would be no more problems? Brothers and sisters, I'm not sure that after this night, if you have dealt with the deeds of the flesh, which even the world says is wrong, when you have dealt with those, they will come back to you at times but I believe from this day on, if you will take these things to the Lord and admit you believe them, and put away the deeds of the flesh, which even the Gentiles say are wrong, then it will be between your mind and the Lord's Spirit. Did we learn to live by a life not our own? Gene, did we live by a higher life?

If you are saying, "Did we from that day on have one great big hallelujah?" the answer is no, we did not. Did we learn the cross? And did we encounter the cross? Yes, but so did the highest life meet that cross. When I say that you will, and can, and you must - and you will - learn how to live by a life not your own, I want you to know that more than anything else, I am speaking about learning the ways, the intuitive ways, of the nature of God, as over against following your human nature, that you will learn to live by the ways of God, the intuitive nature of God in you, as over against following your natural human inclinations. And to me, that is a vast thing, for I see Christians going by human knowledge, if you please, by Bible verses and by what Christians tell them to do, rather than a deep, instinctive following of Christ as He walks around inside of you. That's one thing I mean by living by a life not your own. That is, living by the ways that are higher than your ways.

And secondly, to learn to fellowship with Him apart from and outside your human nature, as He learned to fellowship and live with His Father apart from and outside His human nature. To engage in a fellowship with Him that's not prayer, that's not thinking—that is something deep internally in you, that also, in the clutch, when everything is down and all human capacities have come to an end, to retreat and find Him. Find Him. I'm not even going to say, "and rely on Him," and "rely on His strength." Friend, you find Him, and all else falls into place. You don't have to then trust Him. You don't have to then find His grace or receive His grace or get His strength or His power. When you get Him, when you've laid hold of Him, that settles it right there.

I needed peace, but you got Christ. I needed money, but you got Christ. To be able, when in the clutch, to find Him and touch Him, but there's something else. And I'm going to say this: to live by a life not your own. When one of the saints asked me that, I said, "Just answer this question to me. Is there something different between you and people in the world?" Yes. "Is there something different between you and the typical Christian?" And you know, without

boasting, that believer answered me, "Yes." "What is it?" "I don't know." And I want you to know that I don't know either. I couldn't answer that question any better than that dear believer could, but there was something different. A homing, a higher place to stand and see things. An inner sense, when you know you've got to have an inner sense. A set of values that this world doesn't have, and no man taught you. A knowledge of knowing when you can understand it's your wanting this, not God.

Even knowing that you're playing tricks with God and yourself, and not really knowing what you're doing. You don't know why or how you're playing tricks with yourself and God, but you know it. These are all things that have to do with an indwelling Lord. There is, for that Christian who gets to know the Lord, an element of rest in the face of hell, and angels, fallen angels, and the devil himself. There is something intangible down in there. And praise the Lord for some Christians who have an adventurous heart; there are deeper things than that. There is the adventure of constantly getting to know Him better. Pity those people, for they seem to know more suffering, and more heartache, and more cross, and more circumstantial messes than all the rest of us put together, but boy, when they get old, are they beautiful. Are they beautiful, and are they needed in the house of God.

Yeah, I won't back up one bit. The first thing I would say to you is that there is a Christ in you, and you can get to know Him. He is the engine to your Christian life. And the thing that burdens me the most is that you learn the intuitive things about His nature and learn to recognize them, that first. More than anything, that first. That's why I preach every summer; those of you listening now, you're going to find out. I preach every summer at the Conference on the Deeper Christian Life. I speak on one subject, and that is: how Jesus Christ lived the Christian life by means of an indwelling Father. And I seek to show how that One listened to someone inside Him: how He heard, and how He spoke. And these are the things that I will share with you in the weeks and months ahead.

And when I ask you to get up in the morning with someone else or alone, I am burdened that you do it, because it will introduce you to getting up alone before the Lord in the morning, or sometimes during the day, it will introduce you to spiritual realms. And you've got to know that, and you've got to touch that realm. You've got to start in the spirituals.

That's also, secondly, why we have brothers and sisters around here who are in agony, learning themselves the needs of the soul. And you can go to them, because the soul is tricky. The one greatest single characteristic of the soul is this: do you know what it is, Joe? It's really simple. Do you know what it is? Outstanding characteristic of the soul? Even the unfallen soul. Even the unfallen soul, the soul that has never sinned, what is the number one characteristic of any soul? Survival. Or to put it another way, its greatest characteristic is to turn from the cross. And that includes the soul of the Lord Jesus Christ. His will, His personal will, was not to go to the cross. Challenge that. The personal will of the human life of Jesus Christ was to get out of the cross. Honor that, saints. It is not an ugly thing. It's not a deceitful thing. It's not a little thing to wish to get out of the cross. "Not My will." My will is to survive. "But Thine be done." Now, how in the world did He manage that?

He managed that by His Father's life. Jesus Christ could not live the Christian life in the face of the cross. The Father gave Him that in the Father's life. Say it's okay to dread the cross and not want the cross. And you can't go to the cross, and the cross can't come to you, except by a dispensing of the grace of the divine nature of God within you. Do not despise the soul's unwillingness to go to the cross, but honor the life of God that can. This is living by divine life. In the face of hell, in the face of everything in you screaming out, "I won't, I can't," to yield by that grace of His divinity, of His divine nature.

And then I have to add one other thing about this business of living by the Lord's life and not your own, and that is: it was never intended to be individual. It's always intended to be corporate. Hear me, saints, hear me and be impressed that everything that I've spoken of tonight, and everything I've spoken of to you in the last two or three months, was never ever written to, nor even conceived in the mind of the writer to be written to an individual. And it's always taken individually. It was written to all those people you'll find in Romans 16. All of them. And my gospel won't work for an individual. Hey, listen y'all. My gospel won't work for an individual; it'll let you down every time, but my gospel was never preached to an individual. It was always preached to the body of believers.

Now, one of these days in the near future, I'm going to ask you to do a most unusual thing. I'm going to ask you in the quietness of the morning to get up all alone and spend 15 minutes trying to disconnect your mind. And you're going to make a discovery that your mind is like an old automobile that has the accelerator pedal, the gas pedal, stuck to the floor. And I know every one of you has had this experience, have you not? You beat on it, you kick it, you threaten it, you get out under the hood, you bang, and you pull and you disconnect. That thing is just running wide open.

And you are going to find out you have virtually no spiritual history, because you can't sit in the presence of God and turn down or turn off your mind. That doesn't mean you're living in sin. Doesn't mean you're living in the flesh. It doesn't even mean you're living in the soul. It just means you're a human being, but sister and brother, we will learn as a people to gradually move that thing over toward your Lord. And that's why tonight I won't say to you, "This is how to live by the Spirit. This is how to live by the higher life. This is how a Christian lives the Christian life." Because you're going to go out and do it. And I'm going to say to you tonight: it's going to be a long process, and we will go on a great adventure together. And those of you listening on the tape, it's why I won't share these things except in the body of believers, because you and I can't on our own, and even shouldn't to some degree on our own. For the whole Christian life was part and parcel in the church; as sure as it is in Christ, it is in the church.

Now, I'm going to ask you, brother, one of these days, to get up really early. You're going to just go crazy trying to do what I'm going to ask you, and you're going to think you can't do it, and you can't. And then again. And again. And again. Then I'm going to ask you to get up with some brothers and sisters. I remember one morning somebody knocked on my door, and I had forgotten my appointment, and I came to the door in my pajamas, and I said, "I

forgot. Go home.” He came back the next week. The same thing happened. He came back the next week, and the same thing happened. Three weeks in a row—I forgot. I’m a spiritual giant, saints.

So, the next thing you're going to discover is you don't want to get up in the morning, and the next thing you're going to discover is that you don't want to get up in the presence of God because of what you did yesterday or this morning or whenever. And that's all got to go. Now live. You can live by a life not your own. Don't ask me how. It must be Christ in you instead of you. Don't ask me how. There will never be a book written on the how. There's a long adventure, and we will learn it little by little. And we will change

Saints, we're not going to change as much as we ought to. It's going to be slow, it's going to be small, it's going to be long. We're going to join the brothers and sisters in Rome on Sunday. And from Romans 8 on, and from this point on, I will be giving you early morning assignments to do, that you will cultivate this other realm in you, and this other life form in you, but never will I give you a formula. Never will I give you a formula. I'll give you a hint: we will begin by learning how to set our mind upon the Spirit. Praise the Lord. This is where we will begin.

Now, will you remember from now on, and as long as we are together, that it is from here that is our departure? When I ask you to pair up, when I ask you to do these things, it is that you might learn more about this other realm and this other life. Will you keep that in mind, please? This is what we're doing. And don't ever ask me how, because I don't know how. It's a process. And I don't know when you arrive there. It's up, and it's down, but I will tell you, there will be change. And then I will tell you that there will be times when there will be growth in you when you think there is loss. And there will be times when there will be so much retreat, you will feel that you never once was a believer. And I will tell you that Jesus Christ will come at you from areas you never dreamed He would come at you from.

And I will tell you that there will be times of glory that you never believed was humanly possible, and I will tell you there will be times of gore that you never believed a human would have to wallow in, and it is all the Lord's work in your life, and in all of it, God is for you. And He is working in you. And you are in a good place to learn a little bit about Jesus Christ. And I have been as honest with you tonight as I know how.