

I. Keeping the Law by the Power of the Gospel

- A. Scripture and experience teach us that there is nothing more difficult. (1 Timothy 3:16)
- B. The Bible describes practicing holiness many ways (Hebrews 2:4; Galatians 2:19-20; 5:7; 2 Corinthians 5:7; 1 John 5:4; Ephesians 6:16)
- C. A holy life is something that we live “in Christ” (Colossians 2:6-7; Galatians 2:19-20; 1 Peter 3:16; Romans 13:13-14)
- D. A holy life is something that requires the very strength of God to accomplish (Ephesians 6:10; Colossians 3:17; Zechariah 10:12; Psalm 71:16; 2 Timothy 2:1; 2 Corinthians 1:12; 1 Corinthians 15:13)
- E. A holy life means an ongoing tension between the new self and the old. (Mark 9:24; 1 Corinthians 13:10; Ephesians 4:13; 1 Corinthians 3:1; Galatians 6:1; Romans 7:14; Philippians 3:8, 10, 14; Galatians 5:5; Romans 8:23; Colossians 3:10-11; Ephesians 4:22-23; Romans 8:9, 13)

II. But we often live as if there is just one nature within us, and it needs to try harder!

- A. Those struggles against sin which seem to be so fruitless.
- B. That experience of Christianity that only seems to wreck us.
- C. This is what Paul would call serving in the “oldness of the letter” rather than the “newness of the Spirit” (Romans 7:6; KJV, NASB).
- D. We are called to walk by the Spirit (Romans 8:1-3; Galatians 5:24)
- E. How do you know when you are serving in “newness of the Spirit”?

III. There is a way to walk in true obedience.

- A. (How often we fall short – and lapse into this fruitless way of obedience!)
- B. A beautiful promise in Isaiah (35:8)
- C. Always be aware that our old nature is still hanging around.
- D. Always think of your salvation as a reality to be treasured, not a goal to be pursued.
- E. Always realize that fear is a rumble strip. (2 Peter 1:3a; Galatians 2:20; Psalm 9:10; Psalm 16:8).
- F. What should our thoughts look like?
- G. When dealing with particular concerns, sins, duties, we should think about the promises made concerning those.
- H. Faith will equip you to read and hear God's word with joy and benefit.
- I. The same clinging to faith in Christ will help you love others. You have to be persuaded:
- J. A word about worship ...

IV. Come to him. (1 Peter 2:4-5; Matthew 11:28-30; Revelation 22:17)