

2. The second phase of Step Three is that we are to be becoming progressively more alive to the power of innate righteousness.

Paul deals with this phase in a few places in this section of the book.

6:13b -- "present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God."

6:19c -- "so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification."

8:4 -- "in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." The walk according to the Spirit appears to mean to live under the increasing control of the Holy Spirit, whose purpose it is to produce righteous character and conduct in us.

8:5-6 -- "For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace."

To set one's mind on the things of the Spirit appears to mean to dwell upon, concentrate on, think about, the things that pertain to the Holy Spirit rather than the things that pertain to innate sin. It means to think about righteous things and to be molded by them rather than by sinful things or things that do not edify. It means to concentrate on:

"whatever is true, what is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things."

8:12 -- "So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh -- "

The implication in this unfinished sentence is that we are obligated to live according to the Spirit.

Now to speak of being debtors, of being obliged, strongly implies the idea of motivation and the part that it plays in sanctification.

At first glance a new believer could be led to think that, with the external revelation of the will of God as the standard of righteousness, and the internal principle of righteousness communicated in regeneration, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to provide the enablement to righteousness, he or she has everything necessary for progress in sanctification. And in one sense, he or she does have everything.

However, in another sense there is one more ingredient needed if the believer is to discharge his obligation, not to live according to the flesh, but according to the spirit. And that ingredient is love.