

*Foundations for Spiritual Growth – Romans 6-8 – Week Eleven*

# ***The Fight Is On!***

*Romans 8:5-11, 13*

**Introduction:** In Romans 8:5-11, Paul describes our life in the Spirit as a titanic struggle between the experience of abundant life or the experience of disconnection with God and others...called death. It begins in our mind. Will we set our minds on the things of the flesh or the Spirit? This choice confronts us constantly, but we have two resources in the struggle: our position in Christ and the power of the Spirit. This passage explains how we fight to win.

**1. *WHAT THE FIGHT IS ALL ABOUT – We can either go through life experiencing abundance or mired in death. Romans 8:5-8***

- A. The experience of abundance or death begins in our mind. 8:5
- B. Alternative #1: What happens when you are in the flesh? 8:6a, 7-8
- C. Alternative #2: What happens when you are in the Spirit? 8:6b

**2. *OUR 1<sup>ST</sup> RESOURCE IN THE FIGHT– Rely on your position in the Spirit. Romans 8:9-10***

- A. To understand this we must remember how position and practice work in the theology of Paul.
- B. Positional truth #1: Because of the Spirit we belong to God. 8:9
- C. Positional truth #2: Because of the Spirit our inner selves are alive. 8:10
- D. The result: We have hope for a solution in the struggle.

**3. *OUR 2<sup>ND</sup> RESOURCE IN THE FIGHT – Rely on the Spirit's power. Romans 8:11***

- A. The promise: The Holy Spirit will be powerful on your behalf. 8:11a
- B. The promise: The Spirit will give life to our mortal bodies. 8:11b
- C. The responsibility: By the Spirit put to death the deeds of the body. 8:12