

# SUPERNATURAL LIVING IN A SECULAR WORLD

Let's Talk about Our Walk

Romans 8:1–10



## LET'S BEGIN HERE

Everybody dreams of a fulfilled life—one that results in our reaching maximum potential with only a minimum amount of conflict and stress. But as we learned in Romans 7, such dreams are more ideal than real. Nevertheless, we still long to be less frustrated and less anxious in our walk with the Lord. Who doesn't desire greater balance and more consistency? But is that possible? God's answer is yes, but the outworking of His answer calls for drastic changes in our mental attitudes and the breaking of long-standing habits. These alterations that lead to an abundant life are humanly impossible; we simply *cannot* pull it off, no matter how hard we try! But Romans 8 offers good news: the fulfilled life is divinely possible through the power of Him who lives within us. The *secret* lies in simply allowing Him to take control and change our walk.



## LET'S DIG DEEPER

### 1. A Review of the Struggle (Romans 7:15, 18, 22–24)

A constant struggle with sin rages in all of us, often resulting in weariness, hopelessness, and feelings of being trapped and condemned. However, Romans 7:25 reveals that God can bring relief from this wretched condition.



## Quotable

*Let the words  
“no condemnation”  
stick to your brain.*

*We are  
eternally secure  
in Christ.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



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#### 2. A View of the Believer before God (Romans 8:1–4)

Believers in Christ are no longer under condemnation. In fact, God's Spirit does for believers what we could not do for ourselves.

Believers are:

- Eternally secure in Christ (Romans 8:1)
  
- Internally free from sin's dominion and the fear of death (8:2)
  
- Righteous in our position before God (8:4)

#### 3. The Contrast between Flesh and Spirit (Romans 8:5–10)

How we think determines how we walk.

- Walking according to the flesh results in a fleshly mind-set and death (Romans 8:5).
  
- Walking according to the Spirit leads to a spiritual mind-set and peace (8:6).



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#### GETTING TO THE ROOT

##### *Flesh: Good or Bad?*

The Greek word *sarx*, “flesh,” has a wide range of meanings—some positive and some negative. Positively, it can mean simply the physical body (Acts 2:31), humanity in general (John 1:14), or all living creatures (1 Peter 1:24). As part of God’s creation, “flesh” in this sense is good. However, Paul most often used the term in a more negative and technical sense for the sinful disposition of humanity after the fall and our inability to obey in our own strength (Romans 7:18). One theological dictionary notes, “Everything human and earthly is *sarx*, and as people trust in *sarx* in this sense, it becomes a power that opposes the working of the Spirit. . . . Subjection to *sarx* is not fate but guilt. A life oriented to it serves it and carries out its thinking.”<sup>1</sup>



#### LET'S LIVE IT

In response to Romans 8:1–10, three practical statements say it all:

- First, a life lived without Christ leads to emptiness. Life devoid of Jesus leaves us hopeless.
- Second, a life lived in the energy of the flesh centers on self. You can detect the carnal life at work by how much life revolves around you—your comfort, your desire, your plans, your importance, your pedigree, your degrees, your accomplishments.
- Third, a life lived with the Spirit in control reminds us of grace. Grace keeps us humble and sets us free.

According to Romans 8:9–10, who are those that are “in the Spirit” instead of “in the flesh”? Are you personally “in the Spirit” or “in the flesh”? How do you know?

#### ENDNOTE

1. E. Schweizer, “Sarx,” in *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, abridged ed., ed. Gerhard Kittel, Gerhard Friedrich, and Geoffrey W. Bromiley (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985), 1005.



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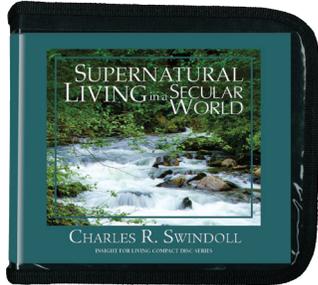
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Let's Talk about Our Walk

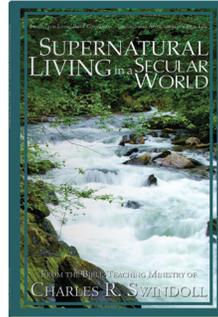
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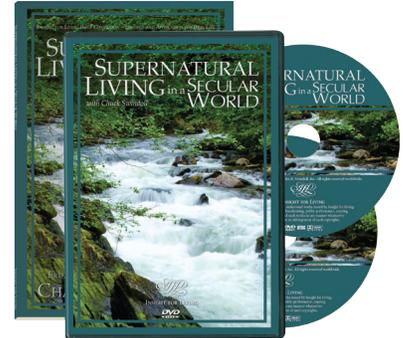
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