

Review of Spiritual Contrasts

**2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God
God breathed and profitable for teaching, for
reproof, for correction, for training in
righteousness;**

**2 Timothy 3:17 so that the man of God may be
adequate (complete/mature) equipped for
every good work.**

Some pastors recite this passage at the beginning of a Bible lesson. It emphasizes the importance of Bible study.

For this lesson, this quote started as just a reminder of the sufficiency of Bible answers. This has turned into a sizable portion of the lesson. But it takes us to God the Holy Spirit which actually dovetails well with the rest of today's lesson.

All Scripture. All, not parts but all Scripture.

Inspired by God. This is sometimes translated literally as “God breathed.” In the Greek, this is a single word combining breathe and God. It is used only in 2 Timothy 3:16. That is called a *hapax legomenon*. But, that concept of breathing is found even in Genesis.

How did God create man? He “breathed.”

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Genesis 2:7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (lives); and man became a living being (soul).

God's breath gives life to man. God breathes Scripture into a man who then "breathes" it out in written form. That is sometimes translated as inspiration.

Righteousness. Remember from Romans 8:4 that when we walk according to the Spirit we fulfill the righteous requirement of the Law. For Christians, this is the Law of Christ or as it is stated in Romans 8:2, "law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus."

Adequate. The Greek can mean adequate. But in this context, God is not looking for someone who is just adequate. The lexicons support the translation as "complete." In other words, doctrine plus faith dependence on the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 4:1-2) produces a mature Christian.

Equipped. Interesting. This word is a variation of the previous word for adequate/complete. Here is Biblehub.com expansion of the meaning.

"Strong's Greek Number 1822 occurs twice in the New Testament and consistently presents the idea of bringing something to its intended state of readiness—whether the completion of an appointed time (Acts 21:5) or the comprehensive outfitting of a servant of God (2 Timothy 3:17). Each context enriches the Church's understanding of divine timing and total preparation for ministry.¹"

The Bible is God talking to us. The Bible is inerrant. It is complete. It is sufficient to answer our questions because it contains principles and

¹ <https://biblehub.com/greek/1822.htm>

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concepts that describe our situation related to God and how we are to act in life.

This is an encouragement. With all the negative news around us, the Bible contains “good news.” Our focus in life should be on our relationship to God. We belong to God. We are children of God. We are “in Christ.” We have the indwelling Holy Spirit which provides the temple for the residence of Jesus Christ in us. It is analogous to the Old Testament Shekinah in the Holy of Holies. This was the place of worship. It was also a reminder of God’s presence among His people.

Now, we have the indwelling Holy Spirit which has more than a single ministry as the temple for Jesus Christ. He is also a restrainer. Here is a brief summary of this ministry from Herman’s lessons on Thessalonians² (2 Thessalonians 2:6):

1. Who is the restrainer?
God the Holy Spirit.
2. How does the Holy Spirit restrain him?
The Holy Spirit indwells in every believer of the Church Age and, therefore, by the presence of the Universal Church, the man of lawlessness is restrained in the Church Age.
3. What is he restrained from doing?
From doing all he plans on doing—like opposing God, and exalting himself, and taking his place in the Temple of Jerusalem to be worshiped as God.
4. It may not seem like it today, but the Holy Spirit in Universal Church is restraining lawlessness...sin.

² https://www.springvalleybiblechurch.org/Audio/Thessalonians/notes/2015-12-27Sunday_Morning.pdf

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This should give you some ideal of just how horrible things are going to be in The Tribulation.

5. This is why the Church must be removed—*raptured*, “Gathered Together with JESUS CHRIST in the Air” so that the Plan of God will continue as it has been prophesied. No one knows when the departure of the Church will occur.

Let me suggest that in our own lives the indwelling Holy Spirit can restrain us. Have you ever contemplated sinning but all of a sudden there is a little voice in the back of your mind saying, “Don’t do it.” Is that perhaps the Holy Spirit attempting to restrain you from sin?

Now, switching to our lesson for today.

It is our human nature to question something that is different. If someone has a prominent birth mark on their face, it is often the first thing we notice. A friend that is wearing a cast on his arm will get our attention. We may ask, “How did that happen?”

The same kind of thing happens when reading the Greek New Testament. Take for instance when there is a sudden change in the vocabulary in the text, especially if it involves repetition of specific words. A perceptive student may ask, “What does that mean?” In the case of Romans chapter eight, conjunctions grabbed my attention. Additionally, the use of the words sin/flesh/death versus Spirit/life are also prominent. Daniel Wallace, the DTS professor and expert on New Testament Greek commented on conjunctions in one of his books on Greek.

“Conjunctions are important in exegesis because they relate the thoughts of a passage to another. A key to determining their use is identifying the two sets of ideas that the conjunction links together. One must determine

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the controlling idea the conjunction modifies, that is, the element in the sentence or larger literary unit to which the conjunction is to be connected³.”

When looking at the Greek of Romans chapter 8, it is apparent that two conjunctions stand out because of their repeated use.

γαρ (Gar): By my count it is used 17 times in this chapter alone.

Δε (de): By my count it is used 20 times in this chapter alone.

Here is a table which tracks the usage of these two conjunctions in Romans chapters 1-7. In Romans chapter 8, Paul doubled his usage of these conjunctions over other chapters (other than chapter 7). It seems like Paul is building up to a crescendo.

Chapter	γαρ/gar	δε/de
1	9	3
2	9	8
3	7	7
4	6	7
5	9	10
6	9	10
7	13	15
8	17	20

Other students of Romans identified other words as dominating different portions of the book of Romans.

³ Wallace, D.B. (1996). *Greek grammar beyond the basics an exegetical syntax of the New Testament ; with scripture, subject and Greek word indexes*. Grand Rapids, Mich. Zondervan [20]08. p668

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KEYWORDS in Romans			
	SIN	JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH	SANCTIFICATION
KEYWORD	1:19–3:20	3:21–5:21	6:1–8:39
<i>krino</i> <i>krima/</i> <i>katakrima</i> condemnation	10 3/0 13	0 1/2 (these refer back to judgment)	0 1
<i>pisteuw</i> <i>pistis</i> faith	0 1	7 17 24	1 2
<i>zao</i> <i>zoe</i> life	2 1	0	12 12 24

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Other words that figure prominently in just chapter 8 are: flesh x14; sin x5; death x6; Spirit x22 and life x9.

The point is not to bore you with figures but to point you to a literary technique which highlights the subject matter. The latest lessons on Romans chapter 8 use the conjunctions to guide us through the contrasts Paul is making.

Daniel Wallace said the point of looking at the conjunctions is to see the two sets of ideas that are linked. In Romans chapter 8, Paul is contrasting sin/flesh/death and Spirit/life. Robby Dean highlights this in a nice chart:

⁴ <https://deanbibleministries.org/dbmfiles/slides/2010-Romans-082b.pdf>

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Two Types of Believers in Romans 8

TWOs	SUCCESSFUL	FAILURES
2 Lifestyles, 8:4	According to the Spirit	According to the Sin Nature
2 Ways of Thinking, 8:5	Doctrine DVP	World HVP, Paganism
2 Results, 8:6	Life & Peace	Emptiness & Death
2 Attitudes Toward God, 8:7	Please God Priority 1	Complacent Hostile
2 Sons, 8:14,16	Sons indeed	Children
2 Heirs, 8:17	Of God & Christ	Of God

In this case, you can see that Paul is focusing on Spirit and the contrast between walking by the flesh which leads to death and walking by the Spirit which produces life, righteousness and the fruit of the Spirit identified through “peace.” This is the message of chapter 8. And all this leads to pleasing God.

Romans 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

Here is the results of the two ways of thinking: death versus life & peace.

Romans 8:7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for (γὰρ) it is not even (οὐδὲ) able *to do so*,

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The two Greek conjunctions are included to highlight a handoff from the *gar* to the *de* conjunctions.

Last week we followed the *gar* conjunction to see how it was used to explain some aspects of spirituality. At the end of verse 7 is an interesting handoff from a series of *gar* conjunctions to a series of *de* conjunctions.

As a review, let me present the English translation, changed slightly, to highlight where “δέ” is used. Let us start with verse 8 which is connected to verses 1-7. I have used the English words “in fact” to translate this word. This is perhaps not the best word, but it serves the purpose here to highlight the use of “δέ.” It gets our attention.

Romans 8:8 **in fact** those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:9 **In fact**, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit,
if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.

In fact if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Romans 8:10 **If in fact** Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, **in fact** the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

Romans 8:11 **In fact if** the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

I am only presenting through verse 11. The use of “δέ” goes beyond this. We will extend our discussion perhaps next week to include additional verses. But these are so packed with information it will be enough for this week.

Romans 8:8 in fact those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

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The implication is that we do in fact want to please God. Think for a minute on the profoundness of this statement. God is the omnipotent creator of the universe including mankind. He knows our inner most thoughts. He has control over what happens to each of us and when. A common saying is “Don’t bite the hand that feeds you.”

True story. When I was much younger, as a child, on a Mother’s day, I didn’t have a present for my mother. Instead, I promised a day of perfect obedience. Years later, my mother still remembered that “gift” as the best she had received.

Today, we wish to please God. But do not make the mistake that you can obey God on your own from the power of the sin nature. We are imperfect and God demands perfect obedience. That requires faith dependence on the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that provides the perfect obedience.

Romans 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Flesh/Spirit. The contrast between (walking by) the flesh and (walking by) the Spirit continues.

Dwells in you. The first class condition assumes this is true for the argument. This is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. As previously stated, the Holy Spirit provides a residence or temple for the Shekinah glory which is Jesus Christ. And by analogy with the Old Testament temple, this would be a place of worship. And also He is a restrainer.

Belong to Him. We have been bought with a price. That would be the work of Jesus Christ on the cross: His spiritual death. It is sometimes referred to as “the Blood of Christ” in recognition of the analogy to the Old

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Testament animal sacrifices. We have been redeemed. As a result we are the possession of God.

Romans 8:10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

Righteousness. One of the characteristics of being “in Christ” is the imputation of divine righteousness.

Dead because of sin. Repetition of the concept that sin causes death. This is an important concept for Paul. A Christian is operationally dead when under the control of the sin nature. But alive operationally, living eternal life,

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Comment on the Holy Spirit as the temple for Jesus Christ in us.

“The conclusion is, then, that in the temple of the Old Testament the temple is a housing for the glory of the second person of the trinity. That house was constructed by man, the Jews, in the Old Testament, but in the New Testament we will see that God the Holy Spirit is going to construct by means of sanctification a dwelling place for Jesus Christ who is going to produce His glory in us. It is a glory that is not necessarily the brilliant radiance that was demonstrated either in the Old Testament or on the Mount of Transfiguration but is a glory that is manifested through

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character. That character is defined in Galatians chapter five as the fruit of the Spirit which is the character of Jesus Christ.⁵”

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

Romans 8:13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Romans 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Romans 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

Romans 8:17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

⁵ <https://deanbible.org/new-testament-menuitem/1-corinthians-menuitem/message/2002-1stcorinthians-021/read>